



Freedom Of Information

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Website: www.westyorkshire.police.uk

Our ref: 712462/21

Date: 02/06/2021

Dear Sir/Madam

Thank you for your request for information, received by West Yorkshire Police on 04/05/21.

You requested the following information:

My questions relate to your organisational structure concerning the policing of the Hunting Act, in particular illegal foxhunting.

1. While I understand that any officer can answer a 999 or 101 call relating to illegal hunting, which section or department has the responsibility for investigating any breaches of the Hunting Act?

This is dependent on the nature of the incident. The Wildlife Crime Officer will either offer specialist advice to colleagues or take over the investigation.

2. Does this section or department have any other responsibilities, and if so, what are they?

3. How many staff work in this section or department and what rank are they?

This is dependent on the team dealing with the crime.

4. Does the force have any Wildlife Crime Officers and if so, how many active Wildlife Crime officers are there and where are they based?

The Force has 19 active Wildlife Crime Officers (1 x Sgt, 6 x PCs and 12 PCSOs). They are based throughout the force area.

5. Does the force have an "Aide Memoire" or any other document for officers to use when involved in a call for illegal foxhunting? If so, may we see a copy of it?

No document is held, events are dealt with on a case by case basis.

6. How many police officers are there in the force?

Total Officers (All ranks) – 5924 (Inc. 251 external Officers)

COMPLAINT RIGHTS

If you are not satisfied with how this request has been handled or with the information provided, please read the advice notice attached to this letter. If you do wish to take up your right of complaint, please remember to quote the reference number above, in any future correspondence.

Yours sincerely,

Gemma Burton
Disclosure Officer

COMPLAINT RIGHTS

1. Are you unhappy with how your request has been handled or you think the decision is incorrect?

You have the right to request that West Yorkshire Police review their decision. Prior to lodging a formal complaint, we encouraged that you discuss the decision with the case officer that has dealt with your request.

2. Ask to have the decision looked at again

The quickest and easiest way to have the decision looked at again, is to telephone the case officer that is nominated at the end of your decision letter. That person will be able to discuss the decision, explain any issues and assist with any problems.

3. Complaint

If you are dissatisfied with the handling procedures or the decision of West Yorkshire Police, made under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 regarding access to information, you can lodge a written complaint to have the decision internally reviewed.

A West Yorkshire Police internal review of your decision, will be carried out by a senior member of staff who is fully trained in interpreting Freedom of Information legislation. The review will be independent conducted, regardless to the original decision made.

Complaints will only be treated as valid, if they are received by West Yorkshire Police within a 60 day timeframe from the date of the decision letter. They must include the original FOI Reference Number and can only be submitted in writing, by using the following contact details:

foi@westyorkshire.pnn.police.uk

or

West Yorkshire Police
FOI Internal Reviews
PO Box 9
Laburnum Road
Wakefield
WF1 3QP

In all possible circumstances, West Yorkshire Police will aim to complete and respond to your internal review within 20 working days. However this date may be extended in exceptional circumstances, by another 20 working days.

4. The Information Commissioner

If you are still dissatisfied with the internal review decision, made by West Yorkshire Police. You can then make an application to the Information Commissioner, for a decision on whether the request for information has been dealt with in accordance with the requirements of the Act.

For information on how to make application to the Information Commissioner please visit their website at www.ico.gov.uk

Alternatively, you can phone their helpline or write to them at:

Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF
FOI Help Line: 0303 1231113