

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO 2022-026

Your request has now been considered under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (the Act) and we provide our response below.

You asked for:

1. A) Please would you send me through all documents, reports and analysis carried out by the force and sent to the PCC pertaining to the rebranding of the Dorset Police Force's Rural & Wildlife Crime Team to the Dorset police rural crime team in the past 12 months.

B) Would you also send me all correspondence made in the past year surrounding this rebranding between the PCC and Dorset police leaders Chief Constable **Scott Chilton**, Deputy Chief Constable **Sam de Reya**, Assistant Chief Constable **Steve Lyne**, ACO **Jo Mosley**, Director of Legal, Reputation and Risk **Mike Stamp**, Head of Crime, Detective Chief Superintendent **Ben Hargreaves** and your head of Operations Chief Superintendent **Matt Lawler**, Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Local Policing Commander – Chief Superintendent **Mark Callaghan**, County Local Policing Commander – Chief Superintendent **Richard Bell**, Head of Corporate Development – Chief Superintendent **Caroline Naughton** and PC **Claire Dinsdale**.

C) Finally, please would you confirm if the PCC knows and would share the new structure of the Dorset police rural crime team including staff numbers compared with the Dorset Police Force's Rural & Wildlife Crime Team and who is to be put in charge of it?

2. A) Would you please send me all correspondence related to rural and wildlife policing made in the past 12 months between PCC David Sidwick and Chief Constable **Scott Chilton**, Deputy Chief Constable **Sam de Reya**, Assistant Chief Constable **Steve Lyne**, ACO **Jo Mosley**, Director of Legal, Reputation and Risk **Mike Stamp**, Head of Crime, Detective Chief Superintendent **Ben Hargreaves** and your head of Operations Chief Superintendent **Matt Lawler**, Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Local Policing Commander – Chief Superintendent **Mark Callaghan**, County Local Policing Commander – Chief Superintendent **Richard Bell**, Head of Corporate Development – Chief Superintendent **Caroline Naughton** and PC **Claire Dinsdale**.

B) Please would you also send me all correspondence related to rural and wildlife policing made in the past 12 months between PCC David Sidwick

and West Dorset MP Chris Loder, including any issues related to birds of prey and raptors.

Such correspondence can include but are not exclusive to: in-person and online meetings, letters and emails.

C) Please would you also confirm how many in-person meetings have taken place between Dorset PCC David Sidwick and the above eleven officers and West Dorset MP Chris Loder respectively. Once identified, please supply the minutes of each meeting, with the date and which of the eleven officers were present and the MP.

Your request for information has been considered under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (the Act) and our response can be found as follows:

1. A) No information held.
B) Information attached.
C) No information held. *As the request is for information relating to a team for which the Chief Constable has responsibility for, we believe Dorset Police would be able to provide the information you have requested.

2. A) & B) Information attached at **Appendix A and **Appendix B
C) No information held.

*It should be noted that the Freedom of Information (FOI) Act 2000 covers **all recorded information held by a public authority**. The Act does not cover information that is in someone's head. If a member of the public asks for information, then we only have to provide information we already have in recorded form. We do not have to create new information or find the answer to a question from staff who may happen to know it.

**The Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner are unable to provide you with full details, therefore redactions have been applied virtue of Section 30 (1) (a) (b) (c) Investigations and Section 40 (2) Personal information.

The Freedom of Information Act 2000 creates a statutory right of access to information held by public authorities. A public authority in receipt of a request must, if permitted, state under Section 1(a) of the Act, whether it holds the requested information and, if held, then communicate that information to the applicant under Section 1(b) of the Act. The right of access to information is not without exception and is subject to a number of exemptions which are designed to enable public authorities, to withhold information that is unsuitable for release. Importantly the Act is designed to place information into the public domain. Information is granted to one person under the Act, it is then considered public information and must be communicated to any individual, should a request be received.

DECISION

Your request for information has been considered and I regret to inform you that the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Dorset cannot fully comply.

This letter serves as a Refusal Notice under Section 17 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. Section 17 of the Act provides: (1) A public authority which, in relation to any request for information, is to any extent relying on a claim that information is exempt information must, within the time for complying with Section 1(1), give the applicant a notice which:

- (a) States the fact,
- (b) Specifies the exemption in question, and
- (c) States (if that would not otherwise be apparent) why the exemption applies.

