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Pencadlys yr Heddlu | Police Headquarters
3ydd o Mehefin | of September 2026

Dear Mr Andrew Gilruth.

I write to you on behalf of Deputy Chief Constable Nigel Harrison in response to your letter dated the 14th of August 2026.

Firstly, I would like to acknowledge your correspondence and points raised. I must however stress, some of these points have more context than projected within your letter.

On the 4th of September 2025, during the meeting between DCC Harrison, Mr James Lamberton, yourself and CI Lacks-Kelly a number of actions were put in place.

One action being the 4P plan be forwarded to yourself and a request you acknowledge the terms of reference of the working group and show what area of the 4P plan you can support. Whilst this has been sent, no response has been received from yourself around this despite follow up emails.

A further action was set for a meeting to be arranged between yourself and CI Lacks-Kelly. Inspector Joe Dunn wrote to you in December 2025 requesting your availability to facilitate this meeting. This was not responded to until a follow up email in May 2026. Inspector Dunn had since moved roles hence the request coming to me. Unfortunately, I wasn't aware of the background, and whilst reviewing the previous emails, consulting key people involved your further email was received which bring us to our current date.

Having looked into the matter, your portrayal of a lack of engagement or willingness to build on relationships is unfair and misleading. We remained committed to the agreement made by DCC Harrison within the meeting in September and have made all reasonable efforts to fulfil our obligations.

In relation to the points raised within your letter you would like a response to. Some details I am unable to give as you are not part of Delivery Group. To give details could compromise ongoing investigations and information sharing agreements in place.

In answering points 1,2 and 3 the NWCU report quarterly to DEFRA. This is a stakeholder update and is common within policing functions. This is not unique to the Wildlife crime portfolio. These stakeholder updates are sent to key partner agencies on a regular basis and on occasion do include

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details of work the NWCUC are undertaking in relation to protecting birds of prey. I can assure you they do not provide specific locations or details of individuals.

The NWCUC often provide stakeholders more detailed updates on their individual operations, as part of their ongoing performance governance, to ensure value for money that specific government departments invest in. We will not discuss the content of any report outside of the TDG. I can confirm we have not submitted the report I think you are referring to. Should DEFRA wish to hold a consultation on game bird shooting, the work of the satellite tagged bird of prey taskforce would form part of the police reply. I would reiterate again we don't identify individual people or exact locations.

Whilst I appreciate you have listed several areas you would like to discuss within any future meeting with a representative of the NWCUC, might I point out, you haven't fulfilled your action from the meeting in September with regards to the 4P plan. Acknowledgement of the plan and its terms of reference as well as showing what area of the plan you can support.

Having read correspondences from the last few years, you state that several concerns raised haven't been addressed. To clarify, several concerns were aired and discussed at the September meeting and we feel were addressed then. The sheer volume and repetitive nature of your requests make it impossible to work methodically through, leading to a disproportionate amount of policing time spent dealing with your demands.

I note you raised concern that on the 28th of August 2025, an agent from an estate expressed concerns around NWCUC attending their estate to discuss concerns and '*prevent further crimes from occurring.*' The feedback following this visit has been very positive. The agent has since developed a progressive relationship with the NWCUC.

To make it clear, our position is, should an individual landowner wish to engage with NWCUC or their local police force, we are happy to do so. We will not be discussing the work of the TDG or matters relating to operational policing with yourself.

In answer to your final point, DCC Nigel Harrison has oversight of the unit. The running of the unit falls to CI Lacks-Kelly who reports to him.

Yours sincerely,
Craig West
Sergeant – Staff Office

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