

Keeping People Safe



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2022-00920

Keyword: Crime

Subject: Wildlife Crimes Committed Against Red Kites

Request and Answer:

Request 1

Do the PSNI hold information on wildlife crimes committed, or suspected to have been committed, against Red Kites in Northern Ireland since January 2017?

Request 2

If so, in what areas have these crimes, or suspected crimes, been committed?

Request 3

How many incidents of wildlife crime, or suspected wildlife crime, have been committed against Red Kites in Northern Ireland since 2017?

Answer to Requests 1-3

Section 17(1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 requires the Police Service of Northern Ireland, when refusing to provide such information (because the information is exempt) to provide you the applicant with a notice which:

- (a) states that fact,
- (b) specifies the exemption in question and
- (c) states (if not otherwise apparent) why the exemption applies.

The exemption/s, as well as the factors the Department considered when deciding where the public interest lies, are listed below:

[delete the last section of the sentence if only absolute exemptions not subject to PIT apply]

The full text of exemptions can be found at www.legislation.gov.uk and further guidance on how they operate can be located on the Information Commissioners Office website www.ico.org.uk.

Pursuant to the provisions of Section 22 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 it has been decided to refuse access to the information you have requested. Under Section 22 (1) of the Act the Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI) is not obliged to disclose information that is held with a view to its publication at some future date.

The information you requested is intended to be published by Partnership for Action Against Wildlife

Crime Group, in the next few months and will be made available on / in the PSNI website.

Section 22 is a qualified exemption so therefore the PSNI is obliged to carry out a Public Interest Test.

Public Interest Test – Section 22

Factors favouring release

The public would be better informed of PSNI investigation of crimes against birds of prey and more specifically Red Kites.

Factors favouring withholding

Information in relation to crimes against birds of prey and more specifically Red Kites has a multi-agency interest involving numerous organisations and not solely the PSNI. Detailed assessment of crimes against birds of prey is ongoing and reports when produced are issued on a multi-agency basis (as per the example provided in assistance to you under). Consequently the public interest is best served by awaiting the next detailed multi agency report in relation to crimes specifically against Red Kites, as well as other birds of prey.

Assistance under Section 16 of FOI

To assist we have provided a link under to the 10 year report 2009 to 2018, which will provide information since 2017.

The Bird of Prey reports which includes the Red Kite reports can be found under the Partnership for Action against Wildlife Crime (PAWNI) website under [How to report a wildlife crime, Northern Ireland, PAW NI \(wildlifecrimeni.org\) www.wildlifecrimeni.org](http://www.wildlifecrimeni.org) - these reports are also on the PSNI internet site.

<https://www.psni.police.uk/globalassets/advice--information/animal-welfare/documents/paw-ni-raptor-persecution-report-2009---2018.pdf>

Request 4

What steps have been taken to investigate wildlife crimes against Red Kites in Northern Ireland?

Answer

The Police Service takes all wildlife crimes very seriously and every officer can ask for advice and guidance from the PSNI wildlife central office on any reports of birds of prey. This information is also on the PSNI intranet site.

If you have any queries regarding your request please write or contact the Corporate Information Branch on 028 9070 0164. Please remember to quote the reference number listed above in any future communications with the Corporate Information Branch.

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 Corporate Information Branch, 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 remain dissatisfied with the handling of your request, you may make a complaint to the Information Commissioner's Office, under Section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act, 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', or use the ICO self-service portal available at www.ico.org.uk/make-a-complaint/officialinformation-concerns-report/official-information-concern/

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 their discretion.

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

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

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 Corporate Information Branch, please quote the reference number listed at the beginning of this letter.

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