



Derbyshire Constabulary

S Rhosier

Telephone: 101
Direct Line: 0300 122 8752
Ask For: Freedom of Information
Our Ref: 004846/19
Your Ref: Notifiable Associations
Date: 29 October 2019

Dear S Rhosier

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST - REFERENCE NO: 004846/19

I write in connection with your request for information which was received by Derbyshire Constabulary on 02/10/2019. I note you seek access to the following information:

- 1. Please advise what steps have been taken within your force to ensure that a Code of Ethics exists which makes provision for conflicts of interest in matters where allegations of illegal hunting or cub hunting have been made.*
- 2. Please advise if officers seeking to work on rural crime teams should be requested to voluntarily declare any membership of or association with hunts, regardless of hunting within the parameters of the Hunting Act 2004 being legal; such declarations being seen as goodwill and in the spirit of keeping your force from disrepute in the public mind.*

Result of Searches

Following receipt of your request, searches were conducted within Derbyshire Constabulary to locate any relevant information. The searches did not locate any information relevant to your request.

By way of explanation the Constabulary follows the College of Policing Code of Ethics which is a code of practice for the principles and standards of professional behaviour for the policing profession of England and Wales. Given the scope and remit of this there is no requirement to create a separate code to cover illegal hunting or cub hunting.

The below link will provide access to this document:

https://www.college.police.uk/What-we-do/Ethics/Documents/Code_of_Ethics.pdf

For reference the relevant sections are shown below:

'Associations

6.3

Membership of groups or societies, or associations with groups or individuals, must not create an actual or apparent conflict of interest with police work and responsibilities.

6.4

The test is whether a reasonably informed member of the public might reasonably believe that your membership or association could adversely affect your ability to discharge your policing duties effectively and impartially.'

In relation to your second point FOIA requests relate to information held and don't cover questions relative to opinion or hypothetical situations. In this respect the question falls short of that required under the FOIA and is not valid.

Right to Request a Review (Complaint)

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 Derbyshire Constabulary.

Should you have any further enquiries concerning this matter, please write or contact the Freedom of Information Officer, on the above telephone number quoting the reference number in the header.

Yours sincerely

Kevin Lea
Freedom of Information Officer

Enc