



# Home Office

**Public Order and Police Co-Operation Unit**  
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14 May 2007

Dear **XXXX**

I refer to your email of 20 April to the Home Office in which you asked for information regarding the 'evidence put forward by the hunts themselves' which was included in a recent response from the Home Office regarding the enforcement of the Hunting Act 2004. You asked for copies of this evidence as put forward by the hunts.

Your request was handled in accordance with the terms of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

The evidence referred to comprised numerous articles from pro-hunting publications such as Horse and Hound, press articles, the Countryside Alliance Handbook and the League Against Cruel Sports (LACS) own report on hunting. During the hunting season, Horse and Hound regularly attend hunt meetings across the country, describing the activities which take place and how the hunts are adapting to life post the hunting ban. Many of the articles in Horse and Hound show that the hunts have moved to trail hunting as an alternative to live quarry racing. Examples of this are:

2/11/06 – Avon Vale Hunt  
9/11/06 – Dulverton West Hunt  
16/11/06 – Pembrokeshire Hunt  
23/11/06 – Hurworth Hunt  
18/01/07 – Staintondale Hunt  
25/01/07 – Cheshire Forest Hunt.

Regarding other press articles, the following are examples:

The Leek and Post times articles of 03/01/07 on the trail hunt held by the Staffordshire Moorlands Hunt.  
Newark Adviser of 01/01/07

Tamworth Herald of 10/01/07 on Atherstone Hunt  
Newbury Today – 27/12/06 – West Berkshire's Vine and Craven Hunt.  
This is Wiltshire on 27/12/06 also had an article about a number of hunts in Wiltshire on Boxing Day.

The Countryside Alliance Hunting Handbook advises hunts how they can continue hunting legally, including guidance on trail hunting.

As you know, LACS own reports on hunting since the ban came into effect suggest that many hunts have stayed within the law, usually hound exercising or following an artificial scent.

This is why we said that evidence put forward by the hunts themselves **suggests** that many of them have turned to trail hunting.

If you are dissatisfied with this response you may request an independent internal review of our handling of your request. This can be done by submitting your complaint to:

Information Policy Team  
4<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Seacole Building  
Home Office  
2 Marsham Street  
London  
SW1P 4DF

Should you remain dissatisfied after this internal review, you will have a further right of complaint to the Information Commissioner.

Yours sincerely,

Jonathan Batt  
Public Order team