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Our Ref: FOI2018/00527

REQUEST UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 Ref No: FOI2018/00527

I write in connection with your request for information received on 24th January. I note you seek access to the following information:

- 1) Please could you tell me which forces have dedicated wildlife crime officers? (Or full time equivalent).
- 2) Please tell me what personal training they have had and what general training in this area each force has had to date?
- 3) Do any forces work with independent wildlife experts?
- 4) Have any officers attended training opportunities offered by the National Wildlife Crime Unit?
- 5) How do forces respond to illegal hunt activities (eg road safety violations, violence towards hunt monitors, badger sett blocking, terrier dog offenses etc.)
- 6) Overall, in the area of wildlife crime and crimes committed by hunts, what is the ratio of reported crimes to investigations and convictions?
- 7) I am getting a picture of overall laxness in training and priority given to wildlife crime and crimes against members of the public who monitor hunts. Why is this?

I am required by the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (The Act) to handle all requests in a manner that is blind to the identity of the requestor. Any information released in response to a request is regarded as being published and therefore, in the public domain without caveat.

Following enquiries within the Constabulary please see our response below.

Response

Q1 – I can confirm that Hertfordshire Constabulary have dedicated wildlife crime officers.

Q2 - Attended National Wildlife Training Course, CITES training and other specialist training offered by partner agencies. They also cascade training to others within the constabulary.

Q3 - Yes – through PAW (Partnership for Action against Wildlife crime)

Q4 – Yes

Q5 - When these crimes are reported they are dealt with in a similar way to any other crime reported.

Q6 – No information held.

Q7 - Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, a request can be in the form of a question, rather than a request for specific documents, but the authority does not have to answer the question if this would mean creating new information or giving an opinion or judgement that is not already recorded.

The numerical data presented in this response is an un-audited snapshot of un-published data sourced from "live" systems and is subject to the interpretation of the original request by the individual extracting the data.

Should you have any further enquiries concerning this matter please do not hesitate to contact me quoting the above reference number.

Yours sincerely

James Hodson
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Hertfordshire Constabulary provides you the right to request an independent review of this response under its review procedure. If you require such a review you must notify us within two months from the date of this letter. After lodging a complaint with Hertfordshire Constabulary if you are still dissatisfied with the decision you may make an application to the Information Commissioner. For information on how to make a complaint please visit their website at <https://ico.org.uk/concerns/> or contact them on 0303 123 1113.