

Practical Advice for all Police Forces

TRAINING:

Taking into account both the content of the exposed Hunting Office webinars and the limited resources within police forces, we trust all forces will agree the best possible, time efficient training and, in particular, the development of a practical aide memoire for front line officers is the way forward. AAF would be very happy to liaise with forces to ensure the very best resources are made available. On the spot action is vital if the law is to be upheld. For example:

- **trail details** need to be asked for there and then, otherwise they can be totally fabricated. Hunts are not legally obliged to provide them, but if they refuse, the obvious conclusion to draw is that the hunts are hiding something.
- **voice calls and horn sounds** made by a huntsman to the hounds cannot vary as the hounds are trained to recognise them and there can be no cover up. A basic knowledge of these would therefore be very useful for attending officers.
- In addition, AAF assumes the **valuable intelligence provided by the content of the Hunting Office webinars** will be circulated amongst all officers who might find themselves at a hunt related incident.

FIELD GUIDE FOR OFFICERS ATTENDING A HUNT-RELATED CALL

AAF consulted with experienced FWGs to create this guide which can be used by any officer who is called to a hunt. It is also useful as a training aide.

<https://www.actionagainstfoxhunting.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/A-1411-FIELD-GUIDE-ILLEGAL-FOXHUNTING.pdf>

PUBLIC WEBSITES:

The amount of information provided by forces on their individual websites in respect of illegal hunting varies considerably. Some counties have no information whatsoever. AAF recognise police resources are stretched. Ensuring the general public have adequate pointers to spot and report illegal activity would be surely vital in assisting all forces to uphold the law.

UNDERSTANDING FWGS:

All officers would benefit from a greater understanding of the motivations and actions of FWGs. The AAF Study [Why Sabs and Monitors are not Protesters](#) clearly explains the issues. It is also crucial for officers to appreciate that FWGs are potentially a significant resource for the police. We realise there are issues surrounding this (perceived bias etc), and FWGs must obey the law, but of course officers are expected to engage with everyone impartially as per the Police Code of Ethics. From the feedback we've received, officers do not always/readily listen to the FWGs in the field, focusing rather on the more easily understood public order issues. Every police force we have spoken to has expressed some degree of frustration regarding the difficulty in communicating with FWGs. If forces put the best possible concise training in place and especially a top class local aide memoir, it's highly likely the subsequent increased on-the-spot knowledge officers will have in the field will have the added benefit of improving relationships with at least some FWGs.