

From: [Michael Strang Steel](#)
To: [2002 Act Review](#)
Subject: Hunting Act
Date: 28 March 2016 14:50:48

Dear Lord Bonomy,

I recently took part in an event organised by the National Sheep Association on a hill farm in the Borders to encourage sheep farmers to plant more trees. Richard Lochhead, Cabinet Secretary was due to be there but at the last minute was unable to be present. Those attending included Trudi Sharp, Senior Civil Servant, Agriculture Department, Jo O'Hara, Head of Forestry Commission Scotland and senior figures from NSA and NFUS. (See Scotsman of 2 March, article under farming page by Head of Hill Farming Research and also Scottish Farmer magazine dated 19 March, page 6.)

One hill farmer at the meeting brought up the problem of increased vermin, mainly foxes, when forests are created. We have found that the Liddesdale Foxhounds are very effective in controlling foxes prior to lambing. The main reason the pack are so successful in large blocks of forestry, is that a complete pack of hounds are able to cover a large area and flush foxes to guns. If the Hunting Act was amended as in England where only two hounds are permitted to flush foxes from cover, it would be impossible to make any impression on the fox population residing in such forests.

I would hope therefore that nothing would be done to jeopardise the Scottish Government's initiative to encourage farmers to plant trees by making fox control more difficult.

Yours sincerely,

Michael Strang Steel

Sir Michael Strang Steel Bt, CBE

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