

Our Ref: 028 2019
Date: 12 November 2019

S Rhosier
request-618682-a53317a0@whatdotheyknow.com

Dear Mr/Ms Rhosier

Thank you for your Freedom of information (FOI) request dated 10 November 2019

Your request has been recorded in accordance with our FOI procedures as follows:

- 1. Please provide the list of priorities, by type of crime, which your force is instructed to abide by when allocating investigative resource; specifically to include the priorities of social media crime, wildlife crime, domestic terrorism, and breaches of the Hunting Act.***
- 2. I note that breaches of the Hunting Act are not recordable crimes as per the police/Home Office Orange Book. Why is that omission in place, and do you have plans to make hunting crime recordable for your force to deliver open, transparent and fair policing?***
- 3. Are there any Operations running in your force or as a cross-border collaboration with other forces which target hunt saboteurs?***
- 4. Are there, or have there ever been, any Operations running or about to run in your force or as a cross-border collaboration with other forces which focus in any way on information gathering/sharing for the purpose of classifying/recommending for classification and/or proscription of the Hunt Saboteur Association as Domestic Terrorists?***
- 5. Are there, or have there ever been, any discussions between you and/or your office/staff with any other police force/government agency/political party/the Home Office and/or members of the current Conservative government which focus(ed) in any way on information gathering/sharing for the purpose of classifying/recommending for classification and/or proscription of the Hunt Saboteur Association as Domestic Terrorists?***
- 6. Are there, or have there ever been, any discussions between you and/or your office/staff with the Countryside Alliance and/or Vote OK which focus(ed) in any way on information gathering/sharing for the purpose of classifying/recommending for classification and/or proscription of the Hunt Saboteur Association as Domestic Terrorists?***

Section 1 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) places two duties on public authorities.

Unless exemptions apply, the first duty at Sec 1(1)(a) is to confirm or deny whether the information specified in a request is held.

The second duty at Sec 1(1)(b) is to disclose information that has been confirmed as being held. Where exemptions are relied upon s17 of FOIA requires that we provide the applicant with a notice which: a) states that fact b) specifies the exemption(s) in question and c) states (if that would not otherwise be apparent) why the exemption applies.

Having completed my enquiries I am able to respond as follows:

Questions 1-4: This information is not held by the Office of the Police Fire and Crime Commissioner and as such we have forwarded your request to Essex Police and they will respond directly to you.

Questions 5-6: The Freedom of Information Act 2000 provides public access to information held by public authorities and covers any recorded information that is held by a public authority in England, Wales and Northern Ireland, and by UK-wide public authorities based in Scotland. Recorded information includes printed documents, computer files, letters, emails, photographs, and sound or video recordings. It does not cover discussions held between staff etc; therefore is not included in your request.

Your right to complain:

If you feel your request has not been properly handled, or you are otherwise dissatisfied with the outcome of your request you have the right to complain.

Complaints should be submitted within 20 working days from the date of this response and should be addressed to Chief Executive at Office of the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner for Essex, Top Floor, Kelvedon Park, Rivenhall, Witham, Essex, CM8 3HB or by email to: pfcc@essex.police.uk

We will conduct a review to investigate your complaint and endeavour to reply within 20 working days.

Please explain which aspect of the reply you are not satisfied with, and if your complaint concerns the decision to apply an exemption it would assist the review if you would outline why you believe the exemption does not apply.

If you are still dissatisfied following our review, you have the right under section 50 of the Act to complain directly to the Information Commissioner. Before considering your complaint, the Information Commissioner would normally expect you to have exhausted the complaints procedures provided by PFCC for Essex

Yours sincerely

Office of the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner for Essex