

## Badger Persecution Priority Delivery Group

<b>Plan Owner Update:</b>	<b>Badger Persecution Priority Delivery Group</b>
<b>Submitted By:</b>	<b>Inspector 1072 Kevin Kelly – BPPDG Chair</b>

<b>Your objectives: Badger Persecution Priority Delivery Group</b>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1) Improve and increase the recording of incidents, crime and intelligence of persecution.</li><li>2) Improve the Investigation Process.</li><li>3) Increase awareness of Badger persecution across the UK.</li></ol>

<b>How have you progressed your objectives in the last two years?</b>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1) The top 10 most dangerous badger crime offenders in the UK have been identified. These have been distributed for local ownership via the subject's home forces along with suggested actions and an action plan for engagement/enforcement. PDG members have been asked to oversee this project and make sure intelligence is obtained, submitted and disseminated to maximise enforcement opportunities and incident recording. Officers are encouraged to maximise any type of engagement or any positive enforcement of any kind, to deter badger criminals.</li><li>2) The Badger Trust continue to fund and deliver badger crime training to all forces nationally. This training is aimed to upskill all officers despite experience and is a foundation to build upon. A report into "what works" in badger investigations has identified issues around capturing evidence from crime scenes in a timely manner. The blockers have been identified and upskilling is being rolled out to current and competent WCO's. This training is provided by PDG members and funded by the Badger Trust. The first round of training was given in January 2020 and has captured the need for officers to be able to have "practical application" skills that this training gives. This training has been captured in a video, directed by nature presenter Mike Dilger – video can be found here: <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PtlMpg5GI-A">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PtlMpg5GI-A</a></li><li>3) PDG continues to lead a coordinated social media campaign in the run up to and over national badger day, to raise awareness and highlight the increase in badger crime, sett disturbance and related offences. This campaign was successfully run in 2019 and has been implemented in 2020. By empowering our members to showcase their work within the PDG, the 2020 day had a national focus, on differing localised issues. The day was run across social media and traditional press, concluding in an online forum meeting which hosted 28 Badger group members across the UK. At the meeting we provided public accountability from the PDG and gave a 12 month progress report on our work. This has built public confidence in the PDG.</li><li>4) In 2019, a BPPDG newsletter was created and circulated nationally, via chair and partners. This is a quarterly (6 monthly due to covid) newsletter that features updates from the group, and gives accountability for the group actions. The letter also holds a feature section shining the spotlight on the work our partners do to assist the group.</li><li>5) On National Badger day (6<sup>th</sup> Oct 2020) a national Badger crime tool kit was launched to all forces and enforcers within the UK. This kit includes (but not limited to) operational assistance for managing badger crime scenes, including access to experts within the PDG, interview assistance and guidance, NPCC guidance and a PDF version of "investigators guide to badger crime" (created by partners). This project was delivered due to members seeking feedback on recently highlighted investigations and identifying the current operational issues across the UK. Identifying good practice, and focusing on areas of improvement - resulting in the items comprising the tool kit.</li></ol>

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- 6) PDG member Naturewatch Foundation have developed School Awareness Programme for teenagers on badger baiting. This has been adopted by several forces and Badger Groups. This is an ongoing project and has been reduced due to the pandemic, the project will resume in 2021.
- 7) The Chair has worked with NWCUC and other partners to discuss the emerging trend of Sett disturbance, and the work placed on the PDG that comes from illegal hunting offences. The chair and Badger PDG is happy to support any recommendations from senior officers to progress this matter.

### How have you progressed the objectives in the NPCC action plan for Wildlife Crime?

Points below link to objectives in the NPCC action plan:

1 – The BPPDG has identified the priority badger crime nominals in the three hot spot areas across the UK and have encouraged ownership of the enforcement of these individuals. By utilising community intelligence, the most dangerous offenders can be targeted by other means to deter offending and maximise police interaction.

2 – I have represented the group nationally and internationally (Feb 2020) at the strategic accountability board help by NYPFCC. I give accountability and representation regionally and locally via my accountability sessions and PDG newsletters.

3 – The PDG has assessed the picture of demand regionally and identified the requirement to upskill officers nationally. Upskilling has been implemented via training and operational resources.

4 – I chair regular BPPDG meetings and sub group meetings, where we discuss and agree proportionate actions as a collective and will meet our strategy through accountability and delivery.

5 – Our PDG has been rebuilt from “ground upwards” in respect of configuration, we have also developed a membership understanding around taking responsibility for delivering strategy. We have influenced national investigations, leading to convictions and have ultimately changed national working practices. This is quantifiable and available for further discussion.

6- BPPDG have re-purposed Operation Badger and have held a number of High Profile events such as national badger day – also providing PDG newsletters. This engagement has impressed on over 1.7 million people and has spotlighted our work locally, nationally and internationally.

7 – We have adopted and projected our PDG strategy, we have delivered this through proportionate action that has been delivered through high level partnership working. Our action plan is available for scrutiny where it evidences that a number of high value actions have been completed. Such as implementing key group members, opening up to other badger enforcement groups, and working in partnership whilst implementing national guidance.

8 – We have an accountable problem-solving plan in place under Operation Badger – this can be shared with interested parties on request.

9 – Our PDG members are accountable to their respective REG's and have a link into ROCU where the BPPDG work is championed. Recent convictions have fed into the intelligence stream of regionalised ROCU's.

10 – The BPPDG provides accountability and increases awareness off the group, the work we do and our priorities by publishing a newsletter – having a strong online presence and networking across the UK.

12 – Intelligence sharing is in place within the partnership arena and also within the Police force representatives. This is evidenced by the adoption of top targets and the feedback process applied to the non-badger crime enforcement. The collation of incident figures is currently ongoing a review due to GDPR

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legislation changes.

13 – Evidenced in Operation badger and other speaking events, also BPPDG presentation to NYPD in February 2020.

14 – The BPPDG chair is in the process of implementing changes to APP to refresh this guidance in line with the changes in trends. This should be completed Nov 2020.

15 – The launch of the BPPDG badger crime tool kit is to be included in the college of policing online knowledge hub.

16 – BPPDG has appointed a new CPS Senior Prosecutor to lead on enforcement. She is involved in the Up-Skill training and also is a point of contact within the CPS.

17 – Enforcement leads can evidence the use of online investigations and digital interrogation to support convictions in our area of business.

