

19th May 2020

Freedom of Information Request - Reference No: 20201057

REQUEST

I would be grateful if you would provide me with the following information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, for each year from 1st January 2015

- 1 The number of complaints made to the South Yorkshire Police by members of the public, regarding the activity of hunts (fox hunts/trail hunts) on roads, including the presence of hunting hounds on roads.***
- 2 Details of all incidents of hunting hounds being killed or injured on roads, including the date, location, description of the incident and any action taken in response by South Yorkshire Police.***
- 3 Details of all incidents of hunting hounds being unattended or lost on roads, including the date, location, description of the incident and any action taken in response by the South Yorkshire Police.***
- 4 Details of all incidents of hunting hounds chasing other animals on roads, including the date, location, description of the incident and any action taken in response by South Yorkshire Police.***
- 5 Details of all other incidents of hunts and/or their hounds causing disruption to road users and traffic, including the date, location, description of the incident and any action taken in response by South Yorkshire Police.***

CLARIFICATION

As there is no generic incident title for "Fox Hunting", for your request our administrator would need to search for keywords ie where "fox hunting" is mentioned within the free text boxes of the incident log.

On a recent request there were 11 incident records (2019-2020) that had the words "Fox Hunting" in the free text boxes. I checked each one and only 2 were relevant and where when the callers believed Fox Hunting was taking place in the vicinity.

The below links may also be useful for your research:

<https://www.southyorkshire.police.uk/find-out/accessing-information/request-information-under-the-freedom-of-information-act/fox-hunting-ref-20192302/>

<https://www.southyorkshire.police.uk/find-out/crime-prevention-advice/wildlife-and-rural-crime/>

Can you advise how you wish us to proceed?

FROM THE REQUESTER

I am happy to clarify my request by stating that I am specifically looking for incidents involving the disruption of traffic due to hunts, rather than a record of hunting incidents in general. Specifically:

Incidents of hunts and/or their hounds causing disruption to road users and traffic, including the date, location, description of the incident and any action taken in response by Wiltshire Police. This might include the injury/death of hounds, hounds chasing animals across the road, or the build-up of traffic due to the hunt's presence

I have submitted the same request to a number of other police forces, who have been able to successfully retrieve the information. One successful method is as follows:

'Incident searches conducted using the keywords "fox" and "trail" under both categories of Wildlife and Highway disruptions. These both brought back results of incidents.'

In an effort to refine my request, would it be possible for you to conduct a similar search at South Yorkshire Police, searching for key words 'fox', 'trail' and 'hunt' under the result codes 'Wildlife' and 'Highway disruption' (or equivalent) for the aforementioned following:

Incidents of hunts and/or their hounds causing disruption to road users and traffic, including the date, location, description of the incident and any action taken in response by South Yorkshire Police. This might include the injury/death of hounds, hounds chasing animals across the road, or the build-up of traffic due to the hunt's presence

RESPONSE

I approached the administrators for South Yorkshire Police's Incident Management System. The Procad System recorded incidents up to November 2018 and the Smart System records from that date forwards.

The systems record the majority of calls to South Yorkshire Police requiring the specific deployment of police resources, whether reported by members of the public via 999 or 101 or 'happened upon' by officers and staff in the course of their duties. The log runs as a running commentary of an incident as it unfolds and has limited search capability.

As previously advised there is no generic incident title that meets the criteria of your request, our administrators have searched incident for keywords within the free text boxes of the incident log.

Procad – The Administrator advised:

I have search ProCAD archive from 1st Jan 2015 to Nov 2018 for variations of Fox Hunting and hounds and returned 196 incidents.

I have checked each of the 196 incidents. As this was a free text search, the word "Hound" returned a number of incidents mentioning a public houses ie "The Fox and Hounds" and also dog descriptions ie "the dog was like a greyhound"

There was only 1 incident that fit the criteria of your request:

	Title	Date	Location	Detail
Procad	ANIMALS/WILDLIFE/PETS -FOX HUNTING	Oct-15	Sheffield	Caller reporting dogs and horses running loose up and down a road. Caller believes there is Fox Hunting and the dogs and horses are in the middle of the road causing a nuisance as cars are having to stop. Officers attended and area checked to no gain.

Smart – The Administrator advised:

Looking back from November 2018 searching Fox Hunting, there were no incidents in the last 2 months of 2018, 7 incidents reports in 2019 and 4 so far in 2020.

I have checked the 11 incidents. No incidents match the criteria of your request.