



Ministry of Defence

Secretariat
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28 April 2023

Ref. FOI 2023/04700

Dear Charlie Moores,

Thank you for your email of 13 April 2023 requesting the following information:

"1) Is the information about the number of hunts issued with trail hunting licences as reported in a Daily Mail article dated 21 December 2021 headlined "Revealed: Twenty-three hunts using Ministry of Defence land this season" (<https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-10287561/Twenty-three-hunts-use-Ministry-Defence-land-season.html>) accurate, and if not what was the correct figure for the number of hunts issued with licences?

2) How many/which hunts have requested trail hunting licences for MoD land for the hunting season beginning in autumn 2023?

3) How many/which hunts will be issued with trail hunting licences for the hunting season beginning in autumn 2023, and on what MoD land will they be permitted by those licences to trail hunt?

4) By what date will those licences be issued, or as of writing (13 April 2023) have they already been issued (if so, how many have already been issued and to which hunts have they been issued)?

5) Have any hunts that have requested or were previously issued with trail hunting licences been refused trail hunting licences for the upcoming hunting season beginning in autumn 2023 and if so which hunts and for what reason/s were they refused (eg breach of licence, illegal activity)."

I am treating your correspondence as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

A search for the information has now been completed within the Ministry of Defence (MOD) and I can confirm that some information in scope of your request is held and can be found below:

- 1) Is the information about the number of hunts issued with trail hunting licences as reported in a Daily Mail article dated 21 December 2021 headlined "Revealed: Twenty-three hunts using Ministry of Defence land this season" (

10287561/Twenty-three-hunts-use-Ministry-Defence-land-season.html) accurate, and if not what was the correct figure for the number of hunts issued with licences?

The information regarding the number of hunts issued with trail hunting licences as reported in a Daily Mail article dated 21 December headlined "Revealed: Twenty-three hunts using Ministry of Defence land this season, 2021 is correct.

2) How many/which hunts have requested trail hunting licences for MoD land for the hunting season beginning in autumn 2023?

To date, no licences have been requested for MOD land for the hunting season beginning in autumn 2023.

Under Section 16 of the FOIA (Advice and Assistance), you may find it helpful to know that hunting licences run from 1 September 2023 to 30 April 2024.

3) How many/which hunts will be issued with trail hunting licences for the hunting season beginning in autumn 2023, and on what MoD land will they be permitted by those licences to trail hunt?

Information not held.

4) By what date will those licences be issued, or as of writing (13 April 2023) have they already been issued (if so, how many have already been issued and to which hunts have they been issued)?

Information not held.

5) Have any hunts that have requested or were previously issued with trail hunting licences been refused trail hunting licences for the upcoming hunting season beginning in autumn 2023 and if so which hunts and for what reason/s were they refused (eg breach of licence, illegal activity).

Information not held.

Under Section 16 of the FOIA (Advice and Assistance), you may find it helpful to know that hunting licences run from 1 September 2023 to 30 April 2024.

If you have any queries regarding the content of this letter, please contact this office in the first instance.

If you wish to complain about the handling of your request, or the content of this response, you can request an independent internal review by contacting the Information Rights Compliance team, Ground Floor, MOD Main Building, Whitehall, SW1A 2HB (e-mail CIO-FOI-IR@mod.gov.uk). Please note that any request for an internal review should be made in writing within 40 working days of the date of this response.

If you remain dissatisfied following an internal review, you may raise your complaint directly to the Information Commissioner under the provisions of Section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act. Please note that the Information Commissioner will not normally investigate your case until the MOD internal review process has been completed. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF. Further details of the role and powers of the Information Commissioner can be found on the Commissioner's website at <https://ico.org.uk/>.

Yours sincerely

DIO Secretariat