18 – BPPDG is working on a sustainable recording mechanism that is fit for the future and will be able to provide accurate recording figures from a range of sources. This will be drawn from police, volunteers and partners and will be able to support future objectives of the PDG and enhance any evidence to make offences recordable.

### What are your 3 year targets? Evidence how you are meeting them:

The three-year targets are: Prevention – Intelligence – Enforcement.

**Prevention** – BPPDG quarterly Newsletter now re-introduced with first letter released in October 2019 on National Badger Day and has run through to 2020. This is ongoing.

Promoting the group via UK based badger groups is a good preventative measure, utilising community based volunteers to be our eyes and ears. This supports increased crime reporting.

The Schools project is ongoing and is being driven by PDG members. This will help educate the next generation and influence change.

**Intelligence** – PDG members actively seek to ensure intelligence is obtained and submitted to NWCUC. This is an ongoing commitment for the group. Since the 2019 review, Key Partners have their own intelligence functions and this has seen intelligence packages produced to assist local policing.

Incident figures are an important function of the PDG and drive business. Due to changes in the way this information has been handled and GDPR requirements, the normal and agreed methods were no longer suitable and the ISA's were out of date. Implementing the new and improved data analysis will help future sustainability of the PDG.

**Enforcement** – Training has been delivered in January 2020. This is planned to be adopted by PDG members as we carry out a train the trainer event so our members can provide longevity around this project and deliver it locally. It also upskills our valued members to develop and lead others. By increasing knowledge and skills on the practical application of investigative skills at Badger crime scenes, officers have confidence to manage badger crime scenes either in person or remotely.

The essence of the training was applied in the case of R-vs Dodd(s), Joyce & Pounder where a custodial sentence was achieved for Badger baiting. This case formed the basis of upskilling our already competent officers in the practical application of skills at a crime scene that will ultimately achieve a consistent investigation and improved sentencing.

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Badger Crime Tool Kit – has been rolled out nationally to regional SPOCs, who will then deliver this locally to WCOs. The kit provides investigative support to officers on the ground and will provide clarity in often complex badger crime situations. I have received feedback that this has been used in ongoing and current investigations.

Proactive enforcement initiatives have been carried out by Police Service members. Activity is driven by the analytical data compiled by NWCU and intelligence from Police and partners. Analytical data identifies hot spots linked to geographical location, methodology of crime and seasonal timelines. Initiatives such as National badger day, rural crime action week and other operational deployments have provided alternative enforcement opportunities. Due to the pandemic the approach has been changed slightly to suit, but we are very much forward facing and by targeting the top offenders and improving the service to the front line of policing, criminals have been enforced for alternative offences, keeping them on the operational forefront and ensuring the most dangerous badger criminals are proportionately diverted from wildlife crime.

**Other Issues:**

**Wildlife Crime Conservation Advisory Group (WCCAG) Comments:**

No comments made by WCCAG.

## Bat Priority Delivery Group

<b>Plan Owner Update:</b>	<b>Bat Priority Delivery Group</b>
<b>Submitted By:</b>	<b>PS 10 Shaun DOBLE</b>

**Your objectives: Bat Persecution Priority Delivery Group**

<b><u>Present Bat PDG objective and targets - last amended 2019</u></b>
<p><i>To reduce bat crime by working with key stakeholders to raise awareness of responsibilities and criminal offences against bats, promoting a preventative approach and improving the submission of intelligence and standards of investigation relating to bats across the UK. To identify and bring to the attention of the TCG any obstacles preventing delivery of our objective.</i></p> <p>Prevention working group (BCT lead)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Should contain at a minimum representatives of the Police, each SNCO, Local Government planners and ecologists and appropriate NGO's. Stand in's should be arranged if lead contact is not available.</li> <li>• To report to the PDG lead, on initiatives undertaken to prevent bat crime and other work undertaken in support of our initiative.</li> <li>• To identify how many incidents of crimes being prevented were recorded in 2014 providing a base line against which future performance will be measured.</li> <li>• To identify and report on good crime prevention practice.</li> <li>• Produce at least two newsletters a year to be widely circulated containing information that can be used to prevent bat crime.</li> </ul> <p>Intelligence working group (NWCUC lead)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Should contain at a minimum representatives of NWCUC, regional enforcement groups and SNCO's.</li> <li>• To report to the PDG lead, on levels of bat crime recorded since the last meeting and what work has been undertaken in support of our objective.</li> <li>• To identify groups, individuals and companies suspected of being involved in organised bat crime. To produce and disseminate intelligence packages relating to identified suspects, to develop intelligence and undertake investigations into each package.</li> <li>• To identify forces who are not submitting intelligence relating to bat crime and to engage with them to address the situation.</li> <li>• That 50% of all reports of bat crime made known to NWCUC should be confirmed by formal intelligence submissions.</li> </ul> <p>Enforcement working group (Police lead)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Should contain at a minimum representatives of NWCUC, regional enforcement groups, CPS, Natural England, Local Government and Bat Conservation Trust.</li> <li>• To identify best practice and deficiencies in the investigation and prosecution of bat offences across the UK. To undertake, on request, reviews of investigations.</li> <li>• To identify forces who currently report positive outcomes of investigations, at a rate, below the UK average and to engage with them to establish if performance could be improved.</li> <li>• To report to the PDG lead on the work undertaken since the last meeting in support of our objective.</li> </ul>

**How have you progressed your objectives in the last two years?**

<p>Work undertaken to meet our objective in the last 2 years are shown below. Numbers in brackets indicate progress against specific objectives from the NPCC wildlife crime strategy:</p> <p>Courses conducted on relevant legal issues held in relation to EPS with Woodland trusts, consultants (in Wales) and Police. (10)</p> <p>Actions have been taken to rejuvenate the group to maximise input, with a problem solving approach, in</p>
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order to raise awareness of responsibilities, with a pro-active approach to prevention and to raise the standards of investigation. Invitations have been sent to other organisations in order to maximise the effectiveness of bat conservation. (1, 10, 14, 19, 22)

The group have thoroughly reviewed the objectives and targets to ensure they are SMART and in line with NPCC strategy and with the aim of identifying whether the points are fit for purpose. Numerous discussion were recorded via email and our aims and objectives are still fit for purpose (2, 3, 4, 7)

A review has commenced into College of Policing aide memoir on Bat related investigations following actions to increase the effectiveness of investigations and prosecutions. The completion date for the review is November 2020. (3, 6, 15)

