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UK National Wildlife Crime Unit
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? May 2024

Dear

In your capacity as { POSITION HELD ON ESTATE} Estate, you were visited today 2024 by officers of the National Wildlife Crime Unit (NWCU).

During our visit, you were made aware that we have developed a multi-agency Harrier Task Force following several reports of satellite tagged hen harriers going missing, in particular within the area of Cumbria, Northumberland, Durham, North Yorkshire, Lancashire, West Yorkshire, South Yorkshire and Derbyshire.

You were informed that as part of our Estates and Community Engagement model, we are conducting visits to estates throughout the north of England where a satellite tagged bird is known to be frequenting and or is in an identified hotspot area of concern.

Today, we shared the following information with you:

1. Hen Harrier Satellite Tagging Projects ongoing in the North of England;
2. Concerns regarding hen harrier persecution;
3. Analysis of recorded satellite tagged data, which has been completed by the NWCU, which identifies as being within a hotspot area of concern;
4. Illustrated that only birds which were graded as confirmed criminal or suspected criminal were recorded in the analysis utilising police data;
5. Relevant offences under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 and other associated crime such as theft, criminal damage and firearms offences may have been committed;
6. How to report intelligence/incidents to the Police.

As we are aware and you are now also aware, satellite tagged hen harriers are frequenting Estate land on a regular basis and potentially roosting on estate land. I would like to make it clear that at this time, this visit is primarily part of our Estates and Community Engagement model.

As part of our Estate and Community Engagement model, we are seeking your cooperation to authorise the local police force to undertake high visibility patrols on Estate, some of these can be alongside estate staff which will assist in building relationships, trust and gathering intelligence.

We are also seeking your permission to allow the NWCU access to Estate land to install cameras, proximity alarms and other equipment on and around nest and

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roost sites. We have a pre-populated Land Permission letter, which we can give you today to sign if you are in agreement.

However, being open and transparent, we must make you aware that should a satellite transmitter indicate a sudden stop in transmission and there is suspicion of criminality, it is the duty of police, along with other partner agencies to undertake an initial investigation into the circumstances of the sudden stop in transmission.

We must also point out that this may result in a Section 19 Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 search being undertaken on Estate. I must reiterate, it is the duty of law enforcement agencies to undertake an initial investigation and to rule out any form of criminality.

The NWCU and our partners are committed to keeping people safe, preventing criminality and taking enforcement action where criminality impacts on the safety or livelihood of individuals or communities.

You have been provided with this letter simply as a summary of relevant information and to stress our willingness to work with you and employees of Estate on hen harrier conservation.

Yours sincerely

Detective Inspector S.40(2)
National Wildlife Crime Unit

Enc: Relevant Legislation

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