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Fareham
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PO14 9FS

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Email: npcc.foi.request@cru.pnn.police.uk

27/02/2017

Dear Ms Oxley

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NUMBER: 000031/17

Thank you for your request for information regarding the recording of wildlife crime which has now been considered.

Applicant Question:

Following a previous FOI request I received a reply from the NPCC stating the following: "We have made enquiries with the National Wildlife Crime Unit (NWCU) who have confirmed that they no longer record wildlife crime incidents on behalf of police forces across the UK. This process ceased in 2013."

1. I would like to request the reasoning behind no longer recording wildlife crime incidents on behalf of police forces across the UK? From contact with various police forces it has become clear to me that many forces do not hold data themselves / cannot easily extract data from their systems regarding wildlife incidents.
2. Therefore I would also be interested to know how the NWCU continues to advise on and set yearly priorities for combatting wildlife crime without a national database of wildlife crime incidents.

NPCC Response:

1. The NPCC does hold information captured by part one of your request.

At the UK Tasking & Coordinating Group (UKTCG) meeting on 03/09/2012, it was proposed that the NWCU would focus upon intelligence, not incidents.

The following extract has been taken from those minutes, and is captured by your request:

Proposal to focus upon intelligence and not incident data

NH proposed that in future the NWCU should be required to focus upon intelligence and not incidents. *He outlined that 80% of Analysts time was taking up with collating, data cleansing and then assessing incident data from across the UK and that few analytical products are being produced to focus upon intelligence led criminality. In addition he*

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highlighted that it was apparent that little if any incident was used by the TCG to drive activity.

2. The NPCC does not hold information captured by your request.

I have consulted with colleagues who provide the following information outside of the Act.

The prioritisation of wildlife crime in the UK is fully informed by a Wildlife Crime Conservation Advisory Group (WCCAG) in relation to the current conservation status of UK species. The wildlife crime Conservation Advisory Group is comprised of:

THE UK STATUTORY NATURE CONSERVATION ORGANISATIONS:

Joint Nature Conservation Committee

Natural England

Scottish Natural Heritage

Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA NI)

Natural Resources Wales

OTHER STATUTORY AGENCIES:

Environment Agency

Marine Management Organisation

Royal Botanic Gardens (Kew)

RELEVANT NON GOVERNMENT ORGANISATIONS

Bat Conservation Trust

RSPB

TRAFFIC

The WCCAG assess the conservation importance of species and habitats and the importance of enforcement intervention. Together with intelligence from police forces which is utilised to assess volume of crime, the NWCU prepare a two-yearly Strategic Assessment to decide the UK wildlife crime priority areas. The priority areas are the ones which have been assessed as posing the greatest current threat to either the conservation status of a species or which show the highest volume of crime and therefore they are those that are assessed as requiring an immediate UK-wide tactical response. Each priority areas have implementation plans with plan owners and leads identified for the prevention and enforcement of crimes. Four of the six current priorities are given priority status because of conservation issues and vulnerability to crime, however actual volume of incidents or crime against these species can be low.

Yours sincerely

Sherry Traquair

Freedom of Information Officer & Decision Maker

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COMPLAINT RIGHTS

Internal Review

If you are dissatisfied with the response you have been provided with, in compliance with the Freedom of Information legislation, you can lodge a complaint with NPCC to have the decision reviewed within 20 working days of the date of this response. The handling of your request will be looked at by someone independent of the original decision, and a fresh response provided.

It would be helpful, if requesting a review, for you to articulate in detail the reasons you are not satisfied with this reply.

If you would like to request a review, please write or send an email to NPCC Freedom of Information, c/o PO Box 481, Fareham, Hampshire, PO14 9FS.

If, after lodging a complaint with NPCC, you are still unhappy with the outcome, you may make an application to the Information Commissioner at the Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF.