

Humberside Police

[Counting the Crimes 2](#) (CTC2) was written by Action Against Foxhunting in Autumn 2021.

CTC2 is a follow up to our first report [Counting the Crimes: Police Response to Hunt-Related Calls](#).

CTC2 consists of the main body of the report and reports on 34 English police forces.

The report for Humberside Police is set out below.

All the reports on other forces can be found [here](#)

The report is based on a large amount of [research](#). Some of the research is included in the report, and the rest is available on request. To the best of our knowledge, everything is correct.

[The conviction of Mark Hankinson](#) occurred as we were writing this report. We know that the public will be looking to the police to take action against those who hunt foxes illegally and we hope that this report will be of use as it includes practical advice. The report is intended to be helpful and honest, rather than critical.

For the Facebook links, we are aware that posts on social media are not always completely accurate. We have tried to verify the contents, and have contacted many of the posters for further information. Some have replied, and some have not. We are always interested in hearing different views of the same incidents, and if police are able to provide further insight, we would be happy to include this.

FWG – Frontline Wildlife Guardian. The term includes both saboteurs and monitors.

If any force wishes to discuss the report, please contact us info@actionagainstfoxhunting.org. We are happy to meet on line.



How did the force respond to CTC? You can select multiple options.

- One email
- ✓ Exchange of emails
- ✓ Meeting
- No response at all

For email response - was the response detailed?

- ✓ Yes
- No

How do you rate the email response?

1	2	3	4	5
-	-	-	-	✓

Why have you given this rating?

Humbeside Police were the first force to reply with an invitation to a meeting. This set the standard for other forces. It also showed us that if a force wanted to engage, they could.

Were there follow up emails and did the force reply?

- ✓ Yes
- No

For the forces who met with us, how do you rate this response?

1	2	3	4	5
-	-	-	✓	-

Why have you given this response?

Humberside Police are very keen to wipe out "unconscious bias" in their force. This was the reason they wanted to meet with AAF. That said, a couple of the suggestions (eg making a video for the police) were not followed up after the meeting, despite reminders,

For the forces who met with us, how open were they?

1	2	3	4	5
-	-	-	✓	-

For the forces who met with us, how useful was the meeting?

1	2	3	4	5
-	-	-	✓	-

Why have you given this response?

This meeting was particularly useful as it was the first AAF had with police. We understood the police better after this meeting. With regard to Humberside Police themselves, the meeting was useful as it showed us that some forces were very aware of unconscious bias and perceived bias, and wanted to take action.

How willing was this force to take onboard what we said?

1	2	3	4	5
-	-	-	✓	-

Why have you given this response?

Aside from bias, we wanted police forces to recognise the scale of the law-breaking by the hunts. This was not fully recognised by Humberside, despite the webinar (which came out after our first meeting). That said, their response to our "Field Guide for Officers" was positive. They said aide memoir/training ideas were discussed at rural wildlife crime meetings and their 'aide memoire' amended (although we don't know how).

Has this force taken any actual steps to improve their relationship with FWGs?

- ✓ Yes
- No
- Other

What steps have they taken?

Humberside Police arranged another meeting with us - where we spoke to other officers and concerned parties. The issue, once again, was bias against FWG groups and this force's eagerness to take action. Yes in that they are keen to prevent repeat of occasions where untrained officers may have given the impression of being biased

Does this force have an aide memoire or any guide to policing illegal hunting?

✓ Yes

– No

What do you think of the guide/aide memoire?

Unknown

Why have you given this response?

There is an aide memoire, but we have not been able to see it yet. They call it their 'Op Order' and say it contains operationally sensitive information

How well trained are the police in this force?

1	2	3	4	5
–	✓	–	–	–

Why have you given this response?

Over 60 officers have received wildlife crime training. However, there have been two high-profile incidents where Humberside Police have attended a hunting incident and in both incidents, they have shown a misunderstanding of the law.

They have pledged to improve this in all emails we have received and in both meetings. They described interaction with those opposed to illegal fox hunting as important and are open to advice and help. They see training as an "investment". Their second meeting with us was considered CPD.

How do you rate this force's behaviour in the field with regard to illegal foxhunting and incidents involving FWGs?

- Always appear biased
- Usually appear biased
- ✓ Sometimes appear biased
- Rarely appear biased
- Never appear biased

Why have you given this response?

Humberside Officers are mixed. In one reported incident, one of the officers who attended appeared unbiased, the other officer did appear biased.

Looking at the response to our FOI asking about police systems and organisation with regard to foxhunting, how do you rate their ability to take action on illegal foxhunting?

1	2	3	4	5
-	-	✓	-	-

Why have you given this rating?