BCT continue to promote awareness of the UK bat, provide advice online and via their helpline, the BCT have a good social media presence and continue to publish good work and organise and promote event all over the UK. However BCT has served an 'At Risk Notice' of redundancy for the post of wildlife crime prevention officer, the project which has been a free service for 15 years, now has to recover a deficit, and generate funding annually. (5, 6, 10)

Good practice and successful prosecutions, including significant POCA fines, have been shared with group members. (1, 5, 8, 10, 12)

### Update on Actions from your last Priority Delivery Group meeting:

Action	Update
To ensure that membership of the group reflects the need to prevent, enforce and gather intelligence on bat crime.	The PDG membership has been reviewed. CIEEM and CIRIA have been identified as members that will add value to the group.
To provide best possible picture of bat crime across the UK.	Work has been undertaken by BCT and a baseline of bat crime will be taken on 2014 figures. BCT have provided a table of bat crime over the last 5 years.
Regional enforcement groups to consider how best to collate incidents relating to bat crime. (Potentially using key word searches on "Command and control" systems).	Work on-going.
Produce a document for the effective investigation of bat crime.	Current document is under review.

### What are your 3 year targets? Evidence how you are meeting them:

1. Prevention: Increase awareness of bat crime and wildlife crime in the press and media. **The PDG/BCT to generate 2 newsletters per annum and to publish successful convictions/disposals in public media. BCT regularly publish advice, events and good work via their social media platforms.**
2. Intelligence: Improve the flow of intelligence about criminality to inform enforcement action, identify offenders and prevent further criminality. **Improved dissemination of intelligence from NWCU/Forces in order to increase likelihood of successful prosecutions.**
3. Enforcement: Improve timeliness and standard of investigations and prosecutions. **Improved education/processes in the investigation and prosecution of bat crime via aide memoirs, distribution of case studies of successful cases and specialist training for enforcement group members.**

### Wildlife Crime Conservation Advisory Group (WCCAG) Comments:

No comments made by WCCAG.

## CITES Priority Delivery Group

<b>Plan Owner Update:</b>	<b>CITES Priority Delivery Group</b>
<b>Submitted By:</b>	<b>Liz Down, UK Border Force</b>

<b>Your objectives: CITES Priority Delivery Group.</b>
Ivory, Rhino Horn, Reptiles, Medicinal and health supplements, Trade in Raptors, Stony corals, European eel ( <i>Anguilla Anguilla</i> ) and CITES listed Timber.
To tackle the illegal import, export, transshipment of protected species listed in the CITES Appendices and Annexes of the EU Wildlife Trade regulations from non-EU countries. Additionally, to ensure all domestic sales of these protected species are compliant with UK & EU legislation.

<b>How have you progressed your objectives in the last two years?</b>
<p><b>Ivory:</b> Reduction in the number of cases from BF Border referrals, being managed by Police Constabularies due to Covid restrictions including lockdown. Border Operations have recommenced to retest the risk. There are ongoing investigations still being conducted by UK Police Forces in relation to illegal ivory sales/exports. The on-line sales of ivory continue. CPDG members have continued to support the delayed implementation of the Ivory bill and subsequent design of the registration system for exempted items.</p> <p><b>Rhino Horn: <i>Recommendation that this does not remain a priority for the CPDG.</i></b></p> <p><b>Reptiles:</b> Little to report due to the huge drop off in imports due to the significant reduction in flights and airlines concentrating on urgent Covid PPE freight. The legal trade sector is now considered to be largely compliant.</p> <p><b>Recommendation is that reptiles remain a priority but this should be reviewed post EU exit.</b></p> <p><b>Medicinal and Health supplements:</b> New products containing controlled ingredients continue to be identified. E-commerce trade continues to be a major factor in the operation of this illegal trade.</p> <p><b>Following the decisions at the CITES Convention of Parties in August 2019 (COP18), specimens with <i>Aloe ferox</i> listed as an ingredient which are presented as ready for retail sale are now exempt from controls.</b></p> <p><b>Trade in Raptors:</b> Irregularities have been noted with declared values and this is being followed up with HMRC.</p> <p><b>Stony corals:</b> Very few shipments of stony corals have been noted due to the reduction in importations with a huge reduction in the flights from the countries of origin although numbers have started to pick from early September. Compliance in the trade sector remains good with several incidents self-reporting by the trade of unwanted extra corals in their shipment.</p> <p><b>European Eel (<i>Anguilla Anguilla</i>):</b> Operations ongoing into 2021 bringing together a wide group of enforcement partners with the samples being sent for DNA testing.</p> <p><b>The impact of EU Exit on the current legal <i>Anguilla anguilla</i> trade will need to be closely monitored.</b></p> <p><b>CITES LISTED TIMBER:</b> Following the decision made at CoP18 and the adoption of a new annotation, musical instruments, musical instrument parts and shipments less than 10kgs in weight will be exempt from controls.</p>

<b>Update on Actions from your last Priority Delivery Group meeting:</b>	
Action	Update
Identify funding stream for UK Raptor DNA markers	Funding provided by DEFRA.
Conduct intelligence profile on mammal skulls	Disseminated by the NWCU at last meeting.
Identify new representative from Police Scotland	Completed & attended last meeting
Collate list of European reptile & parrot shows	Ongoing
Identify new representative from the CPS	Completed & attended last meeting
New organigrams for CPDG attendees to be provided	Ongoing

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**What are your 3 year targets? Evidence how you are meeting them:**

To monitor the enforcement response to the UK national CITES priorities, ensuring they are fit for purpose following consultation with the WCCAG.

To promote increased collaboration between enforcement partners on training and operational issues.

**Other Issues:**

The end of the Transition period following the UK exit from EU is only two months away. As there is still no agreement with the EUMS, all priority areas are in a state of flux. The EU trade in reptiles would be considered a risk as it moves from free movement to a regime of control.

EU Exit planning has seen the designation of 29 ports for the movement of CITES goods, although there is still no seaport designated in Scotland or North East England. The plans for trade in CITES specimens between the UK and N.I. and vice versa are still being finalised. A new control regime has been designed for the seizure of goods at non-designated ports. To date almost 1250 BF officers have received CITES awareness training covering permits and enforcement.

Multi agency activity during the latest of the INTERPOL "Thunder" operations Op Thunder 2020 resulted in numerous seizures at the border with UK Police officers working with Border Force. Full details will be released at a media event in early November.

Preparatory work is already being undertaken for the 2021 European Eel operations with national and international partners.

