

From: [William Morgan](#)
To: [2002 Act Review](#)
Subject: Review of the Protection of Wild Mammals (Scotland) Act 2002
Date: 23 March 2016 10:48:46

Dear Lord Bonomy,

Review of the Protection of Wild Mammals (Scotland) Act 2002

Leaving aside the political circumstances from which your review arose, there seems to be no reason to look again at the Act, given that the Scottish Government is unwilling to allow hunting in its old form, despite Lord Burns's exhaustive review coming to no conclusion as to whether traditional hunting was cruel.

There is no desire within the community that lives and earns its living in and from the countryside to have the fox made a protected species; on the contrary, there is a universal opinion that foxes need to be controlled, not only for the sake of farm animals, but also other wildlife which would be under threat from an uncontrolled fox population, much of it quite rare.

Driving to guns, using a pack of hounds to do this, is now the most humane method of so doing, with lamping being only possible in more open country and it being generally observed that foxes learn to avoid the lamp. It is also clear that using only a couple of dogs, or a few, is ineffective in woodland, as the fox can avoid them without ever showing its face; it is on home territory and it needs a weight of numbers to draw any area efficiently and push a fox out. Douglas Batchelor, then Chief Executive of the League Against Cruel Sports, stated in August 2005 that, "*pairs of dogs are utterly useless in flushing to guns.*" A recent study in Wales also showed that using a pack, as opposed to a pair of dogs, made the process much more efficient and reduced the time of stress for the fox.

If the present method of flushing foxes with a pack of hounds is made illegal or ineffective, it will seriously compromise the welfare of the fox, as other practices will be used, over which there could be far less control, such as inappropriate shooting, snaring and poisoning, with its collateral damage to other wildlife. This was noted particularly by Lord Burns.

There has been no evidence from legal actions or from the Police that the Act has been abused on any scale by organised hunts. Polls show that the public does not feel that the law needs to be changed and even the Scottish Government stated in June 2015 that it had no intention of changing the law.

Whether many of those in attendance are on horses or on foot is irrelevant to the operation. It makes those in charge of the hounds more efficient on many occasions.

We hope that you will conclude that the Act should be left unamended.

Yours sincerely,

Nicky and William Morgan

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