



# Ministry of Defence

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www.gov.uk/DIO

Ref. FOI 2022/02958

Dear Ms Kent

31 March 2022

Thank you for your email of 3 March 2022 requesting the following information:

*"Dear Defence and Infrastructure Organisation, In relation to hunting on Salisbury Plains, for licensee, The Royal Artillery Hunt, please will you provide, under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA):*

1. *For all dates in the current season (2021 to 2022), details of when the Licensee has contacted the DIO Local Office to inform nil return for mammal kills recording for each fixture, any incident resulting in a wild mammal being killed or disturbance, including the timing of this notification in relation to the incident. December 2021 is of particular relevance.*
2. *Has the DIO been made aware of any police investigation for this season relating to illegal hunting and if so, has the licence been suspended?*
3. *Has the DIO been made aware of any police involvement relating to the Hunt Support red card holders, for driving offences (including 12th January 2022) or mis-use of a red card (including 28th February 2022)?*
4. *Has the DIO been made aware by the police of events on December 4th 2021 where 2 deer were chased by uncontrolled hounds, including crossing a public bye way causing a danger to the public?*
5. *Has the DIO been made aware by the police of the events of November 13th, 2021 when Charles Carter (Huntsman) was told by MOD Police to stop hunting and return to their base?*
6. *Are serving military allowed to use their time off for sport to hunt with the Royal Artillery Hunt or the Wiltshire Infantry Beagles on the Plain, for example on Wednesday afternoons?*
7. *To comply with the licence what insurance cover does the Royal Artillery Hunt have?*
8. *What financial contribution or any benefit (e.g., reduced rent) does the Royal Artillery Hunt receive, including the kennels at Bulford?"*

I am treating your correspondence as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

A search for the information has now been completed within the Ministry of Defence (MOD) and I can confirm that some information in scope of your request is held.

The answers to each of your questions in numerical order can be found below.

1. *For all dates in the current season (2021 to 2022), details of when the Licensee has contacted the DIO Local Office to inform nil return for mammal kills recording for each fixture, any incident*

*resulting in a wild mammal being killed or disturbance, including the timing of this notification in relation to the incident. December 2021 is of particular relevance.*

As per the terms of the Licence, Mammal Kills are to be reported within 48 hours, otherwise Annex C is to be submitted as soon as possible after the end of each calendar month. Annex C is an Annex to the Licence and is the Mammal Kill Form.

- 24th December Mammal Kill reported via Annex C the same day.
- 27th December Mammal Kill reported via Annex C on the 28<sup>th</sup>.

*2. Has the DIO been made aware of any police investigation for this season relating to illegal hunting and if so, has the licence been suspended?*

Defence Infrastructure Organisation (DIO) holds no information. The licence has not been suspended.

*3. Has the DIO been made aware of any police involvement relating to the Hunt Support red card holders, for driving offences (including 12th January 2022) or mis-use of a red card (including 28th February 2022)?*

DIO holds no information.

*4. Has the DIO been made aware by the police of events on December 4th, 2021 where 2 deer were chased by uncontrolled hounds, including crossing a public bye way causing a danger to the public?*

DIO holds no information.

*5. Has the DIO been made aware by the police of the events of November 13th, 2021 when Charles Carter (Huntsman) was told by MOD Police to stop hunting and return to their base?*

DIO holds no information.

*6. Are serving military allowed to use their time off for sport to hunt with the Royal Artillery Hunt or the Wiltshire Infantry Beagles on the Plain, for example on Wednesday afternoons?*

DIO holds no information.

*7. To comply with the licence what insurance cover does the Royal Artillery Hunt have?*

Insurance for the sum of not less than £5 million in any one claim. This is a requirement of the licence.

*8. What financial contribution or any benefit (e.g., reduced rent) does the Royal Artillery Hunt receive, including the kennels at Bulford?"*

The Hunt does not receive any financial contribution from Ministry of Defence (MOD).

Under Section 16 of the FOIA (Advice and Assistance), you may find it helpful to know that all costs associated with the upkeep and repair of the buildings are paid for directly by the Royal Artillery Hunt (RAH). All water and electricity related costs were paid by the MOD; however, these costs are not separately assessed and therefore the MOD holds no information in relation to this cost. It has now been agreed that the RAH will pay a quarterly amount for water and electricity from 1st April 2022.

You may wish to note that the RAH is a recognised encroachment and therefore does not lease or rent any buildings, kennels or associated land or equipment from MOD.

If you have any queries regarding the content of this letter, please contact this office in the first instance.

If you wish to complain about the handling of your request, or the content of this response, you can request an independent internal review by contacting the Information Rights Compliance team, Ground Floor, MOD Main Building, Whitehall, SW1A 2HB (e-mail [CIO-FOI-IR@mod.gov.uk](mailto:CIO-FOI-IR@mod.gov.uk)). Please note that any request for an internal review should be made in writing within 40 working days of the date of this response.

If you remain dissatisfied following an internal review, you may raise your complaint directly to the Information Commissioner under the provisions of Section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act. Please note that the Information Commissioner will not normally investigate your case until the MOD internal review process has been completed. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF. Further details of the role and powers of the Information Commissioner can be found on the Commissioner's website at <https://ico.org.uk/>.

Yours sincerely

DIO Secretariat