Calderdale Badger Protection Group

Internal protocol for reporting Badger Crime

1. If there is a crime or potential badger crime ongoing or has recently occurred (discovering a sett interference/someone at a sett etc) then whoever finds it/witnesses it should ring 999 to report what is happening. It may be necessary to inform the call handler that a crime is under the Protection of Badgers Act 1992 (not all call handlers will have experience of badger crime).

2. If there is an ongoing crime in progress NEVER approach or try and stop. Stay a safe distance and ring 999. If it's possible try and get car registration numbers, photos etc. but NEVER put yourself in danger.

3. Once reported to police Ask for a crime reference number and that the Wildlife Crime Officer (WCO) for Calderdale is made aware of the log. If the crime or potential crime is observed after the event (so not currently happening) then ring 101 to report it or report online or to Crime stoppers. Ask for crime reference number and again ask to make WCO aware of the log.

4. Following this please make the groups Crime Liaison Person aware of the incident and the crime reference number, either on WhatsApp or email so that the incident can be followed up with the WCO.

5. If you are not sure if it is a crime or what to do, please contact Crime Liaison Person but be aware they are not an emergency response and not always available. Alternatively contact the Badger Group Hotline or Emergency Hotline WhatsApp group for advice/support.

6. If you have come across a potential crime scene please do not trample over it as there may be forensic evidence that the police will find.

7. Please report any crime reported to the police to Badger Trust either online (there is an easy online form to fill in very similar to reporting an RTA) or use the Badger Watch app. They collate national data on Badger Crime.

Crime Liaison March 2024.