REASONS FOR DECISION

The reason that we are unable to provide you with this information is covered by the following Exemption: Section 30 (1) (a) (b) (c) Investigations Section 40 (2) Personal Information Section 40 is an absolute class-based exemption, therefore does not require me to articulate the harm or conduct a public interest test. To disclose the information would significantly increase the risk of individuals being identified which would breach principle 1 (lawfulness, fairness and transparency) of the Data Protection Act 2018. Section 30 is a qualified class-based exemption, as such requires a public interest test to be conducted.

Public interest test

Factors favouring disclosure

Disclosure of the redacted information would adhere to the basic principles of openness and transparency, creating a more informed public on the investigations carried out by Dorset Police

Factors against disclosure

Disclosure of the redacted information would make public, specific details recorded for the purpose of an investigation. Making these details public would undermine the investigation process, potentially diminishing any person's right to a fair trial, undermining any future proceedings that may arise.

Balance test

Whilst there is a public interest in the investigations carried out by Dorset Police and a full disclosure would enhance public confidence that the force take all investigations seriously and conduct them thoroughly. Dorset Police are tasked with the prevention and detection of crime, the investigations conducted are crucial to this, therefore any disclosure which would undermine this process must not be made. It is for this reason I believe balance lies in favour of non-disclosure at this time.

From: LODER, Chris (MP) <chris.loder.mp@parliament.uk>
Sent: 15 February 2022 06:27
To: Sidwick, David
Subject: Guardian

Dave,

The Guardian will cover EagleGate tomorrow.

I've just been asked about my support for DP's Rural, Wildlife and Heritage Crime team. I'm not familiar with that – I'm guessing they mean the Rural Crime Team?

Thanks

Chris

Chris Loder MP
Member of Parliament for West Dorset



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From: LODER, Chris (MP) <chris.loder.mp@parliament.uk>
Sent: 15 February 2022 08:19
To: Sidwick, David
Subject: Sea Eagles

Dave

I'm not sure it's right, but given the press enquiries I'm getting, it feels like you've issued a press statement? If that's right could you just let me see it before an interview later please.

Could you also help with some facts about this Sea Eagle....

1. When was the bird found?
2. Where in Dorset was the bird found?
3. Has the post-mortem taken place, if not when will it happen?
4. If so, when will we see the results of it?
5. Which organisation is undertaking the post-mortem?

Could you also help with the earlier question about the name of the rural crime team?

Thanks. Chris.

Chris Loder MP
Member of Parliament for West Dorset

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From: Sidwick, David
Sent: 15 February 2022 08:40
To: 'LODER, Chris (MP)' <chris.loder.mp@parliament.uk>
Subject: RE: Sea Eagles

Dear Chris

No that's not right – other than my Twitter statement I have not done anything. In fact I have refused all interviews on it.

This is not helping either of us so I would suggest you do not give interviews on the police element of it. They will seek to pitch us against each other and I don't want that to happen.

Regarding the name of the rural crime team – that is what they are known as but they cover Wildlife and Heritage crime too.

Regarding the Eagle investigation some of that is sensitive to the investigation I have asked those questions and I can tell you that we will not have the results of the post-mortem for another two weeks.

I think you and I need to get our ducks in the row on this one – no pun intended.

I will be in the car from 9.30.

Cheers
Dave

From: de Reya, Sam
Sent: 15 February 2022 10:01
To: Sidwick, David
Subject: FW: URGENT - Eagle Investigation - Information required

David

Below is provided by [REDACTED] with all the info you have requested. The Rural Crime Team name has been changed for some reason and to confirm will go back to the Rural Crime Team rather than having Heritage and Wildlife in the title. Not sure why it was changed.

Let me know if you want anything further

Sam



**DORSET
POLICE**

Sam de Reya
Deputy Chief Constable
Pronoun: she/her

Dorset Police Force HQ, Winfrith, Dorchester, Dorset DT2 8DZ

Connect with Dorset Police: [Online](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#) | [Youtube](#)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 15 February 2022 09:31
To: de Reya, Sam <sam.dereya@dorset.pnn.police.uk>
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: URGENT - Eagle Investigation - Information required

Ma'am & [REDACTED]

As requested, please find below the information regarding the press releases regarding the Sea Eagles.

Below is the main tweet the media team put out, link here:

<https://www.facebook.com/dorsetpolice/posts/317365890435547> and screenshot below:



Dorset Police ✓

February 10 at 9:55 AM · 🌐

...

