



Office of the PCC for Warwickshire
3 Northgate Street
Warwick
CV34 4SP

FOI Request regarding: Policing of hunting

Request received: 11/11/2019

Responded: 29/11/2019

Your request for information has now been considered and in seeking to assist it may be helpful if I firstly clarify the position of the Warwickshire Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) in the matters that you raise.

The PCC, Mr Seccombe, has been elected to represent the residents and communities of Warwickshire in the areas of policing and crime. As part of his role he has a statutory responsibility to secure an effective and efficient police service and hold to account the Chief Constable for the delivery of the objectives in the PCC's 'Police and Crime Plan 2016 - 2021'. Warwickshire Police are in turn represented by the Chief Constable, who has autonomy for all operational policing decisions including the police response to incidents of crime and anti-social behaviour.

Given this clear distinction between the roles and responsibilities of the PCC and Chief Constable, the issues under consideration are principally for Warwickshire Police and not the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC). A FOIA request to Warwickshire Police can be made at: - <https://www.warwickshire.police.uk/rqo/request/ri/request-information/rip/request-information-police/request-information-about-police/FOI-request-form/>

In specific response to the questions posed in your FOIA request, the position of the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner is as follows: -

Q1. 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.

Response - This information is not held by the OPCC. Whilst the PCC's objectives are set out in the attached Police and Crime Plan 2016 – 2021, the OPCC does not prioritise nor allocate investigative resources as this is entirely an operational matter for the Chief Constable.

Q2. 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?

Response - This information is not held by the OPCC. This is an operational matter for the Chief Constable and Home Office.

Q3. Are there any Operations running in your force or as a cross-border collaboration with other forces which target hunt saboteurs?

Response - This information is not held by the OPCC. This is an operational matter for the Chief Constable

Q4. 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?

Response - This information is not held by the OPCC. This is an operational matter for the Chief Constable

Q5. 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?

Response - Neither the PCC nor current staff are aware of any such discussions and there are no records relevant to this request. This is an operational matter for the Chief Constable

Q6. Are there, or have there ever been, any discussions between you and/or your office/staff with the Countryside Alliance and/or Vote OK (<https://www.vote-ok.co.uk>) 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?

Response – Neither the PCC nor current staff are aware of any such discussions and there are no records relevant to this request. Mr Seccombe does however wish it be known that he is member of the Countryside Alliance. This is an operational matter for the Chief Constable