



## FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



**Request Number:** F-2016-01906

**Keyword:** Crime

**Subject:** Badger Related Crimes

### Request and Answer:

#### Question 1

How many cases of badger-related crime were reported to your Police Force from 1st November 2015 to 31st October 2016? a) Of those reports, how many were cases of badger baiting specifically? b) Of those reports, how many were cases of badger digging specifically?

#### Answer

Your request for information has now been considered. In respect of Section 1(1)(a) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) I can confirm that the Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI) does hold information to which your request relates. The decision has been taken to disclose the following.

Badger related offences are not notifiable therefore Statistics Branch do not record this type of crime. However, between 1st November 2015 and 31st October 2016, the Wildlife Office recorded 56 cases of badger related crime. This figure is dependent on the information having been input into the system in such a way as to identify those records that are relevant. Of these 56 cases, 20 relate to badger baiting and 28 to badger digging.

#### Question 2

How many badger-related crime prosecutions did your Police Force lead from 1st November 2015 to 31st October 2016? a) How many of those prosecutions were for offences of badger baiting? b) How many of those prosecutions were for offences of badger digging? c) Out of the total number of prosecutions for badger crime offences, how many led to successful convictions? d) Please list the sentences given out to those found guilty of badger baiting/digging.

#### Answer

As these offences are not notifiable, no information is held relating to prosecutions.

#### Question 3

How many Police Wildlife Crime Officers does your Police Force appoint? a) How many are full-time? b) How many are part-time? c) If part-time, what is the average number of hours allocated to each part-time Police Wildlife Crime Officer to carry out this role?

#### Answer

The PSNI have one full time Wildlife Liaison Officer who is based in Headquarters and offers advice, support and assistance to all police officers and staff. All police officers are wildlife officers and

respond to wildlife crime like any other crime with the support of the Headquarters Department. The Wildlife Office also has 1 full time Administrative Support Officer.

#### **Question 4**

How are cases of badger-related crime recorded within your Police Force?

#### **Answer**

As badger related offences are not notifiable, Statistics Branch does not record this type of crime. The Wildlife Office records some information for the purposes of strategic decision making and to assist in working with partner agencies to identify hot spot areas.

#### **Question 5**

How often are Police Wildlife Officers in contact with the UK National Wildlife Crime Unit? (Daily, weekly, monthly, quarterly, annually, never).

#### **Answer**

The Wildlife Liaison Officer is in weekly contact with the UK National Wildlife Crime Unit.

#### **Question 6**

How often are Police Wildlife Officers in contact with the Partnership for Action against Wildlife Crime? (Daily, weekly, monthly, quarterly, annually, never).

#### **Answer**

The Wildlife Liaison Officer attends all Partnership for Action against Wildlife Crime meetings including the main steering group meeting which is also attended by the Service lead for rural and wildlife crime. The Wildlife Liaison Officer also attends all 6 sub group meetings which includes the badger sub group.

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.psnipolice.uk](http://www.psnipolice.uk)

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