#LatestNews – APPEAL – Sadly, two of the Sea Eagle England Isle of Wight reintroduced white-tailed eagles have recently been recovered dead on multi-agency operations in the south of England including one in Dorset in late January. An investigation is underway to ascertain the causes death of both birds, who are undergoing post mortem and toxicological examination. These birds are extremely rare and we ask the public to be vigilant and to report any information they may have relating to the death of these birds to Dorset Police at 101@dorset.pnn.police.uk, quoting occurrence 55220015571 with your contact details. You can contact us in confidence. Alternatively call Crimestoppers on 0800 555111 or online at [Crimestoppers-uk.org](https://www.crimestoppers-uk.org). Three other eagles are currently present in Dorset.



The content of the post was provided by [REDACTED] from the Rural Crime Team after she had agreed the wording with the various partners involved.

Comms have not given any further information beyond this.



Dorset Police Rural Wildlife & Heritage Crime ✓ @Rural... · Feb 10 ...

Sorry delay everyone we've been at warrant regarding a completely unrelated job (dogs) @WildlifeCop here... I know many people will want to know more. Bear with us as needs PM results & toxicology to establish a cause of death.

Dorset Police ✓ @dorsetpolice · Feb 10

#LatestNews – APPEAL – Sadly, two of the @SeaEagleEngland Isle of Wight reintroduced white-tailed eagles have recently been recovered dead on multi-agency operations in the south of England including one in Dorset. See full details below.

Sea Eagle England Isle of Wight reintroduced white-tailed eagles have recently been recovered dead on multi-agency operations in the south of England including one in Dorset. See full details below.



8

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175

↑



Dorset Police Rural Wildlife & Heritage Crime ✓ @RuralC... · Feb 11 ...

Lots of comments; re; multi agency; @RuralCrimeTeam, Sea Eagle England staff & RSPB Investigations staff only for #Dorset #Eagle

Location; Bear with us as await PM & toxicology to determine cause of death. Apols none of the above organisations are able to comment further.

Dorset Police ✓ @dorsetpolice · Feb 10

#LatestNews – APPEAL – Sadly, two of the @SeaEagleEngland Isle of Wight reintroduced white-tailed eagles have recently been recovered dead on multi-agency operations in the south of England including one in Dorset. See full details below.

Sea Eagle England Isle of Wight reintroduced white-tailed eagles have recently been recovered dead on multi-agency operations in the south of England including one in Dorset. See full details below. We are extremely rare and we ask the public to report the death of these birds to Dorset Police on 0800 555111 or online at Crim



21

43

239



MP Chris Loder commented on this matter:



Chris Loder MP ✓ @chrisloder · Feb 10 ...

Dorset is not the place for eagles to be reintroduced. I'm not challenging government for more money for Dorset so it goes on this. I don't condone this at all, but I want @dorsetpolice to focus on #countyliners rather than spend time and resources on this.

Dorset Police ✓ @dorsetpolice · Feb 10

#LatestNews – APPEAL – Sadly, two of the @SeaEagleEngland Isle of Wight reintroduced white-tailed eagles have recently been recovered dead on multi-agency operations in the south of England including one in Dorset. See full details below.



The RCT responded with the below:

Information held back by comms was the specific location where the bird was found so as not to alert the public.

[REDACTED]

Furthermore no information has been released in relation to the cause of death as it is currently not known.

Please let me know if you require anything further.

[REDACTED]

From: Sidwick, David
Sent: 15 February 2022 10:18
To: de Reya, Sam <sam.dereya@dorset.pnn.police.uk>
Cc: Chilton, Scott <Scott.Chilton@dorset.pnn.police.uk>
Subject: FW: Sea Eagles
Importance: High

Dear Sam

Just had a lengthy natter with Chris Loder. All serene.

You can see his questions below – I have put in answers – are you happy for me to go back as shown. 4. I can say about 4 weeks but you may not want me too and could put OS if better.

1. When was the bird found? Operationally Sensitive
2. Where in Dorset was the bird found? Operationally Sensitive
3. Has the post-mortem taken place, if not when will it happen? 2-3 Weeks
4. If so, when will we see the results of it? ????
5. Which organisation is undertaking the post-mortem? Not appropriate

Could you also help with the earlier question about the name of the rural crime team? Rural Crime Team / Rural Crime Wildlife and Heritage Team

RCT is the form preferred and the long version will be dropped.

