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Lord Bonomy  
2002 Act Review, Natural Resources Division  
The Scottish Government  
1/C North, Victoria Quay  
Edinburgh  
EH6 6QQ

29<sup>th</sup> March 2016

Dear Lord Bonomy,

**2002 Act Review**

I write to you regarding the review which you are currently undertaking.

Our family has a farm in Roxburghshire which extends to just under 700 acres of which about 600 acres is arable farm land and the balance woodlands.

We are conservation minded and, given the extent of the woodlands on the farm, we can manage our cropping and other activities so as to enhance the wild fauna. We do not have a shoot on the farm but we are aware of the importance of killing foxes, particularly to protect ground nesting birds. Fox control is undertaken by the Buccleuch Fox Hounds in which area the farm is located. They visit the farm about five – seven times in a season.

We consider this activity beneficial for the following reasons:

1. It is not a cost to the farm but provides beneficial effect.
2. If a fox is wounded (and accidental wounding does happen from time to time), the hounds are available to follow the fox and account for it.
3. It ensures that the fox population is kept in hand.

About four years ago we had an occasion to call the fox hounds on to the farm as a result of a number of our hens being killed. The hounds found the fox – and it was dispatched satisfactorily. The fox had a broken leg hence the reason that it was predated on our hens. Without the hounds we would have been unable to resolve the matter and presumably it would have ultimately starved to death from its inability to

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hunt.

Since the 2002 Act traditional hunting has come to an end. However, the Buccleuch Foxhounds continue to provide a very important fox control service at no cost to farmers. The quid pro quo for accepting their service is to allow mounted followers to come onto the land which in turn enables the hunt to obtain subscriptions from the followers – and hence the free fox control service which we benefit from.

I trust this letter provides you with a farmer's view on the current legislation which, in my opinion, works satisfactorily. Should your review were to recommend any change to the current modus operandi, thought does need to be given as to how foxes would otherwise be controlled in situations similar to ours and whether such different methods would incur greater suffering.

Yours sincerely

John Galbraith

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "John Galbraith". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned to the right of the typed name.