



13th August 2019

Freedom of Information Request Reference N°: FOI 002814/19

I write in connection with your request for information received by the Norfolk and Suffolk Constabularies on the 6th August 2019 in which you sought access to the following information:

I am conducting research on a national basis into uninsured / non-stop collisions and am surveying forces across the country to ascertain the scale of the issue.

I am aware of Stats 19 data but much of the below data is not available from DfT via stats 19 on a force by force basis hence the request in this format.

Can you please provide the following data relating to non-stop Road Traffic Collisions in your force area.

- 1 Number of RTC's reported year by year in your force area for the period 2014 – 2019
- 2 Breakdown of those RTC's into Fatal, Injury, Damage only year by year
- 3 Number of RTC's classified as non-stop in your force area for the period 2014 – 2019 Broken down into Fatal Injury, Damage Only year by year
- 4 Number of RTC's classified as non-stop where an offender was traced and subsequently prosecuted for offences of failing to stop, / failing to report a collision for the period 2010 – 2019 broken down to Fatal, Injury and Damage Only
- 5 Number of Fatal RTC's where a vehicle failed to stop for the period 2014 – 2019 and total number of deceased from those fatal RTC's
- 6 Number of non-stop fatal RTC's 2014-2019 whereby no driver was ever prosecuted for FTS
- 7 Number of RTC's where at least 1 driver / vehicle was shown as uninsured for period 2014 – 2019 and number prosecuted year by year
- 8 Number of Fatal RTC's whereby at least 1 driver / vehicle was uninsured and total number of fatalities from these RTC's for the period 2014 – 2019

Response to your Request

Norfolk and Suffolk Constabularies have considered your request and our response is below:-

When responding to a request for information under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act, a public authority is not obliged to provide information if the authority estimates that the cost of the retrieval of the information requested would be in excess of £450 (equivalent to 18 hours work).

The costs criteria relates to a request in its entirety, which means that if we cannot retrieve all of the information requested within the costs limit, we are not obliged to retrieve *any* of the information requested.

The Norfolk and Suffolk Constabularies estimates that to retrieve all the information you have requested for both forces would exceed cost in excess of £450 (per force).

Research has been undertaken of injury collisions only. It should be noted that the Constabularies do not routinely record fail to stop injury collision statistics therefore the following may not be an accurate reflection of total figures.

This has identified 1179 fail to stop injury collisions in Norfolk and 965 in Suffolk, between 2014 and end of June 2019. Each collision file would need to be reviewed in order to see whether a driver was traced and whether the investigation resulted in a prosecution for any offences.

It is estimated that this would take approximately 30 minutes per case, therefore this would be an enormous task, taking hundreds of hours.

This would exceed the appropriate limit for dealing with a Freedom of Information request, in terms of costs, and therefore Section 12(1) of the Freedom of Information Act applies.

Section 12(1) of the Freedom of Information Act states that a public authority is not obliged to:

“...comply with a request for information if the authority estimates that the cost of complying with the request would exceed the appropriate limit”.

The Freedom of Information (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulations 2004, defines the ‘appropriate limit’ for the Norfolk and Suffolk Constabularies as £450 for each Constabulary, and specifies that this sum equates to 18 hours work at a standard rate of £25 per hour.

In accordance with Section 17 of the Freedom of Information Act (2000), this serves as a Refusal Notice for your request.

Advice & assistance

Although excess cost removes Norfolk and Suffolk Constabularies obligations under the Freedom of Information Act, as a gesture of goodwill, I have supplied information, relevant to your request, which was retrieved or available before it was realised that the fees limit would be exceeded. I trust this is helpful, but it does not affect our legal right to rely on the fees regulations for the remainder of your request.

The following figures relate to recorded **injury** collision statistics.

Q1 & 2 Total collisions

Year	Fatal	Serious	Slight	Total
NORFOLK				
2014	34	306	1542	1882
2015	33	305	1411	1749
2016	32	343	1518	1893
2017	29	350	1387	1766
2018	27	383	1373	1783
2019 (to 30/06)	13	193	580	786
SUFFOLK				
2014	28	199	1534	1761
2015	28	160	1298	1486
2016	33	247	1340	1620
2017	30	238	1313	1581
2018	16	248	1199	1463

2019 (to 30/06)	15	158	486	659
-----------------	----	-----	-----	-----

Q3 Please see below recorded fail to stop collisions. Please note, the Constabularies do not routinely record fail to stop statistics therefore the below will not be an accurate reflection of the total numbers.

Year	Fatal	Serious	Slight	Total
NORFOLK				
2014	1	20	179	200
2015	0	26	197	223
2016	2	18	213	233
2017	0	21	188	209
2018	1	26	188	215
2019 (to 30/06)	0	19	80	99
SUFFOLK				
2014	1	14	180	195
2015	0	11	151	162
2016	3	18	166	187
2017	0	17	170	187
2018	0	20	139	159
2019 (to 30/06)	0	13	62	75

Details relating to fail to stop collisions resulting in a fatality:-

Year	Number of Fatal FTS Collisions	Number of Fatalities	Prosecuted?	Insured?
NORFOLK				
2014	1	1	Yes	Yes
2015	0	-	-	-
2016	2	2	No	Yes
2017	0	-	-	-
2018	1	1	No	Yes
2019 (to 30/06)	0	-	-	-
SUFFOLK				
2014	1	1	No Trace	No Trace
2015	0	-	-	-
2016	3	3	No	Yes
2017	0	-	-	-
2018	0	-	-	-
2019 (to 30/06)	0	-	-	-

This response will be published on the Constabularies web-site under the Freedom of Information pages:-

<https://www.norfolk.police.uk/about-us/our-data/disclosure-log>

<https://www.suffolk.police.uk/services/freedom-information/disclosure-logs>

Should you have any further queries concerning this request, please contact Amanda Gibson, FOI Decision Maker, quoting the reference number shown above.

A full copy of the Freedom of Information Act (2000) can be viewed on the 'Office of Public Sector Information' web-site;
<http://www.opsi.gov.uk/>

Norfolk and Suffolk Constabularies are not responsible for the content, or the reliability, of the website referenced. The Constabulary cannot guarantee that this link will work all of the time, and we have no control over the availability of the linked pages.

Your Right to Request a Review of Decisions Made Under the Terms of the
Freedom of Information Act (2000).

If you are unhappy with how your request has been handled, or if you think the decision is incorrect, you have the right to ask the Norfolk and Suffolk Constabulary to review their decision.

Ask Norfolk and Suffolk Constabularies to look at the decision again.

If you are dissatisfied with the decision made by Norfolk and Suffolk Constabularies under the Freedom of Information Act (2000), regarding access to information, you must notify the Norfolk and Suffolk Constabulary that you are requesting a review within 40 days of the date of its response to your Freedom of Information request. Requests for a review should be made in writing and addressed to:

*Freedom of Information Decision Maker
Information Management Department
Norfolk Constabulary
Operations and Communications Centre
Jubilee House
Falconers Chase
Wymondham
Norfolk NR18 0WW
OR
Email: freedomofinformation@norfolk.pnn.police.uk*

In all possible circumstances Norfolk and Suffolk Constabulary will aim to respond to your request for us to look at our decision again within 20 working days of receipt of your request for an internal review.

The Information Commissioner.

After lodging a request for a review with Norfolk and Suffolk Constabulary, if you are still dissatisfied with the decision, you can apply to the Information Commissioner for a decision on whether the request for information has been dealt with in accordance with the requirements of the Act.

For information on how to make application to the Information Commissioner please visit their website at www.ico.org.uk or contact them at the address shown below:

The Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF
Telephone: 01625 545 700