Cheers
Dave

From: de Reya, Sam <sam.dereya@dorset.pnn.police.uk>
Sent: 15 February 2022 10:41
To: Sidwick, David <David.Sidwick@dorset.pnn.police.uk>
Cc: Chilton, Scott <Scott.Chilton@dorset.pnn.police.uk>
Subject: RE: Sea Eagles

Updated below

Sorry in Deps board can give you a call later



**DORSET
POLICE**

Sam de Reya
Deputy Chief Constable
Pronoun: she/her

Dorset Police Force HQ, Winfrith, Dorchester, Dorset DT2 8DZ

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4. If so, when will we see the results of it? 2-3 weeks and depending on results there could be further investigation
5. Which organisation is undertaking the post-mortem? Not appropriate to comment agreed

Could you also help with the earlier question about the name of the rural crime team? Rural Crime Team / Rural Crime Wildlife and Heritage Team

RCT is the form preferred and the long version will be dropped.

Cheers

Dave

From: Sidwick, David
Sent: 15 February 2022 12:40
To: Chris Loder MP
Subject: Sea Eagle Questions

Dear Chris

As requested and as I anticipated a lot of the questions are operationally sensitive.

1. When was the bird found? Operationally Sensitive
2. Where in Dorset was the bird found? Operationally Sensitive
3. Has the post-mortem taken place, if not when will it happen? 2-3 Weeks
4. If so, when will we see the results of it? 2-3 weeks and depending on results there could be further investigation
5. Which organisation is undertaking the post-mortem? Not appropriate to comment

Could you also help with the earlier question about the name of the rural crime team? Rural Crime Team / Rural Crime Wildlife and Heritage Team

RCT is the form preferred and the long version will be dropped.

Hope that helps

Cheers
Dave

From: LODER, Chris (MP) <chris.loder.mp@parliament.uk>
Sent: 16 February 2022 06:04
To: Sidwick, David <David.Sidwick@dorset.pnn.police.uk>
Subject: RE: Sea Eagle Questions

Thanks Dave. There are two questions that come to mind.

Why is the date of when this bird was found operationally sensitive?

If the bird was found in January, why is a post-mortem going to take so long?

Thanks again

Chris

Chris Loder MP
Member of Parliament for West Dorset



From: Sidwick, David
Sent: 16 February 2022 08:59
To: de Reya, Sam <sam.dereya@dorset.pnn.police.uk>
Subject: RE: Sea Eagle Questions

Grinding of teeth

Please can you give me the official lines on these two – the second I guess is because it is a specialist lab.
Cheers
Dave

From: Sidwick, David
Sent: 16 February 2022 10:19
To: 'LODER, Chris (MP)' <chris.loder.mp@parliament.uk>
Subject: RE: Sea Eagle Questions

Dear Chris

Regarding the date – as I am sure you are aware, this is subject to a live investigation and therefore not all information will be made available – this can be said for all types of investigation, and not just this matter. As a matter of course DP do not routinely provide information on any current investigations to ensure they can maintain the integrity of that investigation.

Regarding the PM there is only one specialist lab in the country and we are at the behest of their timeframes as we need those specialist capabilities.

Hope that helps

Dave

From: LODER, Chris (MP) <chris.loder.mp@parliament.uk>

Sent: 19 February 2022 09:29

To: Sidwick, David <David.Sidwick@dorset.pnn.police.uk>

Subject: RE: Sea Eagle Questions

Dave,

Thank you for these helpful answers below.

There are a few further questions that have arisen. Would you be able to help with these please.

1. Are the police treating this as a crime, suspected or confirmed?
2. If so, is there a crime number? (I don't want the actual number btw, a yes/no is ok).
3. Is the bird in question in custody of the police and it's toxicologists or is the post mortem being done external to the Police force's direction?
4. How was this bird's death brought to the attention of the police?

Many thanks

Chris

Chris Loder MP

Member of Parliament for West Dorset



From: Sidwick, David
Sent: 19 February 2022 12:02
To: de Reya, Sam <sam.dereya@dorset.pnn.police.uk>
Subject: RE: Sea Eagle Questions

Eaglegate continues.....

Any chance of these answered. I have made my suggestions.

