

## POLICE, FIRE AND CRIME PANEL REPORT

Meeting Date	Thursday 12 January 2023
Report Title	Wildlife Crime

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### Purpose of this report

The purpose of this report is to provide information to the Police, Fire and Crime Panel to enable it to determine if the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner is sufficiently holding the Chief Constable to account for the delivery of an effective police service, specifically in relation to activity to prevent, detect and prepare files for prosecution in relation to 'wildlife' crimes.

This report will:

- Explore wildlife and rural crime.
- Provide information relating to the key challenges in understanding and analysing data.
- Explore the work that North Yorkshire Police have been doing with partners prevent and intervene as soon as possible to reduce and manage crimes of this nature.
- Update panel members on policing activity and the impact of this, including the use of alternative legislation to deter and manage perpetrators.
- Provide panel members with an update of the work of the Office of the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner and give examples of the positive work achieved.

This report follows the report previously provided to the panel in October 2022.

### Background

North Yorkshire Police is the largest single county police service in England. As an area it contains bustling urban towns and the City of York, as well as vastly rural towns, villages and geographically isolated homes and businesses.

The term 'Rural Crime' can mean any type of crime that occurs in a rural area, these include but are not limited to:

- Crimes involving farm equipment and livestock.
- Crimes against small rural businesses.
- Theft and damage on heritage sites and buildings.
- Tourism crime, including offences committed on holiday sites and damage to beauty spots.
- Serious and organised crime: remote locations can be attractive for organised crime groups.
- Road safety offences, which affect the quality of life for rural residents.

The term 'Wildlife Crime' can be defined as: *any action which contravenes current legislation governing the protection of wild animals and plants in the UK. This includes:*

- Poaching.
- Hare coursing.
- Illegal badger persecution including baiting, shooting, snaring, lamping, poisoning and the interference of badger sets.
- Bat persecution.
- Bird of prey persecution through poisoning, trapping, shooting, disturbance of nest and/or theft of chicks, egg theft / collection.
- The trade in ivory, tortoises, and other protected species covered by CITES (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species) including caviar, traditional Chinese medicines, and orchids, and the non-registration of certain birds and animals that require licensing through DEFRA/Animal and Plant Health Agency if kept in captivity or sold.

The remit of wildlife crime does not include incidents involving domestic animals such as dogs (other than dogs being used to hunt mammals), cats, rabbits, etc and does not include wild animals that have been involved in road traffic accidents.

Hare coursing has been illegal since 2005 along with poaching. In January 2022, the Government made several amendments to the Police, Crime Courts and Sentencing Bill (Police Bill) which introduced tougher sentencing and improved police powers to tackle the practice of chasing hares with dogs.

Some wildlife crime is also associated with wider criminality and is perpetrated by Serious and Organised Crime Groups.

Wildlife crime has been identified as being an important issue to communities. Emerging as a key theme following the public consultation for the statutory Police and Crime Plan for North Yorkshire.<sup>1</sup>

It can be difficult to convey the gravity of harm caused through rural and wildlife crime, to individuals, families, businesses, communities, and our environment. However, from National Rural Crime Network surveys it is known that:

- A third of rural people believe that crime has a moderate or great impact on their lives, with rural business owners – like farmers – most in fear of becoming a victim of crime.
- One in ten rural people feel unsafe in their homes after dark.
- Around one third of crimes in rural areas go unreported to the police.<sup>2</sup>

The devastation and harm caused by such crimes, some of which are barbaric in nature, impact not only humans but also our area's animals and wildlife.<sup>3</sup>

## Understanding Crime Data and Performance

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.northyorkshire-pfcc.gov.uk/content/uploads/2022/10/Police-Crime-Plan-2022-25-English.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.nationalruralcrimenetwork.net/research/internal/2018survey/>

<sup>3</sup> A short film detailing the impact of such crimes on a local farmer, can be viewed on YouTube at [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6gZh\\_jsWhvg&t=8s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6gZh_jsWhvg&t=8s). **Please note that the contents of this film contain distressing images.**

North Yorkshire experiences a high volume of crimes related to wildlife and the rural area. The knowledge of that volume is based on *reported* crimes and due to the nature of the crimes involved, not all crimes are reported (as above; footnote 2).

