

I write in connection with your request for information dated 5th April concerning hunts.

I am required by the Freedom of Information Act 2000 to handle all requests in a manner that is blind as to the identity and motives of the requestor. Any information released as a response to a request is regarded as being published and therefore in the public domain without caveat.

You wrote:

- 1) How many times did you attend hunt meets covertly
- 2) If you filmed hunt saboteurs acting violently or shouting in the faces of children where can i find these films
- 3) If the films were passed to the police what is the incident reference number
- 4) Did the police take any further action if a crime reference was gained
- 5) What dates did this covert activity take place, to include date and time
- 6) What was your location at the time of the covert activity either by What3Words or Grid reference will be adequate as it is what the police actually request for any incident
- 7) Were any other people with you, that can include members of the public, members of the hunt or police officers
- 8) Did Wiltshire police give you authority to carry out covert operations in your role of PCC
- 9) Are you a member of any hunt
- 10) Are you a member of any shooting society
- 11) Are you a member of the Countryside Alliance

Response:

Questions One to Eight

No information held.

Questions Nine to Eleven

All memberships are declared and can be found on the OPCC website, which you can access by following the below link:

[The PCC \(wiltshire-pcc.gov.uk\)](http://wiltshire-pcc.gov.uk)

Under our Section 16 obligation to provide advice and assistance, please see the press release from the Police and Crime Commissioner which relates to your request:

Statement from Philip Wilkinson, Police and Crime Commissioner.

The subject of hunting is divisive and people on both sides of the argument defend their position with passion, I understand this and respect each viewpoint.

Much has been made of my use of language in the context of attending a hunt. I have attended hunt meetings in my personal capacity, as a resident, a few times to witness, first-hand, what happens. I used to make it clear that I was not attending in an official capacity and was not recognised as such when doing so. The use of word 'covert' in this instance was loose terminology. I should have made that clearer.

Strong campaigning by each side of the argument means that often my true aim is overlooked. I would like to make it clear: Wiltshire's countryside is open for all to enjoy lawfully and legitimately – and my role as PCC is to ensure this happens.

As I have made clear on many occasions my job is to ensure Wiltshire Police enforces the law impartially, without fear or favour, against whomsoever should break it, from whatever background or whichever side of the hunting argument they sit – and I continue to work with the Chief Constable on this.

I will not allow undue influence or pressure from any private or protest group to affect the operational independence of Wiltshire Police.