

South Yorkshire 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 South Yorkshire 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?

- 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?

The responding officer said he had read CTC with interest. He also said that he had shared the report with all the WCOs. When asked a few months later whether the WCOs had fed back at all, the officer responded immediately saying there was no feedback. The officer also offered to be a point of contact for us.

Were there follow up emails and did the force reply?

- ✓ Yes
- No

How willing was this force to take on board what we said?

1	2	3	4	5
-	-	✓	-	-

Why have you given this response?

This is difficult to judge. However, South Yorkshire does appear to be making an effort with wildlife crime in general. In an FOI to the force, they confirmed

that they intended to "up skill" their Neighbourhood Policing Teams and include training on Wildlife Crime.

They hoped to have 60 trained officers by the end of May 2021.

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

- Yes
- No
- ✓ They have communicated very readily with AAF.

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

- Yes
- ✓ No

How well trained are the police in this force?

1	2	3	4	5
-	-	-	✓	-

Why have you given this response?

South Yorkshire hopes to train everyone likely to be called to a wildlife crime, whether or not they are a WCO.

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

– **Unknown**

Why have you given this response?

No information on this one. No registered hunts in S Yorkshire, though the Barlow do venture there occasionally. No hit reports at all.

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?

Again, with no hit reports, this is difficult to answer. However, the amount of training is promising.

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

- Yes
- No
- ✓ Public order doesn't appear to be an issue.

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
-	-	-	✓	-

Any other comments?

South Yorkshire has been responsive to AAF, both in the FOI and to CTC initially.

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

FWGs are a potential resource for police and should be viewed as such.

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.

There are no hit reports or media reports mentioning hunting and South Yorkshire Police