

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



26th March 2025

Dear

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST – FOI 270/25 Illegal killing of foxes

I refer to your request for information received by Cumbria Constabulary on the 28th of February 2025. I note you seek access to the following information:

- Please state how many instances of illegal killing of foxes (or lethal injuries that led to the fox having to be euthanised by veterinarians) have been reported to Cumbria Constabulary during the years of 2022, 2023, and 2024.*
- For each incident, please provide (1) a description as to what happened, (2) when the incident was reported, and (3) what the outcome was (e.g. did it result in any prosecutions or criminal convictions).*
- For each incident, could you also specify which illegal method was used (e.g. self-locking snares, other improper snares, air weapons that did not kill the fox immediately, spring traps, and others as stated here: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/foxes-moles-and-mink-how-to-protect-your-property-from-damage#illegal-pest-control-methods>).*

Please provide the information in the form of an Excel sheet, broken down by year and month.

Your request for information has now been considered and I can confirm Cumbria Constabulary does hold some information relevant to your request and where this is the case I have today decided to disclose this to you.

The information provided in response to your request has been extracted from the Constabulary's incident recording and crime recording systems. A key word search was conducted using the following terms, "fox" "dead" "trap" "caught" "kill" and "snare".

Please note: A keyword search may not accurately identify all information held by the Constabulary. If, for example, the words used were recorded in a different field, or if another name or term was used to describe these, any such records would not be identified by the keyword search which has been undertaken.

Incident Date	Incident Summary	Weapon Used	Outcome
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September 2022	Report of Fox Hunt – Dead fox located, nothing to suggest injuries caused by dogs	None Recorded	No Offences Disclosed.
November 2022	Report of illegal hunt	Shotgun	Fox not unlawfully killed.
January 2023	Report of fox located by Officers in car. Suffering from unknown injuries and had to be euthanised.	None recorded but slingshot and dog seized from vehicle	Two persons convicted for animal suffering.
October 2023	Report of ongoing illegal hunt	None Recorded	No active hunt seen by officers and no deceased fox located.
September 2024	Report of dogs on fell, currently killing a fox.	None Recorded	No vehicles or persons connected to a hunt located. Footage reviewed and no evidence to support offence.
November 2024	Report of 3 dead foxes in road. Caller believed poison or traps may have been used.	Poison/Traps (unconfirmed)	Offences not determined.

Whilst every care has been taken in the retrieval of the information provided, please do not hesitate to contact us for clarification, if you do have any issues or queries relating to this data.

Complaint Rights

If you believe your request has not been properly handled, or you are otherwise dissatisfied with the outcome of your request, you have the right to request an internal review.

In the first instance, please email freedomofinformation@cumbria.police.uk quoting the FOI reference number and explain why you are dissatisfied. Your complaint will be considered and a response will be provided to you after your complaint has been investigated.

If you remain dissatisfied following conclusion of the internal review, you have the right, under section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act, to complain directly to the Information Commissioner.

The address for the Information Commissioner can be found below:

The Information Commissioner
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF



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Complaints to the Information Commissioner can also be made online:

[Make a complaint | ICO](#)

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



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