

<b>Case No:</b> 944
<b>Date Received:</b> 09:02:2018
<b>Topic:</b> Policy on hunting
<b>Request</b>
<p>As you probably know since the hunting with dogs bans have been enacted in Scotland, England and Wales some landowners have denied access to their land to registered or unregistered hunts, while others are still allowing them on their land but only to undertake some specific activities (sometimes under a licensing system).</p> <p>As the League Against Cruel Sports is the main animal protection organisation that deals with the issue of hunting, we are now contacting all UK major landowners to find out what their current policies are on allowing hunts to enter their land when the hunt have some dogs on the loose. Therefore, we would be grateful if you could please answer the following questions regarding hunting with dogs:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Do you have a written policy regarding allowing hunts on your land, and if so can you please send it to us?</li><li>2. Do you allow hunts to undertake "trail hunting" on your land?</li><li>3. Do you allow hunts on your land to undertake any of the exempt hunting activities stipulated in the Hunting Act 2004 or the Protection of Wild Mammals (Scotland) Act 2002 (i.e. "flushing to guns", "falconry with dogs", "use dogs underground to protect birds for shooting", "hunting rabbit with dogs", "rescuing a mammal with dogs", "research and observation of mammals with dogs", "rat hunting with dogs", "recapturing mammal with dogs", etc.)</li><li>4. Do you allow hunts to undertake "hounds exercising" on your land?</li><li>5. Do you allow "drag hunting" on your land? (Not to be confused with "trail hunting". None of the hunts that used to hunt animals before the ban currently undertake drag hunting.)</li><li>6. Do you allow bloodhounds hunting (aka "clean boot hunting") on your land? (Question 5 comment also applies here.)</li><li>7. Do you allow hunts to enter your land with a pack of hounds to undertake any other activity with dogs that is not mentioned above?</li><li>8. Do you allow members of hunts to enter your land, with or without hounds, when hunting activity takes place on land adjacent to yours?</li><li>9. If you allow hunts to undertake any of the activities mentioned above, do you do it by licensing them on specific activities and days, by approving specific requests for specific events only, or by a general authorisation to use your land at any time?</li><li>10. Do all of your previous answers apply equally to registered foxhunts, hare hunts, deer hunts, and mink hunts, and if not, which one applies to which and what is the difference?</li><li>11. Since when have you had your current hunting policy?</li><li>12. Do you have any plans to review your current hunting policy soon?</li></ol>

**Response**

Thank you for your request for information which has been handled under the Freedom of Information Act. You asked for a copy of our policy in relation to hunting, which is attached. This policy was last reviewed in 2006 and currently there are no plans to review it again.

At the time of creating our current policy we were in correspondence with the League Against Cruel Sports and it was shared with xxxxxxxx, assistant campaigner at the organisation. Following the communication of our policy, xxxxxxxx asked if we would consent to our policy being published on the League's website as an example. In his email to us, xxxxxxxx stated: *"The Crown Estate policy on hunting is extremely progressive and intuitive particularly concerning animal welfare."*

If you would like to discuss further, we would be happy to arrange a time to do so.