

Our Ref: 004766/20



Freedom of Information Section
Nottinghamshire Police HQ
Sherwood Lodge, Arnold
Nottingham NG5 8PP

Tel: 0115 967 0999
Ext 318 0888
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26 August 2020

Request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA)

I write in connection with your request for information, which was received by Nottinghamshire Police on 21/07/2020.

Following receipt of your request searches were conducted within Nottinghamshire Police to locate the information you require.

RESPONSE

Under S 1 (1) (a) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA), I can confirm that Nottinghamshire Police does hold the information you have requested.

Please find below answers to your questions:-

I am seeking any information relating to reports, sightings, encounters with or evidence of 'big cats' in Britain.

I use the term 'big cat' to describe any non-indigenous large feline which may be loose in the countryside of the UK, from the year 2016 to the present day; more specific search terms could include "panther", "leopard", "puma" or "lynx".

If it is not feasible to use all of the suggested search terms due to the duration it would take for a full and exhaustive search of your records, then I would be very grateful for a sample of some of the reports.

I am happy for the information to be relayed in any format which is convenient. I would be grateful for any photographs of interest which may show any unusual animals or secondary field evidence such as predation on livestock or unusual carcasses suspected to be the work of a big cat.

Answer: -

Number of Incidents reported to use regarding seeing the following animals Big Cats, Panther, Leopard, Puma and Lyns Animals * **
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Incident Type	Animal Type				Grand Total
	Big Cat	Leopard	Panther	Puma	
ANIMALS/WILDLIFE	2	1	1	1	5
COMPLAINT AGAINST POLICE	0	0	0	1	1
Grand Total	2	1	1	2	6

* Data provided is the number of Incidents of sightings of Big Cats, Leopard, Panther, Puma and Lynx broken down by year and Incident Type

** Time Period for your request is 01/01/2016 - 31/07/2020

Please Note:- This data has been extracted from a live system and may be subject to change
Source:- Information Management 25/08/2020

Please Note: Police forces in the United Kingdom are routinely required to provide crime statistics to government bodies and the recording criteria is set nationally. However, the systems used for recording these figures are not generic, nor are the procedures used locally in capturing the crime data. **It should be noted that for these reasons, this force's response to your questions should not be used for comparison purposes with any other response you may receive.**

Complaints Rights

Your attention is drawn to the enclosed review procedure, which details your right of complaint.

Copyright

Nottinghamshire Police in complying with their statutory duty under Sections 1 and 11 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) to release the enclosed information will not breach the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988. However, the rights of the copyright owner of the enclosed information will continue to be protected by law. Applications for the copyright owner's written permission to reproduce any part of the attached information should be addressed to the Force Solicitor, Nottinghamshire Police, Force Headquarters, Sherwood Lodge, Arnold, Nottinghamshire, NG5 8PP.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your interest in Nottinghamshire Police.

Should you have any further enquiries concerning this matter, please write or contact the Freedom of Information Officer on telephone number 0115

9670999 Ext 318 0888 or e-mail
freedomofinformation@Nottinghamshire.pnn.police.uk quoting the above
reference number.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'J. B.', written in a cursive style.

Electronically signed on behalf of Information Request Team

Are you dissatisfied with your response?

Nottinghamshire Police has a duty to implement a complaints process in relation to Freedom of Information Act requests. If you are not content with our response, you may appeal, this process is known as an 'Internal Review'

Internal reviews are intended to be a fair and impartial means of reviewing the original request process.

You can appeal about your request if you:-

- Disagree with the Forces interpretation of your request;
- Believe the Force hold more information than has been disclosed to you;
- Disagree with the application of exemptions;

How do I appeal?

All appeals should be made in writing and sent to:-

Information Management
Nottinghamshire Police
Force Headquarters
Sherwood Lodge
Arnold
Notts
NG5 8PP

or alternatively freedomofinformation@nottinghamshire.pnn.police.uk

To deal with your appeal as quickly as possible please provide the unique identification number provided with your response and the reasons for your appeal.

Once we have received your request for appeal, your FOI response will be reviewed in full to identify any problems in the disclosure.

The review will be undertaken by someone different from, and preferably senior to, the original decision maker and this should be completed within 20 working days from receipt, in exceptional circumstances it may be extended by a further 20 working days.

Your request for review must be received within 28 calendar days your response. If your request for review is not received within this time period a review will not be considered.

What if I'm still not satisfied?

You can appeal to the Information Commissioner. You can contact the Information Commissioner Office at the following:-

Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF

Tel: 0303 123 1113 (local rate) or 01625 545 745 (national rate)

E-mail: casework@ico.org.uk

Website: <https://ico.org.uk/>