

3rd December 2020

Freedom of Information Request - Reference No: 20202402

REQUEST

I'm contacting you to request any data detailing quantitative figures of birds of prey deliberately injured or killed in the months before lockdown (Jan-23rd March), during (March-4th July) and then after (July-October). Injuries, deaths and attempted killings can be included.

I have found data for 2019 but none for 2020. The question for the project is: Has the lockdown led to a rise in illegal wildlife killings: an analysis of the spike of birds of prey injuries and deaths in the UK. Any figures or information you have on this topic would be greatly appreciated

RESPONSE

I firstly approached our Wildlife Crime Officer for assistance with your request. He has advised the following:-

It is difficult to provide data in relation to the offences in relation to targeting birds of prey as the offences that would cover such offences are non crime recordable for HO stats purposes that we do not routinely record such offences.

In addition, I then contacted our Crime Management Administrator, who has provided the following explanation.

I have searched for the following offences recorded under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 of which none are notifiable, where the offence was recorded between 01-Jan-2020 and 31-Oct-2020.

Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981	S.3	Protection of wild birds in sanctuaries
Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981	S.3	Protection of the nests and eggs of wild birds in sanctuaries
Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981	S.5	Prohibition of certain methods of killing or taking wild birds
Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981	S.6	Sale etc. of live or dead wild birds, eggs etc
Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981	S.7	Registration etc. of certain captive birds

Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981	S.8	Protection of captive birds
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Of the results, they have then reviewed the initial MO free text and the record level crime data, and none mention 'birds of prey'.

Therefore, in this instance our response is one of "No Information Held"