



# SUFFOLK CONSTABULARY

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ALASTAIR McWHIRTER QPM MA  
Chief Constable

[REDACTED]  
13 May 2005

Dear [REDACTED]

## POLICING THE HUNTING BAN

Thank you for your letter of 11 April about our plans to enforce the Hunting Act 2004. You are very concerned about a news report which suggests that the police would not be interested in following up allegations of illegal hunting activity made by 'vigilante' or 'self appointed' hunt monitors.

This was totally erroneously reported. We are using information from any witness to illegal hunting in order to enforce the law. This has always been our position. I believe the report you may have seen was taken from a letter which I sent to a member of the public who supports hunting. A sentence referring to those who might wish to physically disrupt drag hunting or other legal activities has been quoted as if applying to those who wish to monitor illegal activity.

I hope I have clarified that my comments were taken out of context and it was not my intention to offend anyone. The labels 'vigilante' and 'self appointed' monitors were used by the original correspondent and not by myself.

You have also suggested that you feel it necessary to monitor illegal hunting because of Police indifference. I am very sorry if you feel this to be the case. Although I cannot speak for other Chief Constables, in Suffolk we take any illegal activity very seriously, including illegal hunting. Therefore, we do all we can to police such events appropriately with the resources we have available.

Finally, you have asked how my comments are to be understood in the light of a statement made by Assistant Chief Constable Nigel Yeo. As I hope I have made clear the comments to which you refer were misunderstood and taken out of context and, in fact, I fully support the statement made by ACC Nigel Yeo.

Once again, I apologise for any misunderstanding or confusion. Please let me know if you require further information.

Yours sincerely

*Alastair McWhirter*

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