BF are working with Heathrow Airport Limited on Project Seeker which is seeking to utilise Artificial Intelligence and the new 3D X-ray systems to increase the ability to detect CITES and EUWTR listed derivative items in passengers' baggage. Trials are planned for December 2020.

BF training both national and International has been scaled back due to COVID lockdown, although some 250 officers have received CITES EU Exit and enforcement training via Skype during this period.

The CITES CPDG was able to hold one face-to-face meeting, hosted by the Metropolitan Police Wildlife Unit, and a virtual meeting during lockdown.

**Wildlife Crime Conservation Advisory Group (WCCAG) Comments:**

No comments made by WCCAG.



## **Cyber Enabled Wildlife Crime Priority Delivery Group**

<b>Plan Owner Update:</b>	<b>Cyber Enabled Wildlife Crime Priority Delivery Group</b>
<b>Submitted By:</b>	<b>NWCU</b>

### **Your objectives:**

#### **Strategic Aim**

To facilitate collaboration between enforcement agencies, government departments, non-government organisations and civil society organisations to deliver a joined up, cohesive, pro-active approach to identifying and tackling Cyber Enabled Wildlife Crime. Cyber Enabled wildlife crime will include (though not exclusively):

- Illegal Wildlife Trade through internet sales platforms (CITES priority, EPS species sales including Bat Persecution priority)
- Use of personal internet profiles to promote unlawful activities such as hare coursing, deer poaching, fish poaching and badger persecution (Poaching priority, Badger persecution priority)
- Use of personal or commercial internet profiles which promote illegal items and encourage communication in relation to illegal wildlife trade (CITES priority)
- The use of software or online areas (such as forums, applications, etc.) where illegal activities can be promoted or facilitated through communication. (Badger Persecution priority, CITES priority, Poaching priority, Raptor Persecution priority)
- Use of encrypted communication or messaging services to facilitate illegal wildlife crime, particularly trade or events. (All priorities)

#### **Strategic Objectives**

The strategic objectives of the Cyber Enabled Wildlife Crime PDG are to:

1. Raise the profile and increase awareness of cyber enabled wildlife crime via the public, partners and law enforcement agencies through a clear partnership communication plan
2. Share best practice between group members and non-group members
3. Share proposed future work streams / projects to reduce duplication and aid learning
4. Identify and provide evidence for changes to legislation and to work with partners to deliver meaningful change
5. Increase intelligence sharing between stakeholders with a focus on quality
6. Identify processes for submitting intelligence and reporting incidents
7. Coordinate national and international cross border responses to cyber enabled wildlife crime
8. Where relevant, tackle Organised Crime Groups linked to cyber enabled wildlife crime, by building strong relationships with Regional Organised Crime Units and the National Wildlife Crime Unit
9. Identify opportunities to promote training and education for partners and the public

Each of these strategic objectives will provide focus and direction for the group, enabling them to deliver against the above Strategic Aim and a number of the objectives contained within the NPCC National Wildlife Crime Policing Strategy.

### **How have you progressed your objectives in the last two years?**

1. Raise the profile and increase awareness of cyber enabled wildlife crime via the public, partners and law enforcement agencies through a clear partnership communication plan:
  - A clear partnership communication plan is being drafted via the PIE Leads.
  - Wildlife Crime has been added as a drop down selection on the Crimestoppers reporting form on their website.
  - NWCU are engaging with Action Fraud regarding cyber fraud which crosses over with wildlife crime (i.e. fraudulent CITES adverts).
  - NWCU have engaged with National Food Crime Unit, including the sharing of intelligence and cyber enabled wildlife crime that crosses over to food crime (e.g. poached meat for sale online).
  - National intelligence operation being looked at to measure cyber enabled wildlife crime through intelligence.

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This will be in partnership with Crimestoppers and media will be considered for public awareness.

- Guidance is being drafted between NWCUC, Repta and OATA which is aimed at hobbyists around the legalities of purchasing CITES listed derivatives to use in their chosen hobby.
2. Share best practice between group members and non-group members:
    - This is done via the Wildlife Crime Group on the ICT Knowledge Hub.
    - IFAW & University of Kent have discussed the sharing of software tools. University of Kent is also looking at ways other software tools may be of use for enforcement.
    - All members have shared their organisations methodology with the goal of creating a standardised SOP for collecting information online for all organisations to utilise, as well as retaining this for use with other organisations who wish to utilise this function at a future date.
  3. Share proposed future work streams / projects to reduce duplication and aid learning:
    - Testing of academic volunteers within a cyber enabled wildlife crime operation is currently ongoing and any successes will be distributed to the group and wider policing community.
  4. Identify and provide evidence for changes to legislation and to work with partners to deliver meaningful change:
    - Not yet progressed.
  5. Increase intelligence sharing between stakeholders with a focus on quality:
    - Draft guidance and a reporting form template has been drafted for utilising Crimestoppers to submit information where organisations do not have intelligence units.
    - National operational name agreed through group which will measure cyber enabled wildlife crime through intelligence. Operation was to be launched by NWCUC at the start of the year but has been delayed due to absences and Covid-19.
  6. Identify processes for submitting intelligence and reporting incidents:
    - Draft Guidance and a reporting form written for organisations with no intelligence function to submit information through Crimestoppers.
    - Working alongside the NPCC to push for a national ISA which would enable sharing of information with partner organisations and all police forces and units in relation to wildlife crime.
  7. Where relevant, tackle Organised Crime Groups linked to cyber enabled wildlife crime, by building strong relationships with Regional Organised Crime Units and the National Wildlife Crime Unit:
    - Enforcement PIE Lead is constructing an enforcement sub group with links to the ROCU's. Relevant attendees are being identified.
    - Identifying processes for submitting intelligence and reporting incidents via guidance.
  8. Identify opportunities to promote training and education for partners and the public:
    - Potential training opportunities are being gathered from all group members and beyond. Details will be collated and shared on the ICT Knowledge Hub, or distributed wider, as appropriate.

### How have you progressed the objectives in the NPCC action plan for Wildlife Crime?

#### **Adopt a clear philosophy based upon intelligence led and evidence based approaches, inclusive partnership, infrastructure that drives improvement, prioritisation against greatest risk, effective prevention, engagement and communication**

- Sharing best practice between group members and non-group members via the ICT Knowledge Hub.
- Increase intelligence sharing between stakeholders with a focus on quality. Draft guidance and a reporting form template has been drafted for utilising Crimestoppers to submit information where organisations do not have intelligence units.
- All members have shared their organisations methodology with the goal of creating a standardised SOP for collecting information online for all organisations to utilise, as well as retaining this for use with other organisations who wish to utilise this function at a future date.

