

**From:** [Harry Hutchison](#)  
**To:** [2002 Act Review](#)  
**Date:** 26 March 2016 15:43:07

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Dear Lord Bonomy,

I am sure that in the past months you have read several letters reinforcing the fact that the current legislation in Scotland allows for most effective form of hunting and therefore provides the most efficient and humane system of pest control. Therefore I feel like I do not need to remind you of this. And as you will also know, these animals still need to be controlled, the main alternative being snares which can cause hours of unnecessary suffering for the animal and often do not catch the quarry intended. Anything from a badger or a red squirrel to your pet dog or cat is at risk of being caught in a snare and if the hunting legislation in Scotland is changed, the snare will be a much more regular sight in the Scottish countryside.

It could be argued that shooting foxes is equally effective as hunting, although it is less humane as it is harder to get as close without the help of a pack of hounds which often leads to the fox being wounded and dying hours later.

But the thing that first attracted me to hunting, which is why I am considering going into hunt service when I leave school this year, was the way it brings a community together. Its ability to bring a group of people from all kinds of different backgrounds in the countryside together to do something outside is amazing and something of a rarity in this century. But the thing these people all have in common is that they are all country people who understand that foxes need to be controlled. Whether they are a gamekeeper with a thousand pheasants, or a farmer with four thousand sheep or even just someone who keeps a few hens – they all need to protect their animals and therefore often their livelihoods.

So if the legislation was changed and drag hunting was the only real alternative as hunting with two hounds is useless, these communities of country people would no longer come together as the reason they came hunting: to cull foxes, would no longer be part of the hunting day. And this does not just include the members of the hunt, but the farmers whose land we hunt on. They would no longer be interested in the hunt using their land as the hunt would no longer be doing a job for them.

Changing the legislation would break up the people of the countryside and create more work for hard working people who would be forced to revert to less humane methods of fox control.

Although polls taken in urban areas on hunting usually show a slightly higher number of people against hunting this is because people are generally ill-informed on the subject and if asked tend to say they are against it because they like animals but are unaware of how the countryside works. Everyone I know who hunts is an animal lover including myself,

but foxes have no natural predator therefore need to be controlled to protect livestock.

I do hope that you will take my thoughts and the thoughts of the working people of the countryside into consideration.

Yours Sincerely,

Harry Hutchison

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