

**Freedom of Information Act / Environmental Information Regulations Request**

Reference: ECC18818231 07 25  
Response: 31 July 2025

I can confirm that Essex County Council does not hold this information.

**I am writing in relation to the ongoing situation at Fripps, and i would be grateful if you could provide clarification on the following matters concerning animal welfare, licensing, and procedural compliance.**

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**1. Wild foxes**

**• how many wild foxes are currently on site at Fripps?**

**• how many are expected to be released back into the wild?**

**• for those not being released, could you confirm why not, given that foxes are wild animals and should not be kept in captivity unless absolutely necessary?**

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**2. Hedgehogs (protected species)**

**• how many hedgehogs are currently being held at the facility?**

**• how many of these are expected to be released back into the wild?**

**• as hedgehogs are a protected species and also one in serious decline, i would appreciate clarity on whether proper procedures and targets for rehabilitation and release are being followed.**

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**3. Space allocation per species**

**• what is the recommended amount of space that should be provided for each of the species currently in care at Fripps (e.g. foxes, hedgehogs, meerkats, raccoons, etc.)?**

**• what is the actual space available on site?**

**• how much space has been specifically allocated to each species?**

**• based on this, is the facility operating within acceptable standards for space and species separation?**

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**4. Species capacity limits**

**• what is the maximum number of species and individual animals that can legally and safely be kept on the land available at Fripps, according to licensing or welfare guidelines?**

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**5. Veterinary procedures**

**• is the individual running Fripps trained or qualified to carry out veterinary procedures on animals?**

**• if not, is there any oversight or restriction in place to prevent such procedures from being undertaken without veterinary qualifications?**

Trading standards only has responsibility for legislation that relates to traditionally farmed animals in the UK such as cows, pigs, poultry, sheep and goats etc. The information requested falls outside of that remit and for that reason we do not hold the requested data.

It maybe that other agencies such as the District Council, APHA, RSPCA or The Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons would be able to supply the requested data.

Please see our webpages which should help you further for District and Borough Councils who may be able to provide you with the information.

[Request information about the Council | Essex County Council](https://www.essex.gov.uk/running-council/request-information-about-council)

[Contact your local council | Essex County Council](https://www.essex.gov.uk/contact-your-local-council)

**Your Right to Know**

Democracy and Transparency

Essex County Council

Telephone: 033301 38989

Email: [YourRight.ToKnow@essex.gov.uk](mailto:YourRight.ToKnow@essex.gov.uk) | [www.essex.gov.uk](http://www.essex.gov.uk)