



Our Ref: 001128/21

Your Ref:

Address Correspondence to: Information Management

Date 22 April 2021

Freedom of Information Act 2000

I write further to your request for information received 31/03/2021.

I note you seek access to the following information:

Having watched an article a short while ago on ITV News at Ten Please could you tell me why it appears hunting with dogs are still going on when I understand they are illegal due to the COVID 19 national lockdown. I am 69 years of age and have only one grandchild who due to the restrictions my wife and I have not seen him since before Xmas so we find it very disappointing that these people have shown a total disregard for the present COVID rules. Please could I also do or please advise me on how to do a freedom of request on how many people have been arrested and also how many people have been prosecuted in Leicestershire since the hunting with dogs ban came in in 2004

Following receipt of your request, searches were conducted within Leicestershire Police to locate information relevant to your request.

Your request for information has now been considered and the information asked for is as follows: -

Where reports are made to us of suspected illegal hunting activity, these will be recorded and proportionately investigated. Reports are recorded in compliance with the National Crime recording Standards, but often the evidential standard required to initiate criminal proceedings is not achieved due to witnesses not providing evidence, digital evidence being incomplete or witnesses being unwilling to support a prosecution.

We will continue to police without fear or favour and in a proportionate manner and we will continue to investigate where we receive reports of Covid breaches or illegal hunting activity.

There were 5 people arrested in January 2021 for Hare Coursing using dogs, all caught at the same time/same place. There have been plenty of people arrested under Operation Blackthorn but these have been for affray/ABH type offences not using a dog to hunt. Leicestershire Police do not hold prosecution details, this will be held by Her Majesty's Court Service.

Leicestershire Police can only provide statistics back to 2015 which was the commencement of our current crime recording system.

Leicestershire Police provides you the right to ask for a re-examination of your request under its review procedure. Letters should be addressed to Information Manager, Corporate Services Department at the above address. If you decide to request such a review and having followed the Force's full process you are still dissatisfied, then you have the right to direct your comments to the Information Commissioner who will give it consideration.

Freedom of Information Officer
Leicestershire Police

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