

Our Ref: IM-FOI-2017-0716  
Date: 10<sup>th</sup> April 2017



## **FREEDOM OF INFORMATION (SCOTLAND) ACT 2002**

I refer to your recent request for information which has been handled in accordance with the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002.

For ease of reference, your request is replicated below together with the response.

### **1) Could you give me figures for the number of sheep/livestock worrying incidents that have been reported in the last 12/24 months?**

Annual Livestock Worrying Crimes 2015 & 2016

| <b>Geographical Area</b>   | <b>2015</b> | <b>2016</b> |
|----------------------------|-------------|-------------|
| Highland & Islands         | 34          | 39          |
| Aberdeen & Aberdeenshire   | 23          | 24          |
| Tayside                    | 14          | 12          |
| Lothian & Scottish Borders | 20          | 20          |
| Edinburgh City             | 2           | 7           |
| Forth Valley               | 11          | 16          |
| Fife                       | 7           | 5           |
| Dumfries & Galloway        | 12          | 6           |
| Renfrewshire & Inverclyde  | 0           | 9           |
| Argyll & Bute              | 10          | 10          |
| Ayrshire                   | 7           | 9           |
| Lanarkshire                | 10          | 19          |
| Greater Glasgow            | 2           | 3           |
| <b>Total</b>               | <b>152</b>  | <b>179</b>  |

### **2) The number of reported shootings by land owners of dogs who have been seen to be worrying sheep/livestock?**

We do not routinely record whether a dog/s has been shot by a landowner or livestock owner and as such any recorded total may not accurately reflect the extent of this action. We are therefore unable to answer this part of your request as the information is not held. Section 17 of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 is therefore applied – information not held.

### **3) If you have separate figures for different kinds of livestock, could you please break them down?**

Having considered this question in terms of the above Act, I regret to inform you that I am unable to provide you with the information you have requested, as it would prove too costly to do so within the context of the fee regulations.

As you may be aware the current cost threshold is £600 and I estimate that it would cost well in excess of this amount to process your request.

As such, and in terms of Section 16(4) of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 where Section 12(1) of the Act (Excessive Cost of Compliance) has been applied, this represents a refusal notice for the information sought.

By way of explanation, I would advise that whilst Police Scotland is moving towards the implementation of one system across the country, it currently remains the case that some of the thirteen Police Scotland divisions continue to use different recording systems in relation to the recording of crimes. Whilst there are of course significant high-level similarities between the systems used across the country to allow for, for example, the recording of crimes and associated detection rates, the differences when it comes to researching far more specific information are such that some information simply cannot be gathered accurately.

To clarify, the only way to provide you with this information in an accurate and consistent manner would be to individually examine each and every wildlife crime report for the years requested to establish the different kinds of livestock involved. There are no relevant markers which allow the automatic retrieval of this level of information.

To be of assistance, we do have the following figures for 2016. The majority of livestock worrying crimes refer to sheep. In the 2016 crime figures, all but 6 crimes refer to sheep with the other relating to poultry (3 crimes), cattle (2 crimes) and horse (1 crime).

#### **4) Would it also be possible to break the figures down into geographical areas?**

Please see the table in question 1.

Should you require any further assistance concerning this matter please contact Information Management - Stirling on 01786 456321 quoting the reference number given.

If you are dissatisfied with the way in which your request has been dealt with, you are entitled in the first instance, and within 40 working days of receiving this response, to request a review of our actions and decisions.

Should you wish to do so, please contact us at the following address, stating what has caused your dissatisfaction and what you require us to review:

Information Management (Disclosure), Police Scotland, Clyde Gateway, 2 French Street, Dalmarnock, G40 4EH - [foi@scotland.pnn.police.uk](mailto:foi@scotland.pnn.police.uk)

If you remain dissatisfied following the outcome of that review, you are thereafter entitled to apply to the Scottish Information Commissioner within six months for a decision. You can raise an appeal using the online service at [www.itspublicknowledge.info/Appeal](http://www.itspublicknowledge.info/Appeal) or by writing to Office of the Scottish Information Commissioner, Kinburn Castle, Doubledykes Road, St Andrews, Fife, KY16 9DS, or via email at [enquiries@itspublicknowledge.info](mailto:enquiries@itspublicknowledge.info).

Should you wish to appeal against the Scottish Information Commissioner's decision, there is an appeal to the Court of Session on a point of law only.