North Yorkshire Police work closely with partners to maximise chances of prosecution. Working closely with the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB), Natural England, the National Wildlife Crime Unit (NWCU) and the Crown prosecution service (CPS). There is a dedicated CPS lawyer who is a subject matter expert who assists North Yorkshire Police in making charging decisions. As part of a recent ongoing investigation, an investigator from the NWCU assisted regarding the killing of Birds of Prey in the Swaledale area. They attended and supported North Yorkshire Police when the warrant was executed. However, there are sometimes delays and some partner agencies conduct investigatory work prior to reporting incidents which can lead to loss of continuity and evidence. North Yorkshire Police continue to educate people on this matter. For example, on the North Yorkshire Police website there is some useful information on wildlife crime and how to deal with this.<sup>4</sup>

For several years North Yorkshire has been identified as being the worst area in the country for crimes against Birds of Prey. Despite recognition for the work of North Yorkshire Police, the Birdcrime Report for 2019 produced by RSPB stated:<sup>5</sup>

*This year, once again, North Yorkshire emerges as the county with the highest number of confirmed raptor persecution incidents. **Despite incredibly hard work by the North Yorkshire Police Rural Taskforce**, this county remains a danger zone for Birds of Prey.*

In the 2020 this pattern continued when it was stated; *'for the seventh consecutive year, the county of North Yorkshire was the hotspot for the largest number of confirmed incidents of raptor persecution.'*<sup>6</sup>a representative for North Yorkshire Police stated:

*"It is shocking that crimes against Birds of Prey were at an all-time high in 2020, the worst for 30 years, and that North Yorkshire was the worst county overall, again. It appears that criminals took advantage of lockdown to kill iconic birds, which is inexcusable. There has been a strong response from the police in 2021 with over a dozen multi agency investigations now underway, and we encourage everyone to continue to be our eyes and ears and report any crimes to the police".*

Following this and more positively, in 2021 North Yorkshire had slightly improved its position and was no longer the 'worst' county, ranking as the third worst. A marginal improvement but still a far from satisfactory position.<sup>7</sup>

Wildlife and Rural Crime data can be a problematic and complex issue to navigate due to how it is recorded. These crime types are often incredibly challenging to prove despite significant activity (either prevention or detection) which may take place. Therefore, there is a risk that the public and others may perceive that the police are not acting or may be taking insufficient action if information is presented in a binary fashion without sufficient context.

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<sup>4</sup> <https://www.northyorkshire.police.uk/advice/advice-and-information/wc/wildlife-crime/what-is-wildlife-crime/>

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.rspb.org.uk/globalassets/downloads/documents/birds-and-wildlife/crime/birdcrime-summary-2019.pdf>

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.rspb.org.uk/about-the-rspb/about-us/media-centre/press-releases/birdcrime-2020/>

<sup>7</sup> [https://www.rspb.org.uk/globalassets/downloads/documents/birds-and-wildlife/crime/2021/bc2021\\_report.pdf#:~:text=In%202021%2C%20108%20confirmed%20raptor,country%2C%20after%202020%27s%20unprecedented%20figures.](https://www.rspb.org.uk/globalassets/downloads/documents/birds-and-wildlife/crime/2021/bc2021_report.pdf#:~:text=In%202021%2C%20108%20confirmed%20raptor,country%2C%20after%202020%27s%20unprecedented%20figures.)

Assessing crime data for wildlife and rural crimes is difficult, there are no offences of ‘wildlife crime’ or ‘rural crime’ as these are general terms and language used to describe a type of offence or group of offences by a theme. For example, if a resident contacts the police to report a theft from a farm, this is not recorded in the police system as a ‘Rural Crime’, instead the offence is recorded as ‘Theft’.

This recording issue is similar for many police forces which makes comparing North Yorkshire Police with others, not only challenging but unscientific. For example, North Yorkshire Police record every case of persecution of Birds of Prey, but this is not the case for other forces.

Analysis of these crime types is possible, but it takes significant resources to achieve and cannot always be claimed as being completely accurate due to the range of variables which exist. Often analysis of individual reports is needed to locate indicators of rural or wildlife crimes.

To ensure that Police, Fire and Crime Panel Members are better able to understand performance in relation to these types of crimes a detailed search was conducted of crimes ranging from arson and criminal damage to malicious communication (eighteen offences in total) to assess how many times poaching and hare coursing was mentioned within the body of the report (free text). It was found in eighty-two crimes since 2020. In the same period there were thirty-four arrests and thirty-three disposals which mention poaching and hare coursing (see annex A for the full data set).

