

# Lincolnshire 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 Lincolnshire 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](mailto: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

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

- Yes
- ✓ No
- Other

**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?**

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1	2	3	4	5
-	✓	-	-	-

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**Why have you given this response?**

10 fully trained WCOs and 6 waiting for training. It is a small police force - only 1100 officers. This is more than most. We do not know what the training comprises or even if it includes illegal hunting.

**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?**

The hit reports (below) show that police are sometimes seen as 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?**

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1	2	3	4	5
-	✓	-	-	-

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**Why have you given this rating?**

Given what they force says about their training, it is reasonable to assume that officers are equipped and able to take action. But there are very few hit reports involving Lincolnshire police despite the fact that the Belvoir Hunt which operates in the county is heavily observed by FWGs. This suggests that incidents aren't reported and the police are not really interested or

involved.

While our information is limited, we believe that the lack of enthusiasm from this force would suggest they have no intention of tackling illegal fox hunting.

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

✓ Yes

No

Unknown

**Why have you given this response?**

See hit reports.

**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.**

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1	2	3	4	5
✓	-	-	-	-

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**Any other comments?**

Our FOI was ignored until we asked for an internal review. CTC was ignored completely. FWGs don't report incidents. All of this suggests lack of interest in illegal foxhunting by Lincolnshire police.

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

Lincolnshire Police was one of only 6 forces which showed no interest at all in engaging with AAF. Many of the other forces recognised “Counting the Crimes” as a useful resource for the police. The fact that this force ignored us suggests that they do not want to solve the problem of widespread law-breaking by the hunts.

We have received reports from members of the public in Lincolnshire who are frightened of the hunts and are afraid to speak out about the disruption. While illegal hunting may not be a priority for the police, the public’s fear should certainly be addressed.

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.

### **[Hit and Media Reports mentioning Lincolnshire Police and hunting.](#)**

***Lincolnshire Hunt Sabs do not appear to report to the police due to a lack of trust and allegedly many members of the public are too frightened to speak to them about the hunts.***

Quote from a Lincolnshire resident December 2020:

“as a country person it infuriates me when the implication is that it's a country pursuit that only townies are against...a lot of people are just too scared to say anything but we need to stand up for what we believe in...it's wrong end of!”

Three reports from previous years to illustrate the lack of trust:

<https://www.facebook.com/lincolnhuntsaboteurs/posts/557810291230754>

2017 post. Shows the police appear to be aware of the depth of feeling against hunting

<https://www.facebook.com/lincolnhuntsaboteurs/posts/596989250646191>

17/3/18 hit report police present at illegal hunt, apparently not taking action

<https://www.facebook.com/lincolnhuntsaboteurs/posts/1000697756942003>

16/11/19 hit report police appear to be friendly towards hunters (albeit harriers)