



FUW quick guide to livestock worrying



Unlike data on theft and other crimes, there is currently no central recording of dog attacks on livestock. This means that the true impact is currently unknown and it is likely that many incidents go unreported.



North Wales police have voluntarily been recording livestock attacks since September 2013. Since 2013, there have been at least 400 reported dog attacks on livestock in North Wales alone.



Extrapolating the North Wales data suggests that more than 15,000 sheep were killed by livestock in the UK in 2016.

Business losses include loss of stock, production decreases due to stress, abortions and the loss of future earnings from stock. Capital costs include insurance costs, veterinary bills and carcase disposal.



The costs of livestock worrying on farm are both emotional and financial. Losses due to livestock worrying can be in the tens of thousands of pounds and have even rendered some businesses financially unviable.

Livestock worrying at a glance



Since 2013 the number of livestock worrying incidents in North Wales is

400



Number of sheep killed by dogs in the UK is

15,000



The cost of a sheep attack can reach

tens of thousands of pounds



Many County Councils have placed bans or restrictions on dogs in parks and open spaces. This compounds the problem as dog walkers may mitigate this by using the countryside more often.



The Dogs (Protection of Livestock) Act 1953 has not been reviewed since its establishment. There is a need for legislation which considers the impact on dog walking before the approval of schemes which restrict green spaces.



The isolated nature of rural businesses often means that farm stock are not near the main residence. This can make it difficult to identify the perpetrators.



The FUW wants members of the public to enjoy the countryside. However, in order to protect farm businesses from severe financial and emotional stress, it is imperative that improved public awareness is coupled with central recording of incidences, tighter regulation and better enforcement.