



NORTHAMPTONSHIRE
POLICE
Fighting Crime. Protecting People.

22nd April 2025

Request:

I am requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 regarding incidents of public indecency recorded by your force. Please provide the following details for all recorded incidents of public indecency from 1st January 2022 to the present date:

1. A breakdown of the nature of each public indecency offense, including but not limited to:
 1. Public sexual acts (including specifics such as intercourse, oral, or anal sex)
 2. Indecent exposure/flashing
 3. Public masturbation
 4. Other forms of public indecency (please specify)
2. The date and time of each recorded incident.
3. The specific location of each incident (e.g., park, street name, shopping area, public transport).
4. The outcome of each case, including:
 1. Arrests made
 2. Cautions issued
 3. Charges brought and case outcomes (conviction, dropped, ongoing investigation, etc.)

Response:

Northamptonshire Police systems are designed primarily for the management of individual cases and not for the production of statistical information for Freedom Of Information responses.

Section 17 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 requires Northamptonshire Police, when refusing to provide such information (because the information is exempt) to provide you the applicant with a notice which:

- (a) states that fact,
- (b) specifies the exemption in question and
- (c) states (if that would not otherwise be apparent) why the exemption applies.

The exemption applicable to the information requested is:

Section 12(1) – Exemption where cost of compliance exceeds appropriate limit



The information you are requesting is not held by Northamptonshire Police in any reasonably retrievable form. The only means of establishing information of the nature you are requesting would be by way of manual examination of each record of 'Sex - Exposure - SOA 2003' or 'Act of outraging public decency - common law' for specific details. Our information retrieval process generally relies on a computer ran report which captures any information recorded upon the surface of a record or within specified fields. Where relevant information is held deeper in the record, or outside of a specified field, a manual assessment is usually required to retrieve that information.

It is my assessment that the cost of providing you with the information requested would exceed the 'appropriate level' as set out in the Freedom of Information (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulations 2004.

My assessment is that it would cost 544 (number of records) x 3 minutes each (minimum) = over 27 hours at £25 per hour to respond to your request, which exceeds the 'appropriate limit' (currently £450 for 'prescribed costs').

In view of the above, and in accordance with the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, please take this letter as a Refusal Notice.

You may wish to refine and resubmit your request so that it reduces the costs shown above and is then within the 'appropriate limit' shown above. (I cannot think of a means to refine the request in order to provide the information you are seeking) but if you would like some further information about how to proceed with your request then please contact:

freedomofinformation@northants.police.uk

Although excess cost removes the Force's 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.

1. Act of outraging public decency - common law = 207
2. Sex - Exposure - SOA 2003 = 337

Information on convictions i.e. results at Court, are held by His Majesty's Court Service.

	1	2
1: Charged	22	26
1: Summoned/postal requisition	5	16
1A: Alternate offence charged	8	4
3: Adult conditional caution	2	
8: Community resolution	6	1



10: Police - formal action not in public interest	1	
11: Named suspect below age of criminal responsibility		2
14: Victim declines/unable to support action to identify offender	3	11
15: CPS - named suspect, victim supports but evidential difficulties	1	8
15: Police - named suspect, victim supports but evidential difficulties	34	72
16: Victim declines/withdraws support - named suspect identified	7	47
18: Investigation complete no suspect identified	88	93
20: Other body/agency has investigation primacy		6
21: Police - named suspect, investigation not in the public interest		4
UU unresolved	19	33
12: Named suspect identified but is dead or too ill (physical or mental health) to prosecute	3	11
1A: Alternate offence summonsed/postal requisition	4	
22: Diversionary, educational or intervention activity, has been undertaken	3	
3A: Alternate offence adult conditional caution		2
5: Offender has died	1	1

	1	2
Beauty spot	3	1
Bowling alley		1
Brewery	1	
Bus stop	2	1
Bus/coach	1	2
Car	3	1
Car park (multi storey)	2	
Car park (open air)	12	10
Care establishment other		2
Childrens home		2
Church/religious building	2	
Club licenced		2
Convenience store		1
Department store	1	
DIY store		1
Emergency service building		1
Fast food	1	1
Field	2	3
Flat	4	7
Footpath/bridleway	7	16
Hospital	1	4
Hotel/motel	3	5
House	10	35
Lay-by	5	
Leisure/swimming centre	2	
Library	1	



Mental health unit	1	6
Mooring other		1
Motorway	1	
Office	2	
Other (commercial)	2	2
Other (dwelling)		5
Other (hospitality)	1	
Other (leisure)	2	1
Other (medical)		1
Other (public building)	1	
Other (shop)		1
Other open space	7	6
Park/garden	20	19
Pavement	13	22
Pedestrian subway	1	
Prison	1	35
Public house	1	1
Public toilet	3	
Railway station	1	
Reservoir	1	
Restaurant	1	1
Retail park/shopping centre	1	
River/canal	1	5
School		7
Sports stadium	1	
Street/road	62	72
Supermarket	2	1
Town centre	1	2
Woods	2	5
Not recorded	15	48

The numerical data presented in this response is an un-audited snapshot of un-published data sourced from "live" systems and is subject to the interpretation of the original request by the individual extracting the data.

Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that the data has been extracted from a number of data sources used by forces for police purposes. The detail collected to respond specifically to your request is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when interpreting the data.



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The figures provided therefore are our best interpretation of relevance of data to your request, but you should be aware that the collation of figures for ad hoc requests may have limitations and this should be taken into account when the data is used.

If you decide to write an article / use the enclosed data, we would ask you to take into consideration the factors highlighted in this document so as to not mislead members of the public or official bodies or misrepresent the relevance of the whole or any part of this disclosed material.