

FOI- 2019- 1092

I write in connection with your email request for information dated on the 11th of November regarding freedom of information request lodged against the PCC.

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.

Following receipt of your request, searches were conducted within the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner. Your request for information has now been considered and I am able to respond as follows:

You wrote:

Please respond to the following:

1. Please provide the list of priorities, by type of crime, which your force is instructed to abide by when allocating investigative resource; specifically to include the priorities of social media crime, wildlife crime, domestic terrorism, and breaches of the Hunting Act.
2. I note that breaches of the Hunting Act are not recordable crimes as per the police/Home Office Orange Book. Why is that omission in place, and do you have plans to make hunting crime recordable for your force to deliver open, transparent and fair policing?
3. Are there any Operations running in your force or as a cross-border collaboration with other forces which target hunt saboteurs?
4. Are there, or have there ever been, any Operations running or about to run in your force or as a cross-border collaboration with other forces which focus in any way on information gathering/sharing for the purpose of classifying/recommending for classification and/or proscription of the Hunt Saboteur Association as Domestic Terrorists?
5. Are there, or have there ever been, any discussions between you and/or your office/staff with any other police force/government agency/political party/the Home Office and/or members of the current Conservative government which focus(ed) in any way on information gathering/sharing for the purpose of classifying/recommending for classification and/or proscription of the Hunt Saboteur Association as Domestic Terrorists?
6. Are there, or have there ever been, any discussions between you and/or your office/staff with the Countryside Alliance and/or Vote OK (<https://www.vote-ok.co.uk>) which focus(ed) in any way on information gathering/sharing for the purpose of classifying/recommending for classification and/or proscription of the Hunt Saboteur Association as Domestic Terrorists?

Response:

1. Please provide the list of priorities, by type of crime, which your force is instructed to abide by when allocating investigative resource; specifically to include the priorities of social media crime, wildlife crime, domestic terrorism, and breaches of the Hunting Act.

The Police and Crime Commissioner for Wiltshire and Swindon sets the strategic direction and the key priorities of the force through the Police and Crime Plan. This plan must take into consideration the Strategic Policing Requirement which is set by the Home Secretary. The current plan is easily accessible on our website: <https://www.wiltshire->

pcc.gov.uk/media/4336/Police-and-Crime-Plan-2019-update/pdf/Police_and_Crime_Plan_2019_update.pdf?m=637085522458430000

The priorities are listed below:

1. Prevent crime and keep people safe
2. Protect the most vulnerable people in society
3. Put victims, witnesses and communities at the heart of everything we do
4. Secure a quality police service that is trusted and efficient

The Chief Constable determines his policing strategy according to these priorities and measures success against them. There is no specific prioritization due to the fact that each reported incident is carefully assessed and prioritised according to its threat, harm & risk.

2. I note that breaches of the Hunting Act are not recordable crimes as per the police/Home Office Orange Book. Why is that omission in place, and do you have plans to make hunting crime recordable for your force to deliver open, transparent and fair policing?

The OPCC hold no information relevant to your question. The operational matters are overseen by the Chief Constable, therefore your request would be more appropriately addressed to Wiltshire Police who may hold this information. We can assist and transfer your request to the force, however, we require your permission to share your contact details with them as per the GDPR regulations.

3. Are there any Operations running in your force or as a cross-border collaboration with other forces which target hunt saboteurs?

The OPCC hold no information relevant to your question. The operational matters are overseen by the Chief Constable, therefore your request would be more appropriately addressed to Wiltshire Police who may hold this information. We can assist and transfer your request to the force, however, we require your permission to share your contact details with them as per the GDPR regulations.

4. Are there, or have there ever been, any Operations running or about to run in your force or as a cross-border collaboration with other forces which focus in any way on information gathering/sharing for the purpose of classifying/recommending for classification and/or proscription of the Hunt Saboteur Association as Domestic Terrorists?

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6. Are there, or have there ever been, any discussions between you and/or your office/staff with the Countryside Alliance and/or Vote OK (<https://www.vote-ok.co.uk>) which focus(ed) in any way on information gathering/sharing for the purpose of classifying/recommending for classification and/or proscription of the Hunt Saboteur Association as Domestic Terrorists?

The PCC is part of the National Rural Crime Network alongside other Police and Crime Commissioners, police forces and a plethora of the organisations that are key players in rural communities including Countryside Alliance. In Wiltshire, the Rural Crime Partnership for Wiltshire and Swindon was established by Wiltshire Police in consultation with the PCC in 2016. Its main purpose is to consolidate local intelligence and make recommendations to Chief Officers and the PCC to inform decisions around preventing and combating rural criminality. The Partnership focuses on reducing and preventing rural crime across the county. Searches of the OPCC show that no discussions about classifying/recommending for classification and/or proscription of the Hunt Saboteur Association as Domestic Terrorists have been held.

If you require any further information or guidance, please, do not hesitate to contact the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Wiltshire and Swindon.