

Freedom of Information Request Reference N°: FOI 004227-18

I write in connection with your request for information received by Suffolk Constabulary on the 16 November 2018 in which you sought access to the following information:

“By year, or the last ten years [or five?], and up to 15:11.18, please provide the number of "hare coursing" incidents for Suffolk Constabulary.

This should be hare coursing offences contrary to part 1 section 5 of the Hunting Act 2004. If your force does not record in this manner, please provide information gathered from a free text search of your crime recording system.

For each, please provide the full-text description of the incident.”

Response to your Request

The response provided below is correct as of 19 November 2018

Suffolk Constabulary has considered your request for information and the response is below.

Suffolk Constabulary only holds information from 19 October 2015 as a result in a change in crime recording system and information relating to non-notifiable offences no longer being available for bulk data extraction from legacy data.

The Constabulary has searched for all non-notifiable offences recorded under the Home Office classification of ‘Hunting Act 2004, Part 1, Section 5’, for the time frame 19 October 2015 – 15 November 2018. The total number of offences is provided as follows:

HO Classification	2015	2016	2017	2018
Hunting Act 2004 - Attending a hare coursing event			1	2
Hunting Act 2004 - Controlling or handling a dog at a hare coursing event	2	1	1	
Hunting Act 2004 - Entering a dog for a hare coursing event			1	
Hunting Act 2004 - Hunting a wild mammal with a dog			1	
Hunting Act 2004 - Knowingly facilitating a hare coursing event			1	
Hunting Act 2004 - Participating in a hare coursing event	1	6	19	8
Hunting Act 2004 SS.5(1)(a) & 6	1	1	1	1
Hunting Act 2004 SS.5(2)(c) & 6				1
Grand Total	4	8	25	12

A brief summary extracted from the MO text of each offence is provided below.

Initial MO
Offenders have driven onto farmland, deployed dogs onto a hare which has been caught and killed.
Driven over arable field in snowy conditions and one has got out to allow a large long breed type dog to give chase to a hare within the field before returning to the car and driving off.
Entered onto private arable land with long dogs and allowed them to pursue brown hares in snowy conditions on a weekday afternoon
Pickup and 4 long dogs have pursued hares in snowy conditions. Whilst dogs have been chasing the hare, the driver of the vehicle has followed and once a kill was made they collected the dogs up again before leaving.
Hare coursing with dogs
Fail to stop for police following hare coursing.
During hours of daylight offenders have poached and hunted a wild mammal using dogs on land belonging to another
Males observed with two dogs in rural farmland with the two dogs actively chasing hares on the field
Hare coursing whilst trespassing on private land in rural village during daylight hours of weekend day where they have used dogs to chase a hare into a woodpile
Offenders had Lurcher dogs in field believed for the purpose of Hare Coursing during the hours of daylight
IP reports seeing driving over his field with dogs and seeing the dogs chase hares.
During hours of daylight on rural arable farmland was with others when they were seen to let lurcher style dogs go from the vehicle and chase hares
Males and two dogs suspected of hare coursing caused damage to a field that they drove onto and got stuck in the mud
Hare coursing.
During early evening males with dogs seen hare coursing in field by witness.
During hours of daylight suspect driving vehicle hare coursing and failure to stop for police
During the hours of darkness in a rural area it is believed that a number of persons have used dogs to hunt hares
Report of hare coursing with persons and 2 greyhounds.
During the hours of daylight offenders have been participating in a hare coursing event on private land without consent of the landowner
Males have been seen with 2 dogs to chase a hare across open farm land
During the hours of dusk vehicle has driven through farmland in a remote rural location causing damage to the crops during hare coursing
In hours of daylight in a rural village location vehicle has been seen on a half harvested field with 4 persons seen with a dog in pursuit of hares who have then driven off road to avoid detection by police.
During daylight hours in rural field males were seen in a field hare coursing
During daylight hours in a rural location entered onto a stubble without the owners permission with at least two Lurcher type dogs in pursuit of hares.