Cheers
Dave

From: de Reya, Sam <sam.dereya@dorset.pnn.police.uk>
Sent: 20 February 2022 09:40
To: Sidwick, David <David.Sidwick@dorset.pnn.police.uk>
Subject: RE: Sea Eagle Questions

Hi Dave

I think in support of you I need to push back on Chris in relation to this ongoing request for information through you as the PCC.

I am happy an officer responds to him once the investigation is completed to run through his questions and provide a brief when we have a conclusion to the enquiries. I really don't want him to get into the habit of thinking he can ask detailed questions through you on open criminal investigations. He should write or contact the force direct which is what would normally happen.

Please refer him to the Staff office and we can register and pick up his requests formally.

I hope this helps

Sam



**DORSET
POLICE**

Sam de Reya
Deputy Chief Constable
Pronoun: she/her

Dorset Police Force HQ, Winfrith, Dorchester, Dorset DT2 8DZ

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From: Sidwick, David
Sent: 21 February 2022 08:15
To: de Reya, Sam <sam.dereya@dorset.pnn.police.uk>
Subject: RE: Sea Eagle Questions

Dear Sam

I am trying to get Chris educated so actually that will only confuse him more.

If he had come to me to talk through his concerns about Eagles with me in the first place before twitting – we would not have had EagleGate affect the police.

Perfectly happy to go back and say to him re active enquiry and he will have a full briefing afterwards.

I'll sort that today.

Cheers

Dave

From: LODER, Chris (MP) <chris.loder.mp@parliament.uk>
Sent: 23 February 2022 06:11
To: Sidwick, David <David.Sidwick@dorset.pnn.police.uk>
Subject: RE: Sea Eagle Questions

Dave

Are you able to answer these please or should I ask Dorset Police directly?

Thanks

Chris

Chris Loder MP
Member of Parliament for West Dorset



From: LODER, Chris (MP)
Sent: 19 February 2022 09:29
To: Sidwick, David <David.Sidwick@dorset.pnn.police.uk>
Subject: RE: Sea Eagle Questions

Dave,

Thank you for these helpful answers below.

There are a few further questions that have arisen. Would you be able to help with these please.

1. Are the police treating this as a crime, suspected or confirmed?
2. If so, is there a crime number? (I don't want the actual number btw, a yes/no is ok).
3. Is the bird in question in custody of the police and it's toxicologists or is the post mortem being done external to the Police force's direction?
4. How was this bird's death brought to the attention of the police?

Many thanks

Chris

Chris Loder MP
Member of Parliament for West Dorset

From: Sidwick, David

Sent: 23 February 2022 08:56

To: LODER, Chris (MP) <chris.loder.mp@parliament.uk>

Cc: Chilton, Scott <Scott.Chilton@dorset.pnn.police.uk>; de Reya, Sam <sam.dereya@dorset.pnn.police.uk>

Subject: RE: Sea Eagle Questions

Dear Chris

I have had a discussion with the Chief and Deputy and they feel that these questions will be answered but after the investigation has completed.

I have forwarded the questions are so they are aware of them. They will give you a full briefing after the investigation is completed.

It may help if you are being inundated with press enquiries to direct those in so they can get the same answer.

Hope that helps to some extent

Dave

From: LODER, Chris (MP) <chris.loder.mp@parliament.uk>
Sent: 23 February 2022 09:13
To: Sidwick, David <David.Sidwick@dorset.pnn.police.uk>
Cc: Chilton, Scott <Scott.Chilton@dorset.pnn.police.uk>; de Reya, Sam <sam.dereya@dorset.pnn.police.uk>
Subject: RE: Sea Eagle Questions

Dave,

Thank you. But I would simply like Dorset Police to answer these very straightforward questions for me.

The fact that the most simple of questions is so difficult to answer is starting to be concerning for me in itself. I'm afraid I am not understanding why it is so difficult to even answer question one below – especially given there is no timeframe for investigation.

This is not about being inundated with press enquiries, it is simply for my own information.

Thanks again

Chris

Chris Loder MP
Member of Parliament for West Dorset



From: Sidwick, David
Sent: 23 February 2022 09:23
To: Chilton, Scott <Scott.Chilton@dorset.pnn.police.uk>
Subject: RE: Sea Eagle Questions

Dear Scott

Sorry – can we talk about this? I am bored with it
It merits some discussion before I respond.

