



Humberside Police
Corporate Development Branch
Information Compliance Unit
Priory Road
Kingston Upon Hull
HU5 5SF
Tel: +44 (1482) 578030
Fax: +44 (1482) 503002

Your Ref:
Our Ref: F-2013-01114

26 July, 2013

Dear XXXX

FREEDOM of INFORMATION ACT 2000 Reference No: F-2013-01114

Thank you for your request for Information, received at this office on 01 July, 2013, in which you requested details of the following:

I would like to make a Freedom of Information request relating to birds of prey and wildlife crimes. I have broken the request down into several parts for ease of reply. I'm happy to accept your information in whichever format is most convenient.

- 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, i.e. 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?**

The Freedom of Information Act requires that this request is dealt with in a manner that is motive and applicant blind. A disclosure under this legislation is considered a disclosure to the world and is considered to be on the basis that it is in the public interest.

This response is unique to Humberside Police and you are advised not to compare this like for like with any other force's response you receive.

Humberside Police Response

Police forces were asked to provide the National Wildlife Crime Unit (NWCU) with information and the attached spreadsheet is a summary of the information which Humberside Police provided between March 2009 and February 2013. Information is no longer routinely sent to the NWCU, nor is there any data held prior to March 2009. The National Wildlife Crime Unit may also be able to provide you with information, their website is www.nwcu.police.uk

*Chief Constable Ms J Curran Deputy Chief Constable D J Griffin QPM, MA
Assistant Chief Constable (Operations Support) A Leaver Assistant Chief Constable (Operations) S M Donald QPM, MA
Assistant Chief Officer (Support) P S Goatley BA (Hons), CPFA Assistant Chief Officer (Human Resources) I Watson MBA, MSc, FCIPD*

Web site: www.humberside.police.uk

As you can see, there are over 1600 reported incidents since 1st April 2009. Unfortunately, the species is not always recorded in the incident logs and we would have to assess each individual report to establish which species (if recorded) had been attacked. Based on the number of reported incidents it has been determined that this would exceed the appropriate limit of 18 hours or as a cost equivalent £450.cost threshold (18 hours), it has been calculated that it would take over 130 hours to retrieve the data using a conservative timescale of 5 minutes per record. Therefore I am obliged to cite Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act.

Section 12 – Exemption where cost of compliance exceeds the appropriate limit.

s1(1) does not oblige a public authority to comply with a request for information if the authority estimates that the cost of complying with the request would exceed the 'appropriate limit' (18 – hours).

Activities that may be counted within our time estimations are:

- Determining if the information is held;
- Locating the information, or a document containing it;
- Retrieving the information, or a document containing it; and
- Extracting the information from a document containing it.

The following have not been included within our calculations:

- The time spent identifying information to be exempted
- The time dedicated to the process of redaction.

Please take this as a refusal notice in accordance with section 17(5) of the Act which states; A public authority which, in relation to any request for information, is relying on a claim that section 12 or 14 applies must, within the time for complying with section 1(1), give the applicant a notice stating that fact.

Although excess cost removes the forces obligations under the Freedom of Information Act, as a gesture of goodwill, I have supplied information, relative to your request, retrieved or available before it was realised that the fees limit would be exceeded. I trust this is helpful, but it does not affect our legal right to rely on the fees regulations for the remainder of your request.

Should you need to discuss this further please contact Sarah Whitfield, Information Compliance Assistant, on the above details.

Yours sincerely,

Sarah Whitfield
Information Compliance Assistant

Chief Constable Ms J Curran Deputy Chief Constable D J Griffin QPM, MA
Assistant Chief Constable (Operations Support) A Leaver Assistant Chief Constable (Operations) S M Donald QPM, MA
Assistant Chief Officer (Support) P S Goatley BA (Hons), CPFA Assistant Chief Officer (Human Resources) I Watson MBA, MSc, FCIPD

Web site: www.humberside.police.uk

Humberside Police – Freedom of Information Complaints Review Procedure

Why Have A Complaints Process?

Humberside Police is committed to delivering an open and transparent service whenever possible and it is our intention to commit to the principles of openness embodied in the Freedom of Information Act. We will release information to the greatest extent possible, consistent with the public interest, however we may withhold information if we consider its release would cause significant harm.

If information within a document is withheld, it will be clearly marked to show where information has been removed and the legal exemption we have used. If we decline to supply all or part of any information you have asked for we will notify you in writing giving our reasons based upon legal exemptions contained within the Freedom of Information Act.

If you are not satisfied about the way in which your Freedom of Information request has been handled you have the right to appeal. This information has been designed to help you to understand how to complain to Humberside Police. Using this process will not affect your right to complain directly to the Information Commissioner if you feel we have not complied with our obligations under the Freedom of Information Act.

Who Can Complain?

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

What Can I Complain About?

If you are not satisfied with the way we have handled your request, with the fee we have charged, or with the reasons we have given for refusing to provide information, you have the right to appeal. You can complain about the range, amount and format of information we have sent following a request. You can also complain about the way a request was handled, for example, the time it took to respond.

How Do I Complain?

To deal with your complaint as quickly as possible, it will help if you can give us as much information as you can about the original request made and the reason for your complaint. Please put your complaint in writing and address it to:

FOI Appeals

[Humberside Police Information Compliance Unit](#)

Police Headquarters

Priory Road

Hull HU5 5SF

*Chief Constable Ms J Curran Deputy Chief Constable D J Griffin QPM, MA
Assistant Chief Constable (Operations Support) A Leaver Assistant Chief Constable (Operations) S M Donald QPM, MA
Assistant Chief Officer (Support) P S Goatley BA (Hons), CPFA Assistant Chief Officer (Human Resources) I Watson MBA, MSc, FCIPD*

Web site: www.humberside.police.uk

What Happens To My Complaint?

Once we have enough details to identify the request, we will begin the review. The Head of The Information Compliance Unit will normally review your complaint. In the more complex cases a review panel consisting of a number of senior personnel from the Force will re-examine your complaint. We aim to complete the review process within 20 days of receiving your complaint. Upon completion we will send you the findings.

How Will I Be Notified?

Where we have not followed procedures or have failed to provide acceptable quality of service, we will apologise and explain what we will do to ensure this doesn't happen again. If our original decision to withhold information is over-turned on appeal we will send you the additional information immediately. If we believe that our original response was correct we will let you know, and inform you of your options (see below).

What If I'm Still Not Satisfied?

If we have been unable to resolve your complaint and you are not satisfied you can approach the office of the Information Commissioner, who may investigate the matter on your behalf. This option is open to you at all times, but we will endeavour to address your complaint initially, as this may lead to a speedier resolution. It is the Information Commissioner who decides whether to investigate or not. We will co-operate fully with the Information Commissioner.

If you have any further questions about the complaints process, please contact the Information Compliance Unit on 01482 317097 or alternatively you can write to:

Head of Information Compliance Unit
Humberside Police Headquarters
Priory Road
Hull HU5 5SF
Email: Informationcomplianceunit@humberside.pnn.police.uk

Requests for a review by the Information Commissioner should be made in writing directly to:

The Information Commissioner
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF
Phone: 01625 545 700
www.informationcommissioner.gov.uk

Chief Constable Ms J Curran Deputy Chief Constable D J Griffin QPM, MA
Assistant Chief Constable (Operations Support) A Leaver Assistant Chief Constable (Operations) S M Donald QPM, MA
Assistant Chief Officer (Support) P S Goatley BA (Hons), CPFA Assistant Chief Officer (Human Resources) I Watson MBA, MSc, FCIPD

Web site: www.humberside.police.uk