



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

22<sup>nd</sup> March 2016

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

As a Businessman & Small Holder as well as Joint Master and Field Master of the Jed Forest Hunt I would like to make the following submission to the above review.

Since the 2002 Act, much has changed with all packs throughout Scotland and we have adapted to ensure that we are able to provide a free service to farmers by giving access, to land, to the equestrian community that would not normally be open to them.

As Field Master it is my job to ensure that the mounted field goes only on land that we have permission to be on, act as a guide across land, position the field so they are safe and not a hindrance to the service we are providing, at times aid in directing the fox to guns and lastly entertain mounted followers by leading them over jumps and across country.

I must have a thorough knowledge of the countryside we are operating in, a good relationship with farmers and landowners. The Huntsman and I spend a lot of time planning the day to allow us to entertain the mounted followers whilst providing an effective service to the farmers and landowners who have invited us onto their land.

A significant amount of time is spent speaking to farmers, receiving ground and planning the day to ensure that the farmers goals are achieved (at no cost), the mounted followers are entertained and, most importantly, we act entirely within the law.

There is constant communication between the huntsman, the guns and myself and this allows me to use the ground and land to fulfil my role, moving from cover to cover taking a route that allows people to gallop and jump or just observe the beautiful countryside, whilst aiding the aims of that particular day.



As a Joint Master I spend many hours liaising with my other Joint Master and Huntsman to ensure that we are acting within the law, our records are kept up to date and we are providing an effective service at no cost to our farmers.

The law, as it stands, allows us to provide an effective service at no cost, whilst ensuring that the fox population is controlled in a sustainable manner causing the least anxiety.

Yours faithfully

Ronan Brown

