



October 2016

Freedom of Information Request Reference N^o: FOI 003679/16

I write in connection with your request for information received by the Norfolk Constabulary on the 5th October 2016 in which you sought access to the following information:

I am wondering if it is possible to receive statistics on the number of incidents of hare coursing in Norfolk that have been reported to the county police force in August, September and early October and how that compares to the same months last year, and if there have been any arrests and pending court cases and dogs and vehicles seized as a result.

Also it would be good to have a comment from Norfolk Constabulary on how seriously it treats incidents of hare coursing, what problems hare coursers and hare coursing is causing to farmers and other landowners, and what action/initiatives it is taking and work it is doing with farmers and the NFU to help tackle the problem.

Norfolk Constabulary holds information relevant to your request.

Response to your Request

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

The following figures relate to CAD incident reports that have an opening code of PS13M – Wildlife-Hunting/Hare Coursing.

2015	Count of Hare Coursing Reports
August	6
September	11
October	2
Grand Total	19

2016	Count of Hare Coursing Reports
August	6
September	7
October	3
Grand Total	16

There have been no arrests for Hare Coursing in 2015 or 2016.

None of the incident reports refer to any dogs or vehicles being seized.

Additional information

The following comments have been provided by A/Inspector Askham, who is a Rural Crime Lead.

Norfolk Constabulary is taking matters of rural crime very seriously. To compliment one of the Police Crime Commissioners priorities- *Support Rural communities*, the Constabulary has developed a Rural Crime Task Force which operates from Swaffham Police Station under the banner of Operation Randall. The team consists of a small number of police officers and is supported by the Special Constabulary.

The team is reaching out to landowners and gamekeepers through improved channels of communication, including effective use of the Community Rural Advisory Group.

The team carries out one hare coursing operation each month across the County and aims to link in cross border activity with Lincolnshire and Cambridgeshire on their days of action.

The constabulary also provides a day to day proactive response to rural criminality through intelligence led policing.

Our rural community is advised to sign up to Police Connect where they receive regular rural updates including a weekly Op Randall newsletter.

We can also be followed on @RuralCrimeNfk.

Day to day contact in the event of a non-emergency is now made either directly through telephoning the team or emailing via OperationRandall@norfolk.pnn.police.uk