Kind regards
Dave

From: LODER, Chris (MP) <chris.loder.mp@parliament.uk>
Sent: 23 February 2022 09:13
To: Sidwick, David <David.Sidwick@dorset.pnn.police.uk>
Cc: Chilton, Scott <Scott.Chilton@dorset.pnn.police.uk>; de Reya, Sam <sam.dereya@dorset.pnn.police.uk>
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Thanks again

Chris

Chris Loder MP
Member of Parliament for West Dorset



From: Sidwick, David

Sent: 23 February 2022 10:07

To: LODER, Chris (MP) <chris.loder.mp@parliament.uk>

Cc: Chilton, Scott <Scott.Chilton@dorset.pnn.police.uk>; de Reya, Sam <sam.dereya@dorset.pnn.police.uk>

Subject: RE: Sea Eagle Questions

Dear Chris

Rest assured that Dorset Police will brief you as soon as they are able to. All of us understand the public interest and your position and I have asked them to make sure you have the information you need.

As ever give me a shout if you have further concerns – I am in the car 5.00 – 6.00 tonight if any good.

Cheers

Dave

From: LODER, Chris (MP) <chris.loder.mp@parliament.uk>
Sent: 16 March 2022 18:33
To: Chilton, Scott <Scott.Chilton@dorset.pnn.police.uk>
Cc: de Reya, Sam <sam.dereya@dorset.pnn.police.uk>; Sidwick, David <David.Sidwick@dorset.pnn.police.uk>
Subject: RE: Sea Eagle Questions

Dear Scott

We are a month on from our last conversation about it this situation.

Could you advise if there is an update please and a timescale?

Conscious that you been in post a while, it would also be good to meet in the not too distant future too.

Thanks

Chris

Chris Loder MP

Member of Parliament for West Dorset



From: Sidwick, David
Sent: 17 March 2022 08:37
To: Chilton, Scott <Scott.Chilton@dorset.pnn.police.uk>
Subject: FW: Sea Eagle Questions

Hi Scott
Didn't know he'd spoken to you directly – he has a burr under the saddle as Hopalong Cassidy would say.
Cheers
Dave

From: LODER, Chris (MP) <chris.loder.mp@parliament.uk>
Sent: 16 March 2022 18:33
To: Chilton, Scott <Scott.Chilton@dorset.pnn.police.uk>
Cc: de Reya, Sam <sam.dereya@dorset.pnn.police.uk>; Sidwick, David <David.Sidwick@dorset.pnn.police.uk>
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Thanks

Chris

Chris Loder MP
Member of Parliament for West Dorset



From: Chilton, Scott <Scott.Chilton@dorset.pnn.police.uk>
Sent: 17 March 2022 08:43
To: Sidwick, David <David.Sidwick@dorset.pnn.police.uk>
Subject: Re: Sea Eagle Questions

He hasn't spoken to me.. not once

On 17 Mar 2022, at 08:37, Sidwick, David <David.Sidwick@dorset.pnn.police.uk> wrote:

Hi Scott

Didn't know he'd spoken to you directly – he has a burr under the saddle as Hopalong Cassidy would say.

Cheers

Dave

From: Sidwick, David
Sent: 17 March 2022 08:45
To: Chilton, Scott <Scott.Chilton@dorset.pnn.police.uk>
Subject: RE: Sea Eagle Questions

What I thought – that's a comment to a p.a. to find out if there is anymore info and it's been conflated with the I would like to meet him bit.

I presume the beast is still being taken to bits as there hasn't been an update.

Dave

From: Chilton, Scott <Scott.Chilton@dorset.pnn.police.uk>
Sent: 17 March 2022 08:53
To: Sidwick, David <David.Sidwick@dorset.pnn.police.uk>
Subject: Re: Sea Eagle Questions

I will look it later but he won't get any more detail unless it's appropriate to do so

On 17 Mar 2022, at 08:44, Sidwick, David <David.Sidwick@dorset.pnn.police.uk> wrote:

What I thought – that's a comment to a p.a. to find out if there is anymore info and it's been conflated with the I would like to meet him bit.

I presume the beast is still being taken to bits as there hasn't been an update.

