



Ministry of Defence Police

Freedom of Information Manager
Ministry of Defence Police
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Cambs, PE28 2EA

E-mail: MDP-FOI-DP@mod.gov.uk

Our Ref: eCase: FOI 2023/04381

RFI: 99/23

Date: 25th April 2023

Dear [REDACTED]

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000: MINISTRY OF DEFENCE POLICE: CRIMES AGAINST SWANS, GEESE AND DUCKS.

We refer to your email dated 31st March 2023 to the Ministry of Defence Police which was acknowledged on the 31st March 2023.

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:

1. In the calendar years A) 2020, B) 2021 and C) 2022, please tell me how many times your police force recorded the crime codes 190/00 wild birds under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 or other codes 108/00, 108/01, 108/02, 108/14, 108/29, 108/34 and 97/01 where the free-text field indicates that the animal in question was a) a swan, b) a goose or c) a duck.

Please provide a breakdown of the total by year and by type of bird.

2. For the 15 most recently recorded crimes captured by question 1's search, please provide me with a verbatim copy of the "investigation summary field" and/or the modus operandi (MO). In addition, please state where each of the 15 crimes occurred. I understand some information may need to be redacted to prevent personal or otherwise sensitive details being divulged.

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

1. In the calendar years A) 2020, B) 2021 and C) 2022, please

tell me how many times your police force recorded the crime codes 190/00 wild birds under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 or other codes 108/00, 108/01, 108/02, 108/14, 108/29, 108/34 and 97/01 where the free-text field indicates that the animal in question was a) a swan, b) a goose or c) a duck.

Please provide a breakdown of the total by year and by type of bird.

190/00 - 2020/2022 - 0
2021 – 1

108/00- 2020/2021/2022 - 0

108/01 - 2020/2021/2022 - 0

108/02- 2020/2021/2022 - 0

108/14 - 2020/2021/2022 - 0

108/29 - 2020/2021/2022 – 0

108/34 - 2020/2021/2022 - 0

97/01 - 2020/2021/2022 - 0

2. For the 15 most recently recorded crimes captured by question 1's search, please provide me with a verbatim copy of the “investigation summary field” and/or the modus operandi (MO). In addition, please state where each of the 15 crimes occurred. I understand some information may need to be redacted to prevent personal or otherwise sensitive details being divulged.

Under Section 31 – Law Enforcement, of the Freedom of Information Act, some information has been withheld for question 2.

Section 31 is a prejudice based qualified exemptions and there is a requirement to consider the public interest by conducting a public interest test.

Section 31(1) has been applied because although releasing this information would lead to better public awareness of operational policing and thereby a potential reduction in crime, releasing information could allow individuals intent on carrying out criminal behaviour, to identify areas of the country with increased wildlife crimes, which could hinder the prevention and detection of future crime.

What can be released for question 2 is as follows:

Person reported to control room that she had found a dead swan in the nettles. PC attended scene to ascertain if there was any foul play. On arrival at scene PC identified the bird as an Emden goose, not a swan. PC located what appeared to be two air rifle wounds. One to the head and one to the neck. Goose seized.

It is possible that the bird was killed elsewhere and then chucked out of the window into the long nettles and grass from a vehicle or pedestrian crossing the bridge.

Rural Crime Team informed for information purposes. They report no other similar reports and no domestic geese have been reported stolen.

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