#### **Develop plans at the strategic, regional, and local levels**

- National operational name agreed through group which will measure cyber enabled wildlife crime through intelligence.

**Recognise and plan for both operational and organisational requirements**

- Identifying a process for submitting both intelligence and information, including through the use of Crimestoppers.

**Agree priorities and support those through sound infrastructure**

- Priorities, targets and objectives will be identified via the PIE Leads and group members.

**Incrementally build on successes which are appropriately resourced, tested and assessed for benefits**

- Sharing best practice between group members and non-group members via the ICT Knowledge Hub
- IFAW & University of Kent have discussed the sharing of software tools. University of Kent is also looking at ways other software tools may be of use for enforcement.
- All members have shared their organisations methodology with the goal of creating a standardised SOP for collecting information online for all organisations to utilise, as well as retaining this for use with other organisations who wish to utilise this function at a future date.

**Raise the profile of wildlife crime**

- Raising the profile and increasing awareness of cyber enabled wildlife crime via the public, partners and law enforcement agencies through a clear partnership communication plan which will be drafted.
- Wildlife Crime has been added as a drop down selection on the Crimestoppers reporting form on their website.
- NWCUC are engaging with Action Fraud regarding cyber fraud which crosses over with wildlife crime (i.e. fraudulent CITES adverts).
- NWCUC have engaged with National Food Crime Unit, including the sharing of intelligence and cyber enabled wildlife crime that crosses over to food crime (e.g. poached meat for sale online).
- National intelligence operation being looked at to measure cyber enabled wildlife crime through intelligence. This will be in partnership with Crimestoppers and media will be considered for public awareness.
- Guidance is being drafted between NWCUC, Repta and OATA which is aimed at hobbyists around the legalities of purchasing CITES listed derivatives to use in their chosen hobby.

**Set objectives to tackle these wildlife crimes**

- P.I.E Leads convened to formulate a draft delivery plan and a draft prevention strategy.

**Utilise effective problem solving**

- University of Kent has circulated example MSc research papers on wildlife cyber-crime and is incorporating ideas from the group to present as ideas to current MSc students.

**Develop strong links with all Regional Organised Crime Units (ROCU) through a regional structure to tackle Organised Crime Groups (OCG) causing significant harm to wildlife**

- Enforcement PIE Lead is constructing an enforcement sub group with links to the ROCU's. Relevant attendees are being identified.

**Increase awareness via partners, the public and law enforcement agencies**

- Raise the profile and increase awareness of cyber enabled wildlife crime via the public, partners and law enforcement agencies through a clear partnership communication plan which will be drafted.
- ICT Knowledge Hub area has been created to share best practice and methodologies.

**Increase developmental intelligence sharing between stakeholders with a focus on quality**

- NWCUC is creating guidance detailing processes for quality intelligence that is received and to look at a potential reporting form for reporting of online wildlife crime information in a suitable manner to feed through Crimestoppers.

**Establish senior officer leads for all police forces in tackling Wildlife Crime and raising internal police awareness**

- The enforcement sub group, once finalised, will raise awareness of cyber enabled wildlife crime within senior officers in police forces.

**Train and develop the understanding of wildlife crime for members of the Crown Prosecution Service and courts to improve convictions and deliver proportionate sentencing**

- CPS have a representative who attends the meeting to develop understanding of cyber enabled wildlife crime.

**Focus on online and dark-web wildlife crime**

- Raise the profile and increase awareness of cyber enabled wildlife crime via the public, partners and law enforcement agencies through a clear partnership communication plan.
- Previous analysis into wildlife crime on the dark web are available to organisations as appropriate accordingly to their security markings. Non restricted products will be available on the ICT Knowledge Hub.

**Develop academic engagement**

- Opportunities are being identified to promote training and education for partners and the public.
- University of Kent has circulated example MSc research papers on wildlife cyber-crime and is incorporating ideas from the group to present as ideas to current students.
- IFAW & University of Kent have discussed the sharing of software tools.
- University of Kent is participating in a trial with Police Scotland in terms of providing volunteer open source support as part of a yearlong operation.

**Develop a clear communication plan**

- A clear communication plan will be drafted amongst the PIE Leads for consideration within the wider group.

**Strengthen the approach to tackling Organised Crime Groups**

- Enforcement PIE Lead is constructing an enforcement sub group with links to the ROCU's. Relevant attendees are being identified.
- Identifying processes for submitting intelligence and reporting incidents via guidance.

**What are your 3 year targets? Evidence how you are meeting them:**

3 year targets are currently being considered by the PIE leads as part of the Prevention, Intelligence and Enforcement Strategies. The Prevention Strategy is currently in draft form.

**Wildlife Crime Conservation Advisory Group (WCCAG) Comments:**

No comments made by WCCAG.

## Freshwater Pearl Mussel Priority Delivery Group

<b>Plan Owner Update:</b>	<b>Freshwater Pearl Mussel Priority Delivery Group</b>
<b>Submitted By:</b>	<b>Iain Sime, NatureScot</b>

### Your objectives: FWPM Priority Delivery Group

To raise awareness of the threat posed by criminality and help communities in hotspots to prevent criminality and identify offenders.

### How have you progressed your objectives in the last two years?

Over the last two years, but particularly in 2019, the PDG has been successful in having our work on awareness raising on national media and online. This has included news following incidents, as well as general awareness raising about evidence and suspicious activity.

In two hotspot areas, CCTV and deterrent signage has been maintained since initially being erected during 2018. During 2020 this was extended to a total of five areas:

- Further deterrent signage erected.
- CCTV and signage installed by Forest & Land Scotland following a pearl fishing incident near their land.
- Deterrent signage installed at a hotspot on the A82, in agreement with Transport Scotland.

NatureScot has also just recruited a graduate placement for 12 months (from Oct/Nov 2020) working on addressing threats to pearl mussel populations on the west coast of Scotland. The graduate will work on a wide range of pressures, including wildlife crime. This follows an earlier graduate placement, who helped raise awareness of wildlife crime, on the River Spey and completed their work during 2019.

An impressive investigation by Police Scotland, following an incident on the River Spey during 2018, resulted in the case being taken to court during 2020. As the pearls recovered during the investigation were accepted as being old then no further action was taken. But the investigation demonstrated good use of forensics and was included as a case study within the 2020 Strategic Assessment.

