



February 2018

**Freedom of Information Request Reference N°: FOI 000337/18**

I write in connection with your request for information received by Norfolk Constabulary on the 19<sup>th</sup> January 2018 in which you sought access to the following information:

- 1 Please could you tell me which forces in your district have dedicated wildlife crime officers?
- 2 Please tell me what personal training they have had and what general training in this area each force has had to date?
- 3 Do any forces work with independent wildlife experts?
- 4 Have any officers attended training opportunities offered by the National Wildlife Crime Unit?
- 5 How do forces respond to illegal hunt activities (eg road safety violations, violence towards hunt monitors, badger sett blocking, terrier dog offenses etc.)
- 6 Overall, in the area of wildlife crime and crimes committed by hunts, what is the ratio of reported crimes to investigations and convictions?
- 7 I am getting a picture of overall laxness in training and priority given to wildlife crime and crimes against members of the public who monitor hunts. Why is this?

**Response to your Request**

The response provided below is correct as of 5<sup>th</sup> February 2018.

Norfolk Constabulary has located the following information as relevant to your request.

Please note the following reflects Wildlife Crime Officers in Norfolk only.

- Q1 There are no 'dedicated' WCOs in Norfolk. Officers take on this specialism alongside their normal duties. There are Single Points of Contact (SPOCs) for each policing district and include response and CID officers.
- Q2 All officers in Norfolk are trained at initial training. Many WCOs have received additional national training along with other linked training such as CITES training. We are not aware of specific training offered by the NWCU.
- Q3/4 Independent wildlife experts – we are not sure what this specially refers to but we work with the National Wildlife Crime Unit. We are part of the Raptor Persecution TCG which involves outside agencies and we do work with approved organisations such as the Bat Preservation Society.
- Q5 The Contact and Control Room will task appropriate resources to the area and this will be based on the information given by the caller(s). A WCO will likely be consulted for advice and to attend if possible. The National Police Air Support will also be considered where appropriate. A local supervisor (Sgt or above) will attend.

Officers will consider offences under the Hunting Act 2004, as well as other wildlife-related offences (Badger Act offences as per the example given). Road related offences and any Public Order offences will also be dealt with as appropriate.

- Q6 This is not a request for information which is held by the Constabulary.
- Q7 This is not a valid request under the Freedom of Information Act as it is asking for comment or opinion and not for information held by the Constabulary.