

Freedom of Information Publication Scheme



KEYWORDS:	Stalking Offences, Charges, Complaints
PUBLICATION NUMBER:	1039
FOI REFERENCE NUMBER(S):	14203

FOI REFERENCE NUMBER:	14203
REQUEST TITLE:	Stalking Offences
DATE RANGE:	2010 - 2019
INFORMATION REQUESTED:	Please may you provide me with the following information: 1) Number of stalking complaints made from 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, and 2019 respectively 2) Number referred to clinic - from 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, and 2019 respectively 3) Number of charges - from 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, and 2019 respectively 4) Number of charges brought from referrals from clinic - from 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, and 2019 respectively
DISCLOSURE WITH EXEMPTIONS:	S12 WITH INFO
INFORMATION CORRECT AS AT:	20.02.20
DATE OF DISCLOSURE:	02.03.20
RELATED DOCUMENTS:	N/A

FOI 14203 RESPONSE

Having completed enquiries within Essex Police in respect of Section 1(1)(a), Essex Police does hold information relating to your request, however, the obligation of Section 1(1)(b) cannot be met as Essex Police does not hold all the information requested in a format that allows it to be retrieved within the time and cost limits of FOI.

When responding to a request for information under the terms of the FOIA, 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.

Section 12(1) of the FOIA 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 following explanation outlines the difficulty Essex Police has in answering your request:

Essex Police are unable to accurately extract data in relation to Q2 & Q4 as this is not recorded in a searchable format. Essex Police, would need to manually review each relevant records to establish if referral to clinic is mentioned in the case notes to answer this part of the FOI request. Essex Police systems are designed primarily for the management of individual cases and not primarily for the production of statistical information. This process would exceed the time and cost limits under the FOIA and would also qualify as the creation of data as the results cannot be processed by means of purely sorting or filtering data sources or running a database query tool. There is no requirement under the act to create data purely to answer FOI requests.

Consequently, and to this extent, Essex Police are exempt from the duty to provide information you have requested under the provisions of Section 12(1) of the FOIA. Therefore, and in accordance with Section 17(1) of the FOIA, this communication must act as a refusal notice to provide all of the information that could be interpreted as being captured by this part of your request.

However, in an effort to assist, Essex Police can confirm answers to the following questions:

The date range looked at is from 01/01/2010 to 31/12/2019.

Please note that Stalking was not a recordable crime for the entire period requested, therefore the data provided is from April 2014* until December 2019.

1) Number of stalking complaints made from 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, and 2019 respectively.

The below table represents number of all Stalking crimes recorded.

Year	Number of Crimes
2014*	14
2015	73
2016	117
2017	169
2018	558
2019	754
Grand Total	1685

3) Number of charges - from 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, and 2019 respectively

The below table represents number of all Stalking crimes (from Q1) where the crime disposal description was “outcome 1/1A” and / or “charge”.

Year	Count of CRN
2014*	2
2015	17
2016	23
2017	30
2018	57
2019	93

Grand Total	222
------------------------	------------

Every effort is made to ensure that the data provided by Essex Police is accurate and complete. However, Essex Police systems are designed primarily for the management of individual cases and not for the purposes of providing data to answer specific FOI enquiries. Please note although data can be extracted from a number of sources via database queries the results may be subject to inaccuracies. Care should be taken to understand our return when considering the interpretation or further use of the data.

Thank you for your interest in Essex Police.