



December 2016

**Freedom of Information Request Reference N<sup>o</sup>: FOI 004117/16**

I write in connection with your request for information received by the Norfolk Constabulary on the 10<sup>th</sup> November 2016 in which you sought access to the following information:

- 1 How many cases of badger-related crime were reported to your Police Force from 1st November 2015 to 31st October 2016?
  - A Of those reports, how many were cases of badger baiting specifically?
  - B Of those reports, how many were cases of badger digging specifically?
  
- 2 How many badger-related crime prosecutions did your Police Force lead from 1st November 2015 to 31st October 2016?
  - A How many of those prosecutions were for offences of badger baiting?
  - B How many of those prosecutions were for offences of badger digging?
  - C Out of the total number of prosecutions for badger crime offences, how many led to successful convictions?
  - D Please list the sentences given out to those found guilty of badger baiting/digging.
  
- 3 How many Police Wildlife Crime Officers does your Police Force appoint?
  - A How many are full-time?
  - B How many are part-time?
  - C If part-time, what is the average number of hours allocated to each part-time Police Wildlife Crime Officer to carry out this role?
  
- 4 How are cases of badger-related crime recorded within your Police Force?
  
- 5 How often are Police Wildlife Officers in contact with the UK National Wildlife Crime Unit? (Daily, weekly, monthly, quarterly, annually, never)
  
- 6 How often are Police Wildlife Officers in contact with the Partnership for Action against Wildlife Crime? (Daily, weekly, monthly, quarterly, annually, never)

Norfolk Constabulary holds information relevant to your request.

**Response to your Request**

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

- Q1 These crimes are non-recordable on the Constabulary's crime database. Our Joint Performance and Analysis Department (JPAD) have therefore undertaken research of incident reports which contain the word 'badger'. These types of incident reports are usually closed for the attention of a Wildlife Crime Officer and/or passed to Natural England for investigation.

2 incidents:-

November 2015 – report of a male involved in badger baiting and hare coursing.

February 2016 – report of a badger hanging over a fence by it's back legs. RSPCA dealing.

Q2 No information held.

Q3 There are 27 Wildlife Crime Officers and each policing district has an allocated WCO SPOC. None of these posts are full time and the average number of hours will be dependent on the number of cases. The role is a voluntary in addition to their usual post.

Q4 Crimes have an Animal Cruelty Tag and a Rural Tag.

Q5 The Wildlife Crime Officers work closely with the UK National Wildlife Crime Unit but contact is dependent on the number of crimes or incidents that are being dealt with.

Q6 This again depends on cases but first contact will always be with the NWCU.