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Date Received: 15/01/2019

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NUMBER: 013/19

The following request for information under the Freedom of Information Act was received by NPCC on the date listed above.

Applicant Question:

1. Please can you tell me when your "What is Wildlife Crime" statement was last updated?
2. Please can you say on what grounds Fox Hunting, Stag Hunting, Deer Hunting and hunting bards with Beagles are not included as post the Hunting Act they are now surely a crime against wildlife.
3. Given hunts are pretty much ignoring the ban and often block badger setts with very few police forces interested in proactively monitoring hunts or even training officers please can you tell me if you have sent any generic advice to police forces about the policing of hunts? If so, what is it please?
4. Was this to all police forces?
5. Finally, I notice poaching is a current priority, surely illegal hunting IS basically poaching in another form. Do you plan to include prioritise illegal hunting in the future?

NPCC Acknowledgement:

Following the dissolution of the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) which included some national policing units, designation under the Freedom of Information Act did not automatically transfer across to the National Police Chiefs' Council (NPCC).

On 22/11/2018 the National Police Chiefs' Council (NPCC) became formally subject to the Freedom of Information Act as an independent body. This did not include the NWCU.

For these reasons it is important that you understand that not being bound by the legislation means that the NPCC cannot apply exemptions to disclosure or engage the fees regulations on their behalf and there is no recourse from the applicant's perspective to the Information Commissioner's Office.

It is the intention of the NPCC to comply with the spirit of the legislation on behalf of the NWCU, whilst a more formal, legislatively compliant resolution can be agreed.

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If the NWCU were bound by legislation, we would have answered the request on their behalf in the following way:

Two requests, seeking exactly the same information have been received via the WhatDoTheyKnow website. I have amalgamated both requests under this unique reference number 013/19.

Your request will be considered in accordance with the legislation and you will receive a response within the statutory timescale of 20 working days, subject to the provisions of the Act. In the unlikely event that NPCC is unable to meet the 20 working day deadline, you will be informed as soon as possible and given a revised time-scale for response.

If your request requires full or partial transference to another public authority, you will be informed. Should you have any further enquiries concerning this matter, please write or contact Sherry Traquair on telephone number 02380 478922 quoting the reference number above.

Yours sincerely

Sherry Traquair

NPCC Freedom of Information Officer & Decision Maker

www.npcc.police.uk