Since 2018, when an unprecedented drought affected most rivers in Scotland, members of the PDG have highlighted particularly vulnerable pearl mussel populations to SEPA – who regulate abstractions. This has resulted in increased awareness and reporting of potential incidents, particularly during periods of low flow.

### How have you progressed the objectives in the NPCC action plan for Wildlife Crime?

The work of the PDG helps progress many of the objectives in the NPCC action plan for wildlife crime, primarily those around awareness raising (which is the key objective for the pearl mussel PDG) and about taking a plan based approach. In particular NPCC objectives 6, 7, and 10. The FWPM PDG does not significantly contribute in an active way to those objectives that related to organised crime and/or international trade as earlier work by NWCUC (e.g. Operation Caesar) has shown no evidence of organised crime or active/significant international trade in freshwater pearls from UK rivers.

### What are your 3 year targets? Evidence how you are meeting them:

The PDG has maintained the 3 year targets as they remain directly relevant to our work (targets in bold)

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1. Prevention: Increase awareness of freshwater pearl mussels and wildlife crime in the press and media. **The work of the PDG to generate >3 news releases that feature in local and national media per annum.**

During 2019, the PDG's work featured in 2 news releases and a single news release in 2020. They included partner organisations and featured on a surprising array of press, from national radio and newspapers, to local papers from Irvine (Ayrshire) to Bolton and Aberdeenshire. We decided not to highlight some other incidents due to local sensitivities. There was undoubtedly a reduced number of opportunities for releases during the lockdown and periods of restricted public movements in 2020, however pearl mussels did feature in blogs and social media posts (e.g. NatureScot's 'Species of the Month' in March 2020).

2. Intelligence: Improve the flow of intelligence about criminality to inform enforcement action, identify offenders and prevent further criminality. **More than 75% of suspected crimes to be reported directly to the police.**

During 2019 and 2020, all suspected criminal activity was reported directly to the police.

3. Enforcement: **Over 3 years from 2019, at least 8 pro-active operations to be initiated and actioned by the police, in collaboration with key partners.**

During 2019, two pro-active patrols/operations have been led by the police, in collaboration with fishery boards/bailiffs.

### Wildlife Crime Conservation Advisory Group (WCCAG) Comments:

No comments made by WCCAG.

## Poaching Priority Delivery Group – England & Wales

Plan Owner Update:	England and Wales Poaching Priority Delivery Group
Submitted By:	Glynn Evans, BASC

**Your objectives: Poaching Priority Delivery Group – England & Wales**

To increase the level of awareness of poaching and hare coursing as serious wildlife crimes and build better trust and relationships between the law enforcement agencies and local communities, both leading to increased prevention activity, intelligence flows and enforcement success.

**How have you progressed your objectives in the last two years?**

Since 2019 we have set specific 3-year targets with a detailed delivery plan to meet these. Please see below.

All members of the PPDG are required to actively engage to progress the delivery plan and wider work of the PPDG.

**How have you progressed the objectives in the NPCC action plan for Wildlife Crime?**

The PPDG delivery plan is aligned with the NPCC National Wildlife Crime Policing Strategy.

**What are your 3 year targets? Evidence how you are meeting them:**

3-year targets:

- A consistent approach, following established best practice in tackling poaching and hare coursing across England & Wales.
- A measurable reduction in poaching and hare coursing.
- Advice on methods readily available to help deter and prevent poaching and hare coursing.
- Measurable increase in awareness and recognition of the issues associated with poaching and hare coursing.

Underneath these 3-year targets there is a delivery plan with defined work streams and specific objectives.

This plan is regularly reviewed and following the most recent meeting of the PPDG (13/10/20) it is currently being updated and developed to reflect completed work streams.

In addition to standing actions such as the production of the PPDG's biannual newsletter the following actions (from the plan) have been completed:

- Production of MG15 template forms - *these forms are now being used widely, by a number of forces.*
- Production of a report detailing the current level of sentencing/penalties- *this is being used to identify potential issues and develop future work streams.*
- Review of existing legislation relevant to hare coursing and poaching, with a view to formulating a proposal for legislative change- *specific members of the PPDG are taking this forward and requests have been made to the Government.*

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- Development and dissemination of a national policing approach to hare coursing *is now being widely adopted and ongoing. The PPDG will continue to provide support.*
- Current information and advice produced by each organisation and individual forces has been collated and reviewed- *This will enable future development to aid the sharing of best practice advice and guidance.*

**Other Issues:**

A number of work areas have been delayed because of Covid 19.

**Wildlife Crime Conservation Advisory Group (WCCAG) Comments:**

No comments made by WCCAG.



## Poaching Priority Delivery Group – Scotland

<b>Plan Owner Update:</b>	<b>PAW Scotland Poaching &amp; Coursing Priority Delivery Group</b>
<b>Submitted By:</b>	<b>John Bruce, British Deer Society</b>

<b>Your objectives: Poaching Priority Delivery Group - Scotland</b>
“To build a greater level of public awareness of poaching and coursing as serious wildlife crime, to continue to build working relations, communications and information share between all agencies and organisations and rural communities in order to increase prevention activity and enforcement.”

<b>How have you progressed your objectives in the last two years?</b>
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***To build greater level of public awareness:***

- PAW Scotland presence at Royal Highland Show 2019, Game Fair 2019 and numerous local shows.
- Fisheries Management Scotland provided information regarding the status of pink salmon and what to do if one is landed.
- Several media articles regarding hare coursing, deer and salmon poaching.

***To continue building working relations, communications and information sharing:***

- Incident notebooks, more than 1,500 issued.
- Information leaflet on poaching and freshwater pearl mussel crime to be re-distributed to identified organisations.
- Fisheries Management Scotland Enforcement Conference to be held in December 2019.
- Salmon poaching training provided by Fisheries Management Scotland to COPFS staff and Police officers in spring 2019.
- NatureScot ran a Sharing Good Practice event on Forestry Wildlife Crime in October 2019 with a workshop covering deer issues and crime.
- Engagement in the MoRiLE assessment by the sector representatives.

