

Review Of Snaring For Scottish Government

February 2022

March 2022

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FEBRUARY 2022

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1. INTRODUCTION

The Wildlife & Natural Environment (Scotland) Act 2011 ('the WANE Act') made a number of amendments to the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 ("the WCA").

The provisions within Section 13 of the WANE Act introduced new requirements for the operation of snares by amending Section 11 of the WCA, particularly with regard to the introduction of training, record keeping and identification tags.

The provisions also introduced the need for establishment of approved training bodies to deliver snare training, and created an administrative role within Police Scotland to maintain records of trained operators.

The changes were implemented in stages between 1st January 2012 and 1st April 2013¹, and therefore any person who sets a snare in place after the relevant date and fails to comply with the requirements then in force will be guilty of an offence and may be liable to criminal prosecution.

Section 11F(2)(a) of the WCA required that a review of snaring legislation be carried out by 31st December 2016 and 11F(2)(b) requires that a further review must be undertaken no later than 5 years within the first review date.

Some of the recommendations from the 2016 Snaring Review have still to be implemented, primarily because of the lack of suitable legislative opportunities over the time period due to an insufficient vehicle for introducing the required legislation. These are:

- Implement a time period for updating snare records and reduce the time allowed for producing records to the police;
- Increase the stop position on fox snares to enlarge the noose size to 26cm;
- Increase the number of swivels on fox snares to a minimum of two;
- Introduce the power of disqualification for a snaring offence;
- Consider how a strengthened Code of Practice can be better endorsed through legislation.

¹ by a number of Statutory Instruments, namely:

The Snares (Identification Numbers and Tags) (Scotland) Order 2012

The Snares (Training) (Scotland) Order 2012

The Snares (Training) (Scotland) (No. 2) Order 2012

The Snares (Training) (Scotland) Order 2015

The Wildlife and Natural Environment (Scotland) Act 2011 (Commencement No. 2) Order 2011

The Wildlife and Natural Environment (Scotland) Act 2011 (Commencement No. 2) Amendment Order 2011

The Wildlife and Natural Environment (Scotland) Act 2011 (Commencement No. 2) Amendment (No. 2) Order 2012

The Wildlife and Natural Environment (Scotland) Act 2011 (Consequential Modifications) Order 2012

2. SCOPE AND APPROACH OF REVIEW

The scope of the Review of Snaring is defined under Section 11F of the Wildlife and Countryside Act as:

11F Snaring: review and report to the Scottish Parliament

(1)The Scottish Ministers must carry out, or secure the carrying out by another person of, a review of the operation and effect of—

(a)section 11 and any orders made under that section (in so far as the section and the orders make provision as regards snaring);

(b)sections 11A, 11B, 11C, 11D and 11E and any orders made under those sections.

(2)A review must be carried out under subsection (1) no later than—

(a)31st December 2016 (“the first review date”);

(b)the end of the period of 5 years beginning with the first review date; and

(c)the end of each subsequent period of 5 years.

(3)In carrying out a review under subsection (1), the matters that must be considered include whether in the opinion of the Ministers (or, if the review is being carried out by another person, that person) amendment of this Act or enactment of other legislation is appropriate.

(4)In carrying out a review under subsection (1), the Scottish Ministers (or, if the review is being carried out by another person, that person) must consult such persons and organisations as they consider (or, as the case may be, the other person considers) have an interest in it.

(5)The Scottish Ministers must, as soon as practicable after a review is carried out under subsection (1), lay a report of the review before the Scottish Parliament.”

Prior to the first Snaring Review undertaken in 2016, a Review of Snaring Group (Review Group) was established by SNH to oversee the Review of Snaring.

In order to facilitate an objective review of snaring, the Review Group included only key government bodies involved in snaring. The Review Group comprised representatives from Police Scotland (enforcement remit), Crown Office Procurator Fiscal Service (COPFS - prosecution remit), Science and Advice for Scottish Agriculture (SASA - technical remit), Scottish Government (SG - legislative remit) and SNH (lead).

The Review Group identified three key elements to conducting the Review of Snaring in relation to sections 11 to 11E of the legislation:

1. Assessing efficacy of the legislation (sections 11 and 11B-E WCA);

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2. Review snare training, and assess the effectiveness and compliance with the administrative procedure for obtaining snaring ID (section 11A WCA);
3. Consider any evidence of outstanding animal welfare implications in relation to snaring and whether these are sufficiently addressed through the provisions under section 11 WCA.

Extending the Remit of the Snaring Review

During [General Question Time](#) at the Scottish Parliament on 25 November 2021, the Minister for Environment, Biodiversity and Land Reform, confirmed in response to a question from Colin Smyth MSP in relation to the Grouse Moor Management Review Group recommendations, that the Scottish Government would extend the scope of the snaring review to include a potential ban on snares in Scotland.

Position in the rest of the UK and Europe

Snares are already banned in many European countries. They are permitted in England, Northern Ireland and Wales, subject to certain conditions laid out in their applicable legislation. Scotland currently has the tightest restrictions on snaring in the UK.

The Welsh Assembly announced in their 2021-2026 Programme for Government that they will introduce a [Ban on Snares](#) during the course of this parliamentary term.

The UK Government have also announced that they will issue a call for evidence on the [Use of Snares](#) in England.

3. ASSESSING THE EFFICACY OF THE LEGISLATION

3.1 Summary

The following data was received from Crown Office Procurator Fiscal Service (COPFS) in relation to the number of Standard Prosecution Reports (SPRs) received in the calendar years 2006 to 2021 and the numbers of cases prosecuted and those leading to conviction.

Calendar Year	SPRs received by COPFