



Ministry of Defence Police

Freedom of Information Manager

Ministry of Defence Police

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Our Ref: eCase: FOI 2022/04794

RFI: 092/22

Date: 16th May 2022

Dear [REDACTED]

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000: MINISTRY OF DEFENCE POLICE: WILDLIFE CRIME DATA.

We refer to your email dated 13th April 2022 to the Ministry of Defence Police which was acknowledged on 13th April 2022.

We are treating your email as a request for information in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA 2000).

In your email you requested the following information:

I would like the details of any arrests and/or seizures made in relation to wildlife crimes. In particular, I'm looking for cases related to poaching, egg poaching, smuggling from overseas/illegal wildlife trade, non-registration of birds and animals that require licensing, and illegal hunting.

If it's helpful to be even more specific (I am unsure how many cases there may be), poaching, hunting and trade are my top three priorities.

I'd like to see the details of incidents from 2018 onwards. Again, if it's helpful to specify more, I'm happy to limit the search to 2019 onwards.

I'd like as much information as is possible to be provided with, however I appreciate there are limits with regards to what I can know. The list below outlines the information I'm looking for (in an ideal world!):

- Name of person arrested (if not possible, age and gender would be helpful)
- location of arrest or seizure
- date of arrest or seizure
- details of any items seized
- reason for arrest or seizure

- whether charges were brought
- any other details relevant to the case (e.g. if a smuggler, where the items have come from)

I would like this for crimes that fit the following criteria:

- Took place after 2018
- Relate to wildlife crimes (e.g. illegal poaching, egg poaching, illegal wildlife trade/importation, illegal hunting, keeping species that need licensing without the proper registrations)

A search for information has now been completed by the Ministry of Defence Police and I can confirm that we do hold information in scope of your request.

Search carried out 01.01.2018 to current date.

Poaching (day poaching, taking game, trespass in pursuit of game/poaching)
3 cases noted in 2020 within Salisbury Plain Training area;

Offenders caught setting up purse nets and long nets over an active rabbit warren with the intention of catching rabbits by way of ferreting 3 males (members of the public) accused aged 60, 34 and 31. Items seized – green textile bag containing 42 purse nets and green long net. All accused charged and found guilty on 06.01.21.

Offender trespassed in search or pursuit of game, woodcocks, snipes or conies, caught in the act of ferreting. 1 male (member of the public) accused aged 40. Charged and found guilty on 05.02.21.

Ferreting with purse nets set up and ferrets released into active rabbit warren. 2 males (members of the public) accused, aged 25 and 26. Ferreting nets and 7 deceased adult rabbits seized. Both summonsed to court on 13.04.21 and 20.05.21 respectively and found guilty.

If you wish to complain about the handling of your request, or the content of this response, you can request an independent internal review by contacting the Information Rights Compliance team, Ground Floor, MOD Main Building, Whitehall, SW1A 2HB (e-mail CIO-FOI-IR@mod.gov.uk).

Please note that any request for an internal review should be made within 40 working days of the date of this response.

If you remain dissatisfied following an internal review, you may raise your complaint directly to the Information Commissioner under the provisions of Section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act. Please note that the Information Commissioner will not normally investigate your case until the MOD internal review process has been completed. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF. Further details of the role and powers of the Information Commissioner can be found on the Commissioner's website at <https://ico.org.uk/>.

Yours sincerely

MDP Secretariat and Freedom of Information Office