Although changes to legislation through the Police Crime Sentencing and Courts Act 2022 to tackle hare coursing have been welcomed by North Yorkshire Police and the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner, further measures are still needed to better enable the police to target and deal with offenders. To improve the use of sanctions against offenders, North Yorkshire Police is one of several forces who take a creative approach to the use of alternative legislation; anti-social behaviour legislation.<sup>8</sup>

Over the past two-years, North Yorkshire Police has utilised Operation Figaro (explored in greater detail on page 6) which uses problem solving oriented responses to tackle poaching. These include Criminal Prevention Warnings (CPWs), and Criminal Prevention Notices (CPNs) using Anti-Social Behaviour legislation. In practice this means that police can track the behaviour of offenders and address any breaches of their behaviour at targeted points, imposing more robust sanctions based on behaviour as it escalates, resulting in ‘breaches’.

It is too early to assess the full impact of this due to the pandemic and subsequent recovery. However, initial analysis shows that crimes of poaching have been reduced by nearly 55% when comparing twelve months to October 2022 and the same period the year before (see annex B for full breakdown).

In addition, as part of this approach since 2021:

- 257 individuals have received warning letters
- 42 have received Criminal Behaviour Warnings
- 5 have now been issued Criminal Behaviour Notices
- 1 has been issued a Criminal Behaviour Order

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<sup>8</sup> Panel Members can find further information about punishments for anti-social behaviour at [www.gov.uk/civil-injunctions-criminal-behaviour-orders](http://www.gov.uk/civil-injunctions-criminal-behaviour-orders).

The issuing of the first Criminal Behaviour Order in North Yorkshire for poaching offences was issued to, Ryan Thomas Spence<sup>9</sup>, described as a prolific national offender, in September 2022. The Criminal Behaviour Order served prevents Mr Spence from:

- Trespassing on any land with a dog, firearm, or any item capable of firing a projectile.
- Straying from any highway, bridleway, or public right of way onto any land.
- Driving, or be in, a motor vehicle or mechanically propelled vehicle other than on a publicly maintained road without written permission of the landowner.
- Being part of a group involved in the hunting of any wild mammals with dogs or firearms or any items capable of firing a projectile.

## Policing Activity

North Yorkshire Police has a dedicated Rural Taskforce (RTF) and is one of the largest dedicated teams of its kind in the country.

In November 2021 a new RTF operating model was introduced, enabling the team to focus on those offenders considered to be causing the 'highest harm' within specific communities. The model also enables the RTF to closely align with wider specialist teams to proactively deliver targeted intelligence led rural operations whilst also broadening geographical reach.

The RTF is not responsible for dealing with all rural and wildlife crime across the entire force area due to its geographical size. Instead, the team exists to provide 7 day per week, 24 hour proactive and reactive specialist tactical advice to police officers and others across each of the command areas. Also providing advice to officers during live incidents as they unfold and taking the lead on specific investigations.

The team includes dedicated resources in the form of an Inspector; Sergeant, 7 Constables, and 7 Police Community Support Officers. North Yorkshire Police also has 41 Police Wildlife Crime Officers (WCOs). WCOs have specialist knowledge and experience about rural and wildlife crime, enabling them to conduct investigations, plan and execute proactive operations, develop intelligence and promote crime prevention.

The team does not work to a local wildlife or rural crime strategy, instead they work to deliver the national rural and wildlife crime strategy launched in September 2022.<sup>10</sup> Within the strategy are a series of national priorities for both wildlife and rural crimes, and a series of strategic objectives. The team also works to deliver other relevant local strategies for their Chief Constable. For example, the Early Intervention and Prevention Strategy.

The team also has 5 'departmental priorities' which are:

1. Respond effectively to Operation Figaro and poaching investigations.
2. Provide support and co-ordination with targeting high harm offenders of rural and wildlife crime.
3. Work cohesively with cross-border force areas enhancing partnership working opportunities and joint initiatives.
4. Develop intelligence through community networks and public engagement.

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<sup>9</sup> Further information can be found at <https://www.northyorkshire.police.uk/news/northyorkshire/news/news/2022/09-september/first-criminal-behaviour-order-for-poaching-offences-in-northyorkshire-granted-in-court/>

<sup>10</sup> <https://www.nwcu.police.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/NPCC-Wildlife-Rural-Crime-Strategy-2022-2025.pdf>.

