

Chief Constable
Chief Constable Robert Carden
Police Headquarters
Carleton Hall Penrith,
Cumbria
CA10 2AU



18th November 2024

Dear

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST – FOI 945/24 Wildlife Crime

I refer to your request for information received by Cumbria Constabulary on the 22nd of October 2024. I note you seek access to the following information:

Please can you assist with the following.

To make this query less onerous on police time please, I am only requesting data from 1 August 2023 until receipt date of FOI request.

- 1. Currently how many recognised wildlife trained full time Police officers do you have in your force? Date of FOI request receipt.*
- 2. How many of these officers have undertaken College of Policing recognised training? Date of FOI request receipt.*
- 3. Who was the service provider.*
- 4. How many of these officers are full time Wildlife crime officers. Date of FOI request receipt.*
- 5. How many wildlife incidents that have been reported to your force would fit the recording status below if they had notifiable status under Home Office counting rules?*

Section 1 of the Protection of Badgers Act 1992 Section 2 of the Protection of Badgers Act 1992 Section 3 of the Protection of Badgers Act 1992 Section 1 of Wild Mammals Protection Act 1996 Section 1 of Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 Section 5 of Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 Section 9 of Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 Section 11 of Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 Section 30 of Game Act 1831 Section 5 of the Hunting Act 2004 Section 4 of Animal Welfare Act 2006 Section 8 of Animal Welfare Act 2006 Schedule 1 of Theft Act 1968 Section 27a of Salmon & Freshwater Fisheries Act 1975 Section 1 of Deer Act 1991 Section 2 of Deer Act 1991 Section 3 of Deer Act 1991 Section 1 of the Hunting Act 2004 Section 1 of the Night Poaching Act 1828 Section 18 of Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 Section 9(4A) of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 Section 14 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 Section 28P of the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 Regulation 43 Conservation of Habitats and Species Regs 2017 Regulation 54 Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017

- 6. How many wildlife incidents below have been recorded as below?*

Section 1 of the Protection of Badgers Act 1992 Section 2 of the Protection of Badgers Act 1992 Section 3 of the Protection of Badgers Act 1992 Section 1 of Wild Mammals Protection Act 1996 Section 1 of Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 Section 5 of Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 Section 9 of Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 Section 11 of Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 Section 30 of Game Act 1831 Section 5 of the Hunting Act 2004 Section



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4 of Animal Welfare Act 2006 Section 8 of Animal Welfare Act 2006 Schedule 1 of Theft Act 1968 Section 27a of Salmon & Freshwater Fisheries Act 1975 Section 1 of Deer Act 1991 Section 2 of Deer Act 1991 Section 3 of Deer Act 1991 Section 1 of the Hunting Act 2004 Section 1 of the Night Poaching Act 1828 Section 18 of Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 Section 9(4A) of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 Section 14 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 Section 28P of the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 Regulation 43 Conservation of Habitats and Species Regs 2017 Regulation 54 Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017

- 7. How many wildlife incident/crime reports have your force received that have been recorded as “generic/other” (Not to include Livestock Attacks)*
- 8. How many Livestock Attacks has your force received in the time range.*
- 9. How many of these “generic/other” wildlife incident/crime incidents have resulted in No Further Action by police.*
- 10. How many of these “generic/other” wildlife incident/crime incidents have resulted in a Local resolution.*
- 11. How many of these “generic/other” wildlife incident/crime incidents have resulted in a Conditional Caution.*
- 12. How many of these “generic/other” wildlife incident/crime incidents have resulted in a charge.*

Your request for information has now been considered and I can confirm that Cumbria Constabulary does not hold the information you have requested in an easily retrievable format. The Constabulary does not routinely record incidents as offences under specific legislation/ Home office counting rules unless a case is being brought against someone. Therefore, the only way to identify the type of incidents requested would be to manually review all incidents recorded in the timeframe under the ‘pets domesticated/wildlife’ incident type. For the date range requested this incident type brings back 1600 records, these records would require a manual review to separate the animal type, determine the circumstances of the incident and then cross reference the incident with the appropriate legislation.

I have estimated that the time required to complete a manual review to locate and extract all information relevant to your request would significantly exceed the “appropriate limit”, as stated in the Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulations 2004. The current limit for police forces is set at £450, which equates to 18 hours of work.

Section 12(1) of the Freedom of Information Act does not oblige a public authority to comply with a request for information if the authority estimates that the cost of complying with the request would exceed the appropriate limit. In view of this, and in accordance with Section 17(5) of the Act, this letter serves as a Refusal Notice for your request, by virtue of Section 12(1).

However, as a gesture of goodwill and in keeping with the duty to provide advice and assistance under Section 16 of the Act, I can provide you with some information which has been retrieved within the 18hour limit. This information is provided below.

Question 2- How many of these officers have undertaken College of Policing recognised training? Date of FOI request receipt.

No information held, as the College of Policing do not run their own wildlife training.

Question 3- Who was the service provider.



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The Constabulary's wildlife crime training has been delivered by the National Wildlife Crime Unit.

In addition to the above and under the duty to provide advice and assistance I can advise you that the Constabulary would be able to provide information regarding the number of investigation cases and disposals (where complete) where action has been brought against someone under the listed legislations. If you do require this information, then please contact the Constabulary with a new request.

Complaint Rights

Your attention is drawn to the attached sheet, which details your right of complaint.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your interest in Cumbria Constabulary.



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