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During hours of daylight in rural field location whilst in a group of 5 male persons and 5 dogs was seen to chase hares with dogs by local farmer
During daylight hours offenders have been on a field without permission and been chasing hares
At midday suspects were observed by the witness using dogs to course a hare on farm land causing damage to the crops on the farm land
During late afternoon has entered a field to engage in hare coursing then leaving a lurcher style dog behind
During hours of daylight in a rural location allowed dog to pursue a hare
Hare coursing. during the hours of daylight reporting person has seen males with a lurcher dog chasing hares through a farmers field
Males have been involved in a hare coursing offence whereby they have been seen with lurcher style dogs in a field some of which were in pursuit of a hare
During daylight hours on a farmland in a rural location three offenders entered onto a field with five Lurcher dogs suspected of being involved in hare coursing
During hours of daylight unknown offenders have entered land with dogs in order to poach hares
During afternoon period on a Saturday in rural location, group of males have driven over farm land causing minor damage to planted crop Vehicle was seen to contain several large Greyhound type dogs and believed to be there to participate in Hare Coursing without the landowners permission
In the hours of daylight on a farmers field two dogs have been used to chase hares
A farmer has witnessed from a distance a group of men with a lurcher type dog chasing a hare on his farm land.
Illegal hunt and a hare was killed
During daylight hours on farmland near busy main road engaged in hare coursing activity before making off from police
Two groups of unknown persons during late afternoon period have driven vehicles at speed around arable land in crop in pursuit of hares with a lurcher style dog seen to be removed from one of the vehicles and chase a hare
During mid afternoon on a weekend males observed with 3 lurcher style dogs driving around rural roads. One male seen to exit vehicle with one dog on farmland and run with dog. Dog then observed to chase a hare.
Adult male offender has attended arable field in remote rural location and pursued a brown hare with a light coloured lurcher style dog during late morning period
Adult male offenders in daytime hours have intentionally hunted hares on cropped arable field within rural location by driving over the land and by releasing long dogs two of the dogs have chased and killed a brown hare which was left in the field
During the hours of darkness on the edge of a small market town unknown offenders have used unknown vehicles with lamps attached along with dogs for the purpose of coursing hares
Unknown male suspects with a greyhound type dog were engaged in hare coursing
Male with lurcher style dog was in open arable field in the pursuit of game.
Persons unknown suspected to have potentially been hare coursing have driven all over the farmers Wheat field causing damage to the Wheat
During daylight hours in a small rural village males were found to be hare coursing
During the hours of darkness unidentified motor vehicle has seen to be lamping in the pursuit of game



Males with three long dogs have been seen in an arable field where a young cereal crop is growing and were seen to release the dogs in pursuit of hares

Should you have any further queries concerning this request, please contact Clair Pack, FOI Decision Maker, quoting the reference number shown above.

A full copy of the Freedom of Information Act (2000) can be viewed on the 'Office of Public Sector Information' web-site;
<http://www.opsi.gov.uk/>

Suffolk Constabulary is not responsible for the content, or the reliability, of the website referenced. The Constabulary cannot guarantee that this link will work all of the time, and we have no control over the availability of the linked pages.



Your Right to Request a Review of Decisions Made Under the Terms of the
Freedom of Information Act (2000).

If you are unhappy with how your request has been handled, or if you think the decision is incorrect, you have the right to ask Suffolk Constabulary to review their decision.

Ask Suffolk Constabulary to look at the decision again.

If you are dissatisfied with the decision made by Suffolk Constabulary under the Freedom of Information Act (2000), regarding access to information, you must notify Suffolk Constabulary that you are requesting a review within 40 working days of the date of its response to your Freedom of Information request. Requests for a review should be made in writing and addressed to:

*Freedom of Information Decision Maker
Information Management Department
Suffolk Constabulary
Police Headquarters
Martlesham Heath
Ipswich
Suffolk
IP5 3QS
OR
Email: information@suffolk.pnn.police.uk*

In all possible circumstances Suffolk Constabulary will aim to respond to your request for us to look at our decision again within 20 working days of receipt of your request for an internal review.

The Information Commissioner.

After lodging a request for a review with Suffolk Constabulary, if you are still dissatisfied with the decision, you can apply to the Information Commissioner for a decision on whether the request for information has been dealt with in accordance with the requirements of the Act.

For information on how to make application to the Information Commissioner please visit their website at www.ico.org.uk or contact them at the address shown below:

The Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF
Telephone: 01625 545 700