

31<sup>st</sup> July 2013

Dan Phillips

request-166992-32749d70@whatdotheyknow.com

Dear Mr Phillips

**Freedom of Information Request - Reference No: 20130553**

**REQUEST**

**Refinement: Follow on from request 20130536**

***1. How many incidents of wildlife crimes or suspected crimes have there been in your force area each year for years 2008-12.***

***2. How many have there been to date this year?***

***3. What forms have these recorded incidents taken, ie how many have involved poisonings, shootings and egg disturbances?***

***4. What species have been involved in each incident?***

***5. How many cases have been referred to prosecution in each year?***

- **Would it be possible to answer the questions above, but only for the current year?**
- **Also I accidentally missed out the crucial term 'birds of prey' in my first question as I'm only specifically interested in that type of wildlife crime.**

**RESPONSE**

I approached the administrator responsible for South Yorkshire Polices Incident Management System (IMS) to assist with the above refined request. They have researched incidents where the phrase "bird of prey" or "birds of prey" was found somewhere within an incident log report. This search has returned three incidents for the current year (up to and including 10<sup>th</sup> July 2013). I have manually reviewed each incident and none of the incidents relate to an offence been committed. Therefore, accordance with 1(1) (a) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, our response is one of no information held.

I have also researched your further points made in your email dated the 4<sup>th</sup> of July 2013. On Freedom of Information request 20130536, we searched for incidents with the word "wildlife" within the body of an incident log for 2008-2012, and this returned 664 incidents. However, not all these incidents will relate to an act of criminality. For example, the incident report may relate to matters where someone has reported an injured animal, a lost animal, concerns for wildlife. For these reasons, a manual search of each incident would have to be conducted to ascertain the exact nature of the incident.

As you have asked for incidents, the IMS is the appropriate method of returning data, as this logs confirmed incidents requiring the specific deployment of police resources, whether

reported by members of the public or 'happened upon' by officers and staff in the course of their duties. The force uses a Crime Management System (CMS) for complaints or allegations of those matters which the Home Office specifies should be recorded as 'crimes'. Although there are many differing offences under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, the only crime recordable offences on the CMS are the ones stated in our previous reply on Freedom of Information request 20130536.

If you are unhappy with the way your request for information has been handled, you can request a review by following the advice contained in the separate notice enclosed with this correspondence:

If you remain dissatisfied with the handling of your request or complaint, you have a right to appeal to the Information Commissioner at:

The Information Commissioner's Office,  
Wycliffe House,  
Water Lane,  
Wilmslow,  
Cheshire, SK9 5AF.  
Telephone: 08456 306060 or 01625 545745  
Website: [www.ico.gov.uk](http://www.ico.gov.uk)

Yours sincerely

Neil Sheedy  
Information Compliance Clerk  
South Yorkshire Police  
Information Compliance Unit  
Professional Standards Department  
Unit 20 Sheffield 35A Business Park  
Churchill Way  
Sheffield  
S35 2PY

Email - [foi@southyorks.police.uk](mailto:foi@southyorks.police.uk)

Please note that police forces in the United Kingdom are routinely required to provide information and statistics to government bodies and the recording criteria is set nationally. However, the systems used for recording these figures are not generic, nor are the procedures used locally in capturing the data. It should be noted that for these reasons this forces response to your questions should not be used for the comparison purposes with any other response you may receive.

South Yorkshire Police provides you the right to request a re-examination of your case under its review procedure (copy enclosed). If you decide to request such a review and having followed the Constabulary's full process you are still dissatisfied, then you have the right to direct your comments to the Information Commissioner who will give it consideration.

The South Yorkshire Police in complying with their statutory duty under sections 1 and 11 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 to release the enclosed information will not breach the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988. However, the rights of the copyright owner of the enclosed information will continue to be protected by law. Applications for the copyright owner's written permission to reproduce any part of the attached information should be addressed to The Force Solicitor, South Yorkshire Police, Police Headquarters, 5 Carbrook Hall Road, Sheffield, S9 2EG

## **Appeal Process for Freedom of Information**

Using this process will not affect your right to appeal directly to the Information Commissioner. However, it will usually be quicker if matters can be resolved locally using this process.

### ***Who can appeal?***

Anyone who has requested information from the Force in writing can appeal. If you have requested information and you are not satisfied with the way we have dealt with your request, you can use the appeal process to have it looked at again. If someone who requested information would like to appeal but cannot do so themselves you can appeal on their behalf, but it will help us if you make it clear that you are doing so.

### ***What can I appeal about?***

You can appeal about the range, amount and format of information we have sent following a request. You can also appeal about the way a request was handled – for example, the time it took to respond, or the way letters were worded.

### ***How do I appeal?***

You can appeal by writing, emailing or faxing your appeal/complaint to the address below. To deal with your appeal as quickly as possible, it will help if you can give us as much information as you can about the request made, such as the reference number, and the reason for your appeal/ complaint.

### ***What happens to my appeal?***

Once we have enough details to identify the request you are concerned about, a qualified person, other than the initial decision maker, will deal with the internal review.

### ***How long does it take?***

Whatever their conclusion, you will be informed of the result as soon as possible, and in any case within 20 days of submitting your appeal.

If you are still not satisfied, you may then appeal to the Information Commissioner.

### ***Appeal Address***

**Information Compliance Unit South Yorkshire Police Professional Standards  
Department Unit 20 Sheffield 35A Business Park Churchill Way Sheffield S35 2PY**

Email [foi@southyorks.pnn.police.uk](mailto:foi@southyorks.pnn.police.uk)