

Dear A Jones,



REQUEST 12723

Please provide an overview of how many of the following crimes were reported in 2019/20 Hunt season involving the Cheshire Hounds Hunt ...

How many incidents were reported from the Cheshire Hounds Hunt and their followers?

How many incidents were reported by the 'antis'?

Please advise us how many incidents were reported for each of the below; Aggravated trespass
Criminal damage Assault Harassment/public order Theft Traffic Hunting Badger sett blocking

What was the outcome of these complaints?

RESPONSE

Section 1 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) places two duties on public authorities. Unless exemptions apply, the first duty at s1(1)(a) is to confirm or deny whether the information specified in a request is held. The second duty at s1(1)(b) is to disclose information that has been confirmed as being held. Where exemptions are relied upon Section 17 of the FOIA requires that we provide the applicant with a notice which: a) states that fact; b) specifies the exemptions in question and c) state (if that would not otherwise be apparent) why the exemption(s) applies.

From our preliminary assessment we are unable to provide this as it would exceed the appropriate costs limit under section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. This is currently £450. The basis for this calculation is the cost of retrieving the data to answer your questions

To obtain the relevant information relating to the above request we would need to read through every incident of all crime types to establish if reference was made to 'Cheshire Hounds Hunt'. For the 2019/20 financial year there were over 9,900 criminal damage offences alone. It would take one member of staff approximately 5 minutes per record equating to in excess of 825 hours of work for criminal damage offence alone. To the conduct further searches on harassment offences, public order offences etc... would significantly increase the time require to locate this information. Your entire request is therefore refused.

The appropriate limit is defined in the Data Protection and Freedom of Information (Fees and Appropriate Limit) Regulations 2004, which is covered by statutory Instrument Number 3244 of 2004. Furthermore, Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 allows a public authority to refuse to respond to a request for information where the cost of compliance would exceed the appropriate limit as defined by the above mentioned regulations.

Unfortunately on this occasion I am unable to assist you in redefining your request to provide any meaningful information, this is because to establish if the reported crime involved the Cheshire Hounds Hunt would require a manual review.

If you are not satisfied with the decision applied in this case I enclose for your attention a copy of the Constabulary's appeal procedures.

Regards,

Lucy Taylor – Request Decision Maker

Cheshire Constabulary and Cheshire Fire & Rescue Service Joint Corporate Services

Visit www.cheshire.police.uk | www.cheshirefire.gov.uk

Follow [@cheshirepolice](https://twitter.com/cheshirepolice) and [@CheshireFire](https://twitter.com/CheshireFire) on Twitter

Like [Cheshire Police and Cheshire Fire and Rescue Service on Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/CheshirePoliceandCheshireFireandRescueService)