



## FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



**Request Number:** F-2016-00073

**Keyword:** Crime

**Subject:** Operation Wild Deer

### Request and Answer:

#### Question 1

This request relates to the PSNI Operation 'Wild Deer' (deer poaching/wildlife crime).  
On what date did Operation Wild Deer commence?

#### 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.

Operation Wild Deer is a pro-active preventative measure to help combat deer poaching through raising awareness and asking members of the public to report deer poaching and was launched on 6<sup>th</sup> August 2013.

#### Question 2

How many people have been arrested by the PSNI for deer poaching contrary to article 19 of the Wildlife (NI) Order 1985 since the commencement of Operation Wild Deer?

#### Answer

Searches were conducted for the relevant offence codes and this shows that since the commencement of Operation Wild Deer no arrests for 'deer poaching' have taken place within Northern Ireland since the commencement of operation Wild Deer in August 2013.

Please Note: There is no single offence for 'Deer Poaching', and instead the following offences were searched for 'Entering land without consent in search of a deer with intent', 'Killing, injuring or taking deer without consent', 'Pursuing deer with intent without consent', 'Killing of a deer out of season', and 'Discharging firearm or missile from a vehicle at a deer' and these searches found that no arrests have occurred in relation to these offences.

#### Question 3

How many people have been reported to the PPS NI by the PSNI for deer poaching contrary to article 19 of the Wildlife (NI) Order 1985 since the commencement of Operation Wild Deer?

#### Answer

None, as stated above, since the initiative began there have been no arrests made in relation to deer

poaching and so no one has been reported to the PPS in relation to these offences within Northern Ireland since the commencement of operation Wild Deer in August 2013.

#### **Question 4**

How many people have been prosecuted for deer poaching contrary to article 19 of the Wildlife (NI) Order 1985 since the commencement of Operation Wild Deer?

#### **Answer**

None, as stated above, since the initiative began there have been no arrests made in relation to deer poaching and so there have been no prosecutions in relation to these offences within Northern Ireland since the commencement of operation Wild Deer in August 2013.

#### **Question 5**

How many people have been convicted of deer poaching contrary to article 19 of the Wildlife (NI) Order 1985 since the commencement of Operation Wild Deer?

#### **Answer**

None, as stated above, since the initiative began there have been no arrests or prosecutions in relation to 'deer poaching' and so there have been no convictions in relation to these offences within Northern Ireland since the commencement of operation Wild Deer in August 2013.

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](mailto: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](http://www.psni.police.uk)

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