



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2015-03300

Keyword: Crime

Subject: Endangered Species Regulations

Request and Answer:

Under the Freedom of Information Act, I seek the following information regarding the illegal wildlife trade:

Question 1

The annual number of arrests made under The Control of Trade in Endangered Species Regulations from the period between 1 September 2005 and 1 September 2015.

Answer

Your request for information has now been considered. In respect of Section 1(1)(a) of the Act I can confirm that the Police Service of Northern Ireland does hold information to which your request relates. The decision has been taken to disclose the following.

In the requested time period, there was one arrest under the 'Control of Trade in Endangered Species Regulations' and this occurred in 2010.

Note: The information provided relates to those individuals arrested and processed through police custody; those arrested and street bailed or dealt with by other means e.g. discretionary disposal will not be included in these figures. This information is based on data extracted from a live system and may be subject to change. It is dependent on the information having been input into the system in such a way as to identify those records that are relevant.

Question 2

The annual number of charges made under The Control of Trade in Endangered Species Regulations from the period between 1 September 2005 and 1 September 2015. Please include any subsidiary charges made in relation to the illegal wildlife trade, for example the Proceeds of Crime Act.

Answer

In the requested time period, there was one person charged under the 'Control of Trade in Endangered Species Regulations' and this occurred in 2010. Subsidiary charges made in relation to this incident include the Fraud Act 2006 and the Welfare of Animals Act (NI) 1972.

Note: This information is based on data extracted from a live system and may be subject to change.

It is dependent on the information having been input into the system in such a way as to identify those records that are relevant.

Question 3

The outcome of these charges from the period between 1 September 2005 and 1 September 2015.

Answer

The charge in 2010 under the 'Control of Trade in Endangered Species Regulations' resulted in a conviction. The subsidiary charges under the Fraud Act 2006 and the Welfare to Animals Act (NI) 1972, referenced in answer to question 2, were withdrawn.

Note: This information is based on data extracted from a live system and may be subject to change. It is dependent on the information having been input into the system in such a way as to identify those records that are relevant.

If you have any queries regarding your request or the decision please do not hesitate to contact me on 028 9070 0164. When contacting the Freedom of Information Team, please quote the reference number listed at the beginning of this letter.

If you are dissatisfied in any way with the handling of your request, you have the right to request a review. You should do this as soon as possible or in any case within two months of the date of issue of this letter. In the event that you require a review to be undertaken, you can do so by writing to the Head of Freedom of Information, PSNI Headquarters, 65 Knock Road, Belfast, BT5 6LE or by emailing foi@psni.pnn.police.uk.

If following an internal review, carried out by an independent decision maker, you were to remain dissatisfied in any way with the handling of the request you may make a complaint, under Section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act, to the Information Commissioner's Office and ask that they investigate whether the PSNI has complied with the terms of the Freedom of Information Act. You can write to the Information Commissioner at Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF. In most circumstances the Information Commissioner will not investigate a complaint unless an internal review procedure has been carried out, however the Commissioner has the option to investigate the matter at his discretion.

Please be advised that PSNI replies under Freedom of Information may be released into the public domain via our website @ www.psni.police.uk

Personal details in respect of your request have, where applicable, been removed to protect confidentiality.