Dave

From: Sidwick, David
Sent: 17 March 2022 08:55
To: Chilton, Scott <Scott.Chilton@dorset.pnn.police.uk>
Subject: RE: Sea Eagle Questions

No argument from me

From: de Reya, Sam
Sent: 30 March 2022 18:18
To: Chilton, Scott; Sidwick, David
Subject: Sea eagle investigation - drafted to go out tonight from the Force

Importance: High

Dorset Police has responded robustly to allegations that a White-tailed Sea Eagle had been deliberately poisoned and killed by unknown persons. As a result of the sea eagle being found dead on land in the North Dorset area, our team has carried out a full and proportionate investigation under Section 1 of the Wildlife Countryside Act 1981 in conjunction with Natural England, National Wildlife Crime Unit, the RSPB and the Roy Dennis Wildlife Foundation to identify any offences and perpetrators who may be responsible. As you can imagine detecting the deliberate poisoning of a bird of prey is extremely difficult without local intelligence and information to support the investigation. GPS data provided information that over an 11-day period the White-tailed Sea Eagle spent time across a multitude of locations in the North Dorset area. Despite working with experts, we have been unable to confirm deliberate intent to kill this beautiful bird or identify potential offenders. A detailed examination and tests have been carried out on the bird, which were inconclusive, and it has therefore not been possible to confirm that any criminal offence has been committed. While high levels of brodifacoum were detected, it has not been possible to establish whether this was as a result of a deliberate act or due to secondary rodenticide poisoning. We would still encourage anyone with new information to come forward to support enquiries.

The Force is committed to keeping everyone in our county safe, including our wildlife, which brings so much to our beautiful countryside and our communities. As part of the police uplift programme and working together with the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner we have reviewed our Rural Crime Strategy for the county and allocated increased numbers of officers to the Rural Crime Team to tackle the issues that matter. This includes all aspects of rural, wildlife and heritage-related crime. We will continue to work closely with many different partner agencies in relation to these issues. As always, should any new information be received in relation to this investigation, this will be considered.

We want to make it clear that we take any and all potential wildlife offences seriously and will act to prevent and detect offences wherever possible.



**DORSET
POLICE**

Sam de Reya
Deputy Chief Constable
Pronoun: she/her

Dorset Police Force HQ, Winfrith, Dorchester, Dorset DT2 8DZ

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From: de Reya, Sam
Sent: 31 March 2022 09:37
To: Sidwick, David; Chilton, Scott
Subject: Eagle info

David

I know you were interested in where the bird was found. We are not releasing the exact location for obvious reasons regarding people jumping to conclusions and repercussions and have talked about North Devon.

Thanks Sam



**DORSET
POLICE**

Sam de Reya

Deputy Chief Constable

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From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 24 May 2021 09:56
To: .PCC
Subject: RE: CLARE DINSDALE ****FW: Congrats and an update from us in Rural Crime Team

From: Dinsdale, Claire
Sent: 22 May 2021 11:11
To: .PCC <pcc@Dorset.PNN.Police.uk>
Subject: Congrats and an update from us in Rural Crime Team

Dear David,

Congrats on being elected and really wish you well in your new role.

Thought I'd give you a few days before I added to your undoubtedly overflowing inbox! The whole of Dorset will want a piece of you.

However just wanted to say here when you need to speak to us or any queries, please do ring me on teams or email.

One of our farmer groups led by [REDACTED] is keen to invite you to an evening in July – he may have already emailed you as he wanted to approach you in person. [REDACTED] was one of the farmers you met way back when we kidnapped you for the day. He is also [REDACTED] and has been out with [REDACTED] on a couple of visits recently to farms.

A mini update from us..

- **RCT Uplift** - You may have been told that we are due an uplift of 4 PCs at some point but I presume likely end of 2021 or into 2022.
- **Hare & deer coursing continues** and the intimidation tactics with some farmers having their new Spring Barley crops completely run over by coursers or gates rammed. There is still a lot of under reporting despite all the work we do, some farmers just give up as don't see 'action'. It's very hard with the staff limitations especially at night and especially over a wide rural area. Blandford up the A354 towards Salisbury continues to be hit, as well as Almer and Winfrith - Dorchester areas. Catching coursers at the time is very tricky. To get to court so all the penalties and CBOs kick in starts with the farmer making a witness statement which some are clearly reluctant to do. However as you know we try all angles to disrupt them without identifying any farmers. Nationally we are still very much part of 'Op Galileo' the national police response to coursing. We have once a month Op Galileo patrols where we brief NPT officers detached for the op. Clearly [REDACTED] & I try to patrol where we can the rest of the time and put patrol requests out to NPTs and Op units. Our firearms units have secondary taskings to patrol the poaching/coursing hotspots however the areas are large and they can be called away of course. We continue to ask farmers to build land defences where they can to stop them getting in but this can be tricky around field boundaries, bridleways and of course if a metal fence then the criminals simply cut the fencing. [REDACTED] has produced a guide for us to use with farmers that all the NPTs in rural areas have.
- **Farm crime prevention** – organised thefts of plant continues in the UK - One of the best things we can do is continue to roll out the Stop That Thief scheme, which is 'owned' by a committee of farmers and branch members of NFU. This is in progress. This is basically funds provided off the back of the scheme to buy intruder alarm kits (wireless type dial up alarms) for the farm buildings so the farmer is alerted at the time. All other methods out there, like locking, marking, etc all great but won't stop all organised criminals or rely on police locating the stolen kit in the first place. We want to prevent the thefts in the first place!