5. Provide tactical advice to command staff and colleagues with rural crime investigations and workloads.

Progress against these priorities and the national rural and wildlife crime strategy are monitored in detail through a monthly performance meeting which utilises data, evidence, caseloads, investigation progress, prosecution outcomes, team and community insight and learning outcomes, risk management, customer contact updates, suspects and offenders, cross-border intelligence. All of which is overseen and managed by the RTF Inspector and Chief Inspector.

The work of RTF is broad and has included supporting colleagues and the community positively in addition to its core work. For example,

- Responding to thefts which resulted in a police vehicle being rammed, and the arrest of several individuals suspected of committing a series of rural crimes as part of an Organised Crime Group.
- Supported a colleague outside of the RTF to complete enquiries in rural communities in relation to 'Sextortion'<sup>11</sup>.

The RTF are also responsible for leading work in relation to 4 specific proactive policing operations, Figaro, Galileo, Owl and Seabird.

## **Operation Figaro and Operation Galileo**

Operations Figaro and Galileo are both aimed at proactively tackling poaching.

Figaro is the name given to North Yorkshire Police's problem-solving orientated responses to poaching, which encourage a unified community response alongside a more robust and coordinated method of policing.

Galileo relates to a national operation, but in our area exists through a tangible collaboration of 9<sup>12</sup> forces including North Yorkshire Police. This work enables a more joined up approach to sharing intelligence, and proactively targeting poaching offenders through a co-ordinated resource model. Which aims to disrupt, deter and better detect offenders as they attempt to move between each force area.

As part of operation Galileo, a central intelligence information hub exists containing the details of suspects and offenders, all of whom are in receipt of either warning letters, official warning letters, official notices. This hub and this information can be instantly accessed by officers from across forces, negating the need for more time-consuming searches using other policing systems, or by contacting other forces on a case-by-case basis to request specific information.

A success of operation Galileo is the criminal behaviour order which was issued. Utilising this legislation enabled North Yorkshire police to manage perpetrators but it also acts as a deterrent for those considering participating in crimes of this nature.

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<sup>11</sup> <https://www.northyorkshire.police.uk/advice/advice-and-information/sexual-offences/sextortion/>

<sup>12</sup> The nine forces are Essex, Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire, Hertfordshire, Kent, Norfolk, North Yorkshire, Suffolk, Wiltshire

## Operation Owl

Launched in February 2018, Operation Owl aims to prevent the persecution of Birds of Prey. The operation is an ongoing joint initiative by North Yorkshire Police, the RSPB and the Royal Society for the Protection of Cruelty to Animals (RSPCA). Through Operation Owl, partners aim to:

- Carry out surveillance checks on known raptor persecution hotspots
- Work with local landowners to make them aware of the legal position on raptor persecution
- Identify the signs of raptor persecution across the national parks
- Raise public awareness of raptor persecution
- Encourage the public to support the police by being alert to the sight of dead or injured birds, poisoned bait and pole traps, and reporting issues to the police

## Operation Seabird

A partnership initiative between North Yorkshire Police, Humberside Police, the RSPCA, the Marine Management Organisation and the Yorkshire Marine Nature Partnership. Which was established to reduce the impacts of recreational activities on sensitive marine wildlife. Operation Seabird was recognised at this year's National Wildlife Crime Enforcers Conference.<sup>13</sup>

## PFCC/OPFCC Activity Update

The Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner makes her assessment of the performance of North Yorkshire Police in relation to rural and wildlife crime based on a range of factors including:

- Ability to deliver national strategy and locally set priorities.
- The strategic and tactical leadership in relation to these crime types.
- The performance and reputation of the RTF.
- How the RTF listen to communities and use that insight to drive action and improvement.
- Assessment of crime reduction.
- Assessment of crime prevention and partnership engagement outcomes.
- How the Chief Constable resources the RTF, compared with other priority areas of the force.

The Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner (PFCC) was elected in November 2021. Since that time, the PFCC has carried out a diverse range of activities.

During the Yorkshire post conference in 2022 the Commissioner addressed delegates and raised issues around the range of crime in rural areas in North Yorkshire, including burglary, poaching and hare coursing and the wider damage these offences can cause. Such as, damage to land from vehicles, intimidation and threats of violence that are often experienced. These are key priorities for the Commissioner to raise at a national level with decision makers in Westminster. In her speech the Commissioner highlighted three key changes that are needed:

- **Fair funding**, to help tackle the additional challenges that may be faced in rural areas.