***To increase prevention activity and enforcement:***

- Venison dealer licence holders have been mapped by the NWCU to show where gaps exist.
- Police Scotland and SNH provided training to Police officers on deer crime in November 2019 ahead of planned venison dealer licence checks.
- Joint Police and NatureScot visits to licensed venison dealers have been undertaken.
- NatureScot database of registered “Fit and Competent” deer managers made available to Police Scotland.
- Operation Lepus (to counter hare coursing) was run by Police Scotland during October 2019.
- Closer working with Rural Crime policing over shared issues (e.g. hare coursing).
- Over 30 new Wildlife Crime Officers are being recruited and trained.
- Multi agency operations undertaken on hare coursing involving Police, Council staff, NFUS and the Civil Nuclear Constabulary.
- Operation Wingspan will be delivered over a twelve month period focusing on the wildlife crime priorities, poaching being one of them.
- A wildlife crime E-Learning package is being developed.

<b>Wildlife Crime Conservation Advisory Group (WCCAG) Comments:</b>
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No comments made by WCCAG.
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## Raptor Persecution Priority Delivery Group – England & Wales

<b>Plan Owner Update:</b>	<b>Raptor Persecution Priority Delivery Group</b>
<b>Submitted By:</b>	<b>Inspector Matthew Hagen, North Yorkshire Police</b>

### Your objectives: Raptor Persecution Priority Delivery Group – England & Wales

The agreed Raptor PDDG objectives are listed here:

#### **Aim**

To reduce the scale and impact of all raptor persecution\* in England and Wales.

#### **Strategic Objectives**

These will be tracked through the RPPDG Tactical Action Plan and are:

1. To increase awareness of raptor persecution
2. To prevent people from becoming involved in raptor persecution
3. To develop / identify and communicate best practice on preventing raptor persecution
4. To promote intelligence-sharing
5. To promote a coordinated response to raptor persecution in England & Wales and, where relevant Scotland and Northern Ireland
6. To promote enforcement opportunities against those identified as being involved in persecution offences
7. To identify, gather and analyse appropriate evidence to support policy development

\*Persecution is to include: - Shooting, poisoning, egg theft, chick theft, trapping, taking from the wild and nest disturbance/destruction of raptors (including attempts to commit these offences).

### How have you progressed your objectives in the last two years?

National launch of Operation Owl across weekend of 21st & 22nd September 2019. 27 Police forces taking part with support from partner agencies, NPCC, Defra, Home Office and Police Scotland. Social media “reach” of over 7.5 million. 2020 event to be planned following the success. Operation Owl website received over 1000 new visits across the weekend.

In February 2020 the Welsh Government (plus Minister) hosted the first Wales Raptor Day to discuss how to increase public awareness of raptor persecution in Wales and to seek support for ongoing work of prevention, intelligence gathering and enforcement.

Media interviews, presentations and events attended highlighting the work of PDG and Op Owl, including Game Fair & Bird Fair. Hen Harrier Day 2019 attend by up to 2000 people.

Continued support to White-tailed Eagle release on Isle of Wight.

Engagement with HSE and Defra over WIIS Scheme.

Operation Owl 2020 action postponed due to Covid 19. Materials and comms plan (funded by Defra and Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority) ready for future activity when possible. In Sept 2020, a virtual campaign on social media was ran. 34 forces took part by raising awareness of Op Owl and bird of prey persecution on social media accounts and via force comms teams.

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Raptor crime investigation seminar for WCOs hosted at North Yorkshire Police HQ tentatively planned for next year when possible.

Zero tolerance pledge on raptor persecution signed by the British Association for Shooting and Conservation (BASC), Countryside Alliance (CA), Moorland Association (MA), National Gamekeepers' Organisation (NGO) and the Country Land and Business Association (CLA).

NE recorded the best Hen Harrier breeding season in 2020 since the recovery project began in 2002, with 24 breeding attempts, of which 19 were successful fledging a total of 60 chicks.

Persecution maps covering persecution incidents (2016-19) for E&W are being prepared by NWCUC.

### **How have you progressed the objectives in the NPCC action plan for Wildlife Crime?**

Widespread awareness raising of raptor crime through Op Owl website and days of action, national and regional events (see above).

Tactical delivery plan in place with regularly reviewed objectives.

Enforcement Sub-Group now in place with regional representation. Work ongoing within this group to finalise APP guidance for College of Policing.

Good level of engagement of most RPPDG members in raising profile of raptor persecution and promoting action to tackle crime (through comms, awareness days and training).

Widespread regional police engagement and support across England & Wales through Op Owl.

### **What are your 3 year targets? Evidence how you are meeting them:**

The PDG has now agreed its Prevention, Intelligence & Enforcement Delivery Plan and this will form the basis of the three year plan for the PDG to focus on.

The overarching target of the group is to improve the conservation status of the 6 key raptor species, but have widened the remit to include prevention of all raptor persecution.

See above for evidence.

### **Other Issues:**

RPPDG temporarily being chaired by Inspector Matthew Hagan of North Yorkshire Police. Future arrangements for chairmanship to be confirmed.

### **Wildlife Crime Conservation Advisory Group (WCCAG) Comments:**

No comments made by WCCAG.

## Scottish Raptor Persecution Priority Delivery Group

<b>Plan Owner Update:</b>	<b>Scottish Raptor Persecution Priority Delivery Group</b>
<b>Submitted By:</b>	<b>DCS Gary Cunningham, Police Scotland</b>

<b>Your objectives: Raptor Persecution Priority Delivery Group - Scotland</b>
Raise community trust and awareness to facilitate intelligence and incident reporting, leading to increased prevention and enforcement activity relating to Raptor Persecution.