- **OCGs** – We have a particular group in Dorset we focus on, they are not just rural crime but other matters too. There is a deal of work we have done on them and continues. One member recently found guilty of 5 charges and we put in a new CBO application to try and disrupt his offending. There are other groups of handlers too who we have been working on with A&S.
- **Livestock thefts** – thankfully only one larger sheep theft (43) last November in Dorchester but for a repeat victim of such. Really frustrating as current livestock system has so many loopholes. However we get reports of the odd 5 ewes being stolen elsewhere.
- **Livestock attacks by dogs** – I try not to use ‘worrying’ term as it doesn’t quite express the issue! Unfortunately these occur every month all over and normally it is your every day Mrs Miggins and her pooch whom she didn’t think would ever do such a thing. A recent offender was taken to court by our NPT rep in North Dorset and fined <https://www.bournemouthcho.co.uk/news/19288372.woman-court-fatal-dog-worrying-attacks-dorset/>
- **Wildlife Crime** – bat roost destruction cases, protected species/habitats, raptor/birds of prey poisoning and shooting esp in NE Dorset so some careful work ongoing there as unfortunately a handful of the perpetrators are also our gamekeepers that we work with on rural crime/poaching matters. Recent reports really a concern, especially the use of highly toxic poisons. This is not great when we also have our Osprey project in Poole & Purbecks and recent White Tailed Sea Eagles been released and they have been in NE Dorset so any such illegal killing will be national news. I sit on several national groups so after one of our criminal cases is over, I shall be approaching landowners/estate owners and keepers in person for their support on this matter as well as dangers of secondary rodenticide use. Some visits have already been done after a series of dead birds of prey since last March coinciding with lockdown. In confidence as we are not doing publicity until the criminal cases are over.
- **Heritage Crime** – We have a few reports now and then of illegal metal detecting. A little damage or graffiti/ASB at schedule monument sites or listed buildings.
- **Dog Theft** – Although a force wide issue, not just on farms of course, I try do what I can. In a working group with D&C and others. [REDACTED] our Force Dog Legislation Officer & Dog Handler has also purchased some dog scanners for each section, as well as the 5 we got for rural NPT a few years back. There has been a lot of publicity and MP/Government comment as you probably know. It is definitely more a fear of theft and some areas of UK worse than others but a lot of non reporting. Figures are a bit skewed as many reports are actually civil matters between ex partners so the actual stranger thefts are lower. However 3 stolen dogs a year is three too many to those families and I. There is lots of work ongoing nationally on this, with a joined up approach including getting the communications right to reduce fear and provide good prevention advice. Our website already has lots of advice on this.
- Linked to this is some criminals are now simply breeding puppies and making £1000 a pup and selling off Gumtree and Pets 4 Homes. It is the local Authority remit to look in to licencing aspects. We recently invited a BCP Council officer to our ‘PCG’ meetings to try and share intelligence better and [REDACTED] is driving a warrant at present regards one character with BCP and RPSA on board so we can get in to the address.

Kind regards
Claire

PC Claire Dinsdale

Rural, Wildlife & Heritage Coordinator, Force WCO & Deputy Lead Wildlife Crime
Dorset Police Rural Crime Team

Work Mobile is broken -please call me on Teams

To report any crime in progress dial 999, to call police on an urgent matter use 101. For all other reports of crime email 101@DORSET.PNN.POLICE.UK or visit <https://www.dorset.police.uk/do-it-online/>

Twitter: [@RuralCrimeTeam](https://twitter.com/RuralCrimeTeam) & [@WildlifeCop](https://twitter.com/WildlifeCop)