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<sup>13</sup> Further details can be found online at <https://www.nwcu.police.uk/33rd-annual-wildlife-rural-crime-conference-21st-to-23rd-october-2022/>



- **Government and Decisionmakers in London need to understand rural communities**, a cross departmental working group should undertake analysis to understand the needs of rural communities.
- **The criminal Justice system should understand rural communities**, improved training and funding is needed at all levels including for magistrates and prosecutors within the criminal justice system.

**To ensure the people of North Yorkshire are and feel safe the Commissioner and North Yorkshire Police are committed to addressing these offences, through the previous mentioned Operations including Galileo and through innovative centralised funding approaches such as the Protect Your Home scheme, which aims to reduce the likelihood of burglary in rural homes. In North Yorkshire nearly £720,000 was secured from the national safer streets fund to help improve the safety of specifically rural homes and farms.**

The scheme aims to prevent burglary at residential homes and farms, and to support residents and farmers to feel safe. These funds:

- ‘target harden’ residential properties and farms by installing a specific type of lock on doors, sheds, outbuildings.
- improve ‘capable guardianship’ using intruder alarm systems (farms only).
- ‘enhance defensible space’ through the use of automatic number plate recognition (ANPR) cameras.

The funds are limited which means that the scheme is not available across all North Yorkshire and the City of York. Instead, specific areas are selected using a variety of information. It is known that burglary has a disproportionate impact upon rural communities across North Yorkshire with victimisation of farms a particular issue. Whilst North Yorkshire is overall a very safe place to live work and visit, it is bordered by some of the least safe making it vulnerable to cross-border crime. Previous safer streets funding has been used to deliver the Protect Your Home scheme in our ‘rural borderlands’, and this latest round of funding will continue to build on that work. The selected areas cover 3,033 households and border areas such as Bradford, Keighley and Burnley. Throughout these ‘borderlands’ there is an extensive network of minor roads and farm drives. The network connects farms and isolated dwellings and can provide easy access for criminals.

Local recorded crime data has been analysed in these areas and other evidence sources such as the National Serious Acquisitive Crime Unit demonstrates that crime increased in rural areas during 2020 in contrast to the overall 40% decrease nationally. In the areas selected,<sup>14</sup> local Authority data shows just under 80% of residents in these areas are economically active and travel to work, meaning houses are left unoccupied.

**A positive example of this programme was the impact it had in Cononley.** The Commissioner’s office received written correspondence from Andrew Brown, North Yorkshire County Counsellor for Aire Valley who stated “I have been able to identify a clear line of cause and effect between the scheme and the crime’s resolution..... I am therefore writing to thank your team for their efforts and also to say that I am happy to be used in any publicity about the value of the scheme. I have checked with the residents who supplied the footage, and they are also happy for publicity that avoids their name and address. Could you please pass this message on to the those who have organised this scheme so they can use it to help spread the message that it works.” Counsellor Brown went on to request the programme for other villages he represented due to its success.

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<sup>14</sup> The parishes covered by the project are; Craven; Clapham cum Newby, Cononley, Lawkland, and Lothersdale. Harrogate; Allerton Mauleverer with Hopperton, Kirk Deighton, Kirk Hammerton, Leathley, Long Marston, North Deighton, Sicklinghall and Spofforth with Stockeld.



**In addition to the above, through a second Safer Streets 4 funding bid the Commissioner secured nearly £90,000 to help tackle stalking and harassment within rural communities specifically.** With this funding the Commissioner is working with a production company called Rural Media to develop a series of short video's, which together create a short film to raise awareness of stalking and street harassment. The videos are aimed at young people aged 16-25 to raise awareness of stalking offences, challenge harmful and criminal behaviour and to encourage communities including rural areas to confidently report offences to North Yorkshire Police. This project is part of a wider commitment by the Commissioner to tackle Violence Against Women and Girls offences in rural and under-represented areas, as set out in the Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy 2022-25.<sup>15</sup>

**In addition to the detailed examples above, the Commissioner has;**

- Lobbied for fairer funding because forces in predominantly rural areas receive nearly a quarter less funding per head of population than those covering urban areas.
- Worked with the Government and decision makers to raise awareness about rural communities and their specific needs.
- Worked with the Criminal Justice System to raise awareness about rural communities and the impact of rural crime to individuals, families and businesses.
- Contributed to the National Rural Crime Network.

