

Welsh Biodiversity Partnership - wildlife crime enforcement group.

Terms of reference.

Aim

In order to assist in the delivery of the Welsh Assembly Governments environment and biodiversity strategies the group aims to encourage compliance with wildlife crime legislation in Wales through the Welsh Biodiversity Partnership and the UK Partnership for Action against Wildlife Crime (PAW)

Objectives

To raise awareness of wildlife crime* and legislation with the public through appropriate publicity and other initiatives.

- To raise awareness of wildlife crime issues with relevant agencies and the judiciary through training development and provision of practical advice and other initiatives.
- To establish a network of contacts throughout Wales to provide advice information and expertise in order to encourage compliance and ensure compliance with wildlife crime legislation.
- To enable interoperability between all agencies engaged in the enforcement of wildlife crime.
- To produce a wildlife crime strategy.
- To contribute to the collation of wildlife crime information for submission to the National Wildlife Crime Unit in compliance with relevant data protection legislation.
- To identify and seek amendments to existing legislation with the specific aim of improving enforcement.
- To provide strategic guidance and support to enforcement agencies in Wales in relation to the skills and management of their staff tasked with preventing and investigating wildlife crime.

Group Composition

The group will consist of representatives of PAW partner organisations in Wales along with other organisations who have an interest in seeking the compliance and enforcement of wildlife crime. The chair reserves the right to refuse entrance to any organisation or individual which may be seen as being restrictive. The size of the group does however need to be workable and practical. The addition of new members to the group must be agreed by all members of the group present. Representatives will be expected to cascade information from the group and actively seek the views of the organisation on issues raised. They will also bring identified issues to the group for discussion and any ideas or proposals that would enhance the enforcement effort.

Logistics and information

The group should meet prior to meetings of the Welsh Biodiversity Partnership leaving sufficient time for reports to be submitted to the steering group. The group will also submit reports to the PAW steering group.

The group will annually elect a chair. Meeting venues, times and dates to be agreed on an annual basis. Regard to be given to the feasibility of video and telephone conferencing.

Terms of reference are to be reviewed on an annual basis.

Confidentiality

Some discussions and correspondence which may be undertaken in the course of the groups work (both formal and informal) may be confidential in nature as they may relate to ongoing law enforcement activities, information of a commercially valuable nature, or information that is sensitive for government purposes etc. Group members must respect the confidence of such information. All information divulged and documented remains confidential until otherwise stated. Information acquired is for the purposes of the group only and should not be divulged elsewhere without the prior consent and agreement of the group. The use of information acquired, for commercial purposes is prohibited. Any information divulged on the works of any individual or organisation participating in the group is confidential and for the groups use only. Use of such information for gain of any kind be it commercial competition or otherwise is completely prohibited. All parties enter into the work of the group in good faith and free of charge.

*The group has adopted the definition of wildlife crime suggested in the Welsh Assembly Governments review of the prevention and investigation of wildlife crime in Wales. "Criminal Offences committed in the UK that impact on global biodiversity."