

Quick Advice – how to challenge a Boxing/New Year Day's Meet.

Information you need before you start	
Is this a Boxing Day or New Year's Day meet?	
Name of Hunt	
Town where the meet takes place	
Does the Hunt stop in the town, or just ride through?	
Where does the hunt stop? Is it on the road, or in a specific area (like a square)	
Who owns the place where they stop? (A road will be owned by the Highways Authority, but a Square might be owned by the Town Council. You can find out with a Freedom of Information Request – FOI - to the relevant council – see below).	
Name of road or area in which the hunt stops	
Does the Hunt block the road?	
Does the Hunt have a road closure?	
What route does the hunt take through the town? Please name the roads	
Do the horses stand in a paved area?	
Who provides the refreshments?	
Does the Hunt collect money? Who do they collect it for?	
Is there a protest?	
Where does the hunt unbox their horses, and park their vehicles?	
Has there been any objection to the meet before?	

QUICK ADVICE:

Do your research first – answer all the questions above. It's **crucial** to know who owns what, and who is in charge.

If a meet is held on private land, there is little you can do to stop it, unless the hunt causes havoc on the roads on the way in.

If a hunt just rides through a town, there is little you can do about it if they don't stop, unless they block the carriageway.

Local councils will not be able to stop a "ride through", or stop a meet on private land.

Find out which local councils are involved (If any). Councils are responsible for road closures, Health and Safety and may provide signage, road barriers etc.,

Speaking at a council meeting is one of the most effective things you can do, providing you are speaking to the right council. For more advice on speaking at council meetings, email info@actionagainstfoxhunting.org
NB – you will need to have found out all the answers to the questions above first.

Councils are only supposed to be interested in health and safety, but many councillors do object to a Festive Meet in their town. You need to find out which councillors object on principle as they will be your best allies. Send an email to all councillors asking what they think.

But, objecting to a Boxing/New Year's Day meet on grounds of health and safety is the best way as this is within a council's remit (assuming they are involved).

If the meet is held on land owned by any other public body (eg English Heritage) you can send your objections to them as well. If a pub or any other business is involved, you can complain about health and safety.

How to do a Freedom of Information Request:

<https://www.whatdotheyknow.com>

Help and further advice from AAF

<https://www.actionagainstfoxhunting.org/how-to-stop-boxing-day-and-new-years-day-meets/>