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<sup>15</sup> <https://www.northyorkshire-pfcc.gov.uk/womenandgirls/>

## Annex A

Poaching and Hare Coursing which is mentioned within the Free Text Search for a range of offences, recorded Between 1 January 2020 and 14 December 2022:

Offence Type	2020	2021	2022	Total
Arson & Criminal Damage	30	20	16	66
Arson Not Endangering Life	1	0	1	2
Criminal Damage To A Building Other Than A Dwelling	1	1	3	5
Other Criminal Damage	28	19	12	59
Misc Crimes Against Society	0	1	0	1
Fraud, Forgery Etc Associated With Vehicle Or Driver Records	0	1	0	1
Possession Of Weapons	1	0	2	3
Possession Of Article With Blade Or Point	0	0	1	1
Possession Of Firearms With Intent	0	0	1	1
Possession Of Other Weapons	1	0	0	1
Public Order Offences	2	1	1	4
Other Offences Against The State Or Public Order	1	0	0	1
Public Fear, Alarm Or Distress	1	1	1	3
Theft: All Other Theft	1	1	1	3
Other Theft	1	1	1	3
Violence Against The Person	1	3	1	5
Assault Without Injury	0	3	1	4
Malicious Communications	1	0	0	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>82</b>

Arrests (Custody Count), recorded Between 1 January 2020 and 14 December 2022:

	2020	2021	2022	Total
Control / handle dog in the course of / for the purposes of a hare coursing event - Hunting Act 2004	2	0	0	2
Daytime trespass in pursuit of game - poaching (recordable)	7	4	0	11
Hunting a wild mammal with dogs - Hunting Act 2004	12	0	5	17
Knowingly permit dog to be used for hunting a wild mammal - Hunting Act 2004	2	0	0	2
Participate in a hare coursing event	2	0	0	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>34</b>

Disposals, recorded Between 1 January 2020 and 14 December 2022:

	2020	2021	2022	Total
Daytime trespass by five or more in pursuit of game	2	0	0	2
MGNFA No Further Action	2	0	0	2
Daytime trespass in pursuit of game - poaching	3	2	0	5

MGNFA No Further Action	3	2	0	5
Hunting a wild mammal with dogs - Hunting Act 2004	10	9	5	24
Custody - MG04A Charge (Conditional Bail)	0	0	1	1
Custody - MG04D Postal Charge (Youth)	0	0	1	1
Custody - No Further Action (No Further Action)	0	0	3	3
MG04 Charge with Bail Conditions	1	2	0	3
MGNFA No Further Action	9	0	0	9
VA - MG04D Postal Charge	0	2	0	2
VA - MG04E Postal Requisition	0	1	0	1
VA - No Further Action	0	4	0	4
Participate in a hare coursing event	2	0	0	2
MGNFA No Further Action	2	0	0	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>33</b>

## Annex B

### Crimes of poaching by month

	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Total
<b>2020 - 2021</b>	202	162	143	81	93	43	50	12	20	100	141	176	1223
<b>2021 – 2022</b>	114	92	92	86	25	16	15	14	26	70	100	97	681
													55% Reduction

## Annex C

The Safer Streets Fund is a national programme of funding which is made available for the purpose of reducing and preventing crime using proven, evidence-based interventions. It was launched in 2020 and was a manifesto commitment made by the Government. The first 'round' of the programme called Safer Streets 1 was delivered in 2020/21, and this was followed by Safer Streets 2 which ran from 2021/2022. The objectives of each of the first two rounds of the programme were primarily to reduce neighbourhood crime. The focus was on 'situational' crime prevention methods/interventions in high crime areas.

Following the abduction and tragic killing of Sarah Everard in 2021, additional funds were made available in the form of Safer Streets 3, which focused on improving the safety of public spaces for women and girls. The programme is currently in its fourth round.

The application process for each round has developed over time, but generally Police and Crime Commissioner's (and some other organisations) can submit one or more 'bids' to receive funds to help them prevent crime in their area. The Safer Streets Programme is a competitive process so whilst a bid may be submitted, there is no guarantee it will be successful. The process of preparing and submitting bids is extensive and often includes a wide range of individuals from a diverse range of organisations. Bids can take around 8-10 weeks to prepare.

Although the national funding is referred to as ‘the Safer Streets Programme’, many Police and Crime Commissioners / Police, Fire and Crime Commissioners refer to the name of the projects/interventions that the fund enables them to *deliver*, rather than to the name of the fund itself. In North Yorkshire, we refer to our *Protect Your Home Scheme*.