It is promising that Humberside Police want to eradicate unconscious or perceived bias against FWGs. This is a starting place and we hope that in the field, officers will pay more attention to what the FWGs are actually saying and understand that they do know what they are talking about. However, until officers have a better idea of the law, they are unlikely to be able to enforce it.

The number of trained officers is also promising.

The force is open to using drones. They worked hard to present a good case to the CPS re the Holderness kill and were disappointed and frustrated by the

CPS rejecting it. They looked over the case again afterwards in the hope they could learn from it.

Do you think the force focuses too heavily on public order as opposed to dealing with illegal foxhunting?

- Yes
- No
- ✓ Other

Why have you given this response?

Again, Humberside Police are mixed. In one reported incident, they appeared to be giving a mink hunt a police escort past FWGs. This suggests that, whatever their view of hunting, they wanted to prevent a public order incident. But, the escort looked as if police had a pro hunting bias.

Overall, how do you rate this force?

Take into account willingness to engage with AAF, willingness to engage with FWGs, actions in the field etc.

1	2	3	4	5
-	-	✓	-	-

In the opinion of AAF, how can this police force improve?

Humberside Police officers need to adopt a consistent approach to illegal foxhunting.

All officers would benefit from a much greater understanding of the issues surrounding illegal hunting and the motivations of FWGs. We have created three helpful documents:

[Practical Advice for All Officers](#) – this includes training advice
[A Field Guide for Officers](#) – to use if they are called to a hunt
[A Study - Why sabs and monitors are not protesters.](#) – an insight FWG organisations.

Regardless of the outcome of any court cases relating to the Hunting Office webinars which were exposed November 2020, what was stated in the recordings cannot be unsaid. The Hunting Office made it clear trail hunting IS fox hunting and there was much talk about ways to create a “smokescreen” to cover up illegal hunting. Disrespectful comments were made about the police. The Hunting Office represents all registered hunts in England and Wales therefore the discussions were relevant to all police forces. Like all forces, Humberside should recognise the scale of the lawbreaking and devise a strategy for dealing with it.

Humberside Police need to train all officers likely to attend a hunting incident on the Hunting Act. Too many officers have shown ignorance in the field. The force should also recognise that if they do escort a vehicle attending a mink hunt, some sort of explanation as to why they decided to do this, would help.

[Hit reports and media reports mentioning Humberside Police and hunting.](#)

<https://www.facebook.com/Humbersabs/posts/255120992727841>

8/9/12. FWGs spoken to by police – two different attitudes from two different PCs. The male officer does appear to have taken the hunt’s side regarding the accusation of trespassing.

A complaint was made and this statement subsequently made by Humberside police November 2020 -

"This complaint review is not upheld, but I would like to ask Humberside Police PSD to ensure that a supervisor has a conversation with PC Tissiman, reflecting on the comments and the fact that, no matter how well intentioned they were, how they

may be seen by others as showing a conscious, or unconscious, bias. This conversation is so that a similar situation does not reoccur in the future. I cannot see that such a conversation has yet taken place, but I believe it is important that it should do. I am not saying the officer has deliberately done anything wrong but it would be useful for the reflection to take place to understand how easy it is for misconceptions to arise, if any comments are made suggesting an allegiance to one side or the other, in a politically charged situation. I am sorry that Mr ***** has had to complain as a result.”

https://m.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=3195228753932550&id=1426555787466531

18/10/20 Holderness hunt called police for no reason. Police “understanding” towards FWGs.

<https://www.facebook.com/Humbersabs/posts/268070778099529>

26/10/20 police turn up and their presence contributes towards stopping the Holderness from hunting.

<https://www.facebook.com/WestYorksHuntSabs/posts/1867672693371849>

31/10/20 Police arrest and detain FWGs at Hunsley Beacon Beagles Hare Hunt. Not fox hunting but noted as a contrast to other positive feedback on Humberside police. Illustrates how some officers are not aware of the law.

<https://www.facebook.com/Humbersabs/posts/297319278508012>

24/12/20. Unequipped untrained police attend a hunting incident.

<https://www.facebook.com/yorkantihuntleague/posts/403969417605237>

31/12/20. YAS/BBMH assault FWG. Police notified. Also obstruction.

<https://www.facebook.com/yorkantihuntleague/posts/427898255212353>

29/12/20 incident. FWGs gather evidence to illustrate the link between hunts and violent support (relevant to Humberside). Intelligence?

<https://www.facebook.com/derbyhuntsaboteurs/posts/4026651514084392>

<https://www.facebook.com/derbyhuntsaboteurs/posts/4022105187872358>

15/5/21. Humberside police apparently providing an escort for a mink hunt. Officer allegedly offensive to a FWG