<b>How have you progressed your objectives in the last two years?</b>
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<p><b>2019</b></p> <p><b>Raising trust and awareness</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2019 saw increased and positive engagement with land managers, Scottish Land and Estates and Scottish Gamekeepers Association, data tag holders and other key partners. This has proved to be beneficial in terms of highlighting key issues for all parties, raising trust with all organisations and individuals and diminishing any perception of organisational bias.</li> <li>• Much work has been done to gain a better understanding of satellite tagging and its data. A training event was held early in 2019 and delivered key and important information to better equip police officers. It was well attended and generated much discussion.</li> <li>• Police Scotland have secured a Victim Recovery (VR) dog for Wildlife Crime from Operational Support Division. This is a major enhancement to Police Scotland's strength and commitment to Wildlife Crime. This resource has obvious positive implications for land searches, enhancing chances of evidence recovery and seizure. The VR dog also helps to raise public awareness and perception of wildlife crime as well as being an effective crime prevention tool.</li> <li>• Police Scotland recognise the importance of engaging all available experts in response to raptor related incidents and routinely hold Major Incident Advisory Group (MIAG) meetings and will continue to do so in order to investigate matters thoroughly, intelligently and collaboratively.</li> <li>• Police and NWCU have arranged visits to Estates causing concern through an increase in raptor incidents in 2019. It is envisaged that visits will ensure delivery of crime prevention messages and encourage better working practices.</li> <li>• A Forestry and Woodland Crime Sharing Good Practice Event was jointly delivered by NatureScot, Police and NWCU raising awareness of forestry crime (including raptors) to forest managers / felling companies.</li> </ul> <p><b>Prevention / Enforcement activity</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Police Scotland was an active participant in Op OWL in 2019. A number of public engagement events were held across Scotland involving key partners. A number of officers engaged in targeted patrols in hot spot areas and released social media in show of support. A large number of Op OWL leaflets and flyers were distributed.</li> <li>• Police Scotland continue to support the South of Scotland Golden Eagles project and <i>Heads Up for Harriers</i> alongside investigations and searches to recover evidence of crimes against raptors. In 2019, 28 estates participated in <i>Heads Up for Harriers</i>, with eight successful nests fledging 26 young. Two estates had nests for the first time in many years.</li> <li>• Police Scotland continue to assist NatureScot in consideration of imposing General Licence restrictions on estates causing concern and will continue to do so.</li> </ul> <p><b>2020</b></p> <p><b>Raising trust and awareness</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Funding secured to refurbish the Police Scotland wildlife crime trailer for use at shows, events and schools.</li> <li>• A Wildlife Crime Investigators course has been developed, funded by the PAW funding group. It has been</li> </ul>
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delivered once with a further course arranged for December. It is the intention that this course shall be delivered biannually. This is a week long course delivered at the Scottish Police College, aimed at Wildlife Crime Officers, focusing on investigative techniques including interviewing and forensics.

### Prevention / Enforcement activity

- 28 estates participated in *Heads Up For Harriers* in 2020 but only 14 were monitored due to coronavirus restrictions, with eight successful nests fledging 25 young.
- The '*Heads Up for Harriers – Image Analysis 2015-2019*' NatureScot Commissioned Report is due to be published in October 2020. Over 2 million nest camera images analysed to identify key factors in promoting nesting success including land use, food provisioning, and age of parent birds.
- Operation Wingspan is a Wildlife Crime operation, funded by the PAW funding group. It shall be delivered across Scotland over a twelve month period commencing 1<sup>st</sup> October 2020. This operation shall focus on each of the UK Wildlife Crime priorities in turn. A number of activities are planned for each priority under the headings: prevention, intervention, enforcement. The raptor persecution phase is scheduled for August and September 2021. A communications strategy has been implemented which will include a social media toolkit which will be provided to partners to promote via their social media channels if they see fit.
- An Evidence Gathering Protocol was established to ensure best practice is followed from the initial reporting stage and throughout the investigation. This protocol is intended for members of organisations who actively engage in the monitoring of raptors and who do not have a wildlife crime enforcement role. It is members of these organisations who are most likely to encounter victims of raptor persecution and provides simple instruction with regards to securing best evidence, safety precautions and information gathering to assist Police investigation.
- A Satellite Tracking Protocol was introduced by Police Scotland along with partner agencies to ensure all relevant information is captured and passed to Police Scotland to establish potential criminality. This protocol provides guidance for people actively involved in satellite tracking raptors in Scotland to provide best evidence and information from initial action throughout any potential investigation and includes guidance on media strategy.
- NatureScot, CNPA are working together with the BTO to develop a new sat tag for golden eagles to provide an immediate fix upon death.
- Four thermal imaging devices have been procured by NatureScot for use by Police Scotland in operations.

### How have you progressed the objectives in the NPCC action plan for Wildlife Crime?

#### Operation Wingspan

- Operation Wingspan is a Wildlife Crime operation that shall be delivered across Scotland over a twelve month period commencing 1<sup>st</sup> October 2020. This operation shall focus on each of the UK Wildlife Crime priorities in turn. A number of activities are planned for each priority under the headings: prevention, intervention, enforcement.
- This operation is being delivered with key partners.
- Operation Wingspan shall compliment other national / international operations; the CITES phase (including native raptor species) shall run concurrently with Operation Thunder.
- A communications strategy has been implemented including a social media toolkit including digital assets shall be provided to all Police Scotland territorial divisions and partners for promotion on their respective platforms. Further to this social media articles shall be published, web content is being refreshed and a poster campaign is being delivered.
- To enable officers to enforce offences under terms of the *Control of Trade in Endangered Species Regulations 2018* the relevant charge codes have been added to the various crime recording systems utilised across the force area.
- Crime Prevention surveys have been offered and are being delivered to organisations that house endangered species (including native raptor species) including zoos, safari parks and museums.

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### General

- A Wildlife Crime Investigators course has been developed. It has been delivered once with a further course arranged for December 2020. It is the intention that this course shall be delivered biannually. This is a week long course delivered at the Scottish Police College, aimed at Wildlife Crime Officers, focussing on investigative techniques including interviewing and forensics.
- An E-Learning Wildlife Crime package has been approved at executive level and is currently under construction. This package is aimed at first responders, the modules of which address each of the NPCC priorities. This package shall be accessible via electronic mobile devices which are standard issue to Police Scotland Officers.
- Electronic guidance has been published, again aimed at first responders, focussing on each of the NPCC priorities. This guidance has been promoted via the force intranet.
- Police Scotland are also working closely with NWCU to establish enforcement / intelligence gathering opportunities concerning online trade in endangered species and online forums in relation to other forms of Wildlife Crime.
- A Continuous Professional Development event was delivered for Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service staff by Police Scotland / NWCU to raise awareness of Wildlife Crime. Further to this regular COPFS / WCO forums are held in order to discuss best practise.
- Internal and external reporting processes are being developed which involves amending practises employed by Area Control Rooms and providing guidance and support to them.
- An Information Sharing Protocol between Police Scotland and SSPCA is currently being developed.

### What are your 3 year targets? Evidence how you are meeting them:

No targets have been set. These will be set at the next meeting.

### Other Issues:

PC Gavin Ross has been selected to be seconded from Police Scotland to NWCU as Investigative Support Officer for Scotland. He will commence in post on 30<sup>th</sup> November 2020.

### Wildlife Crime Conservation Advisory Group (WCCAG) Comments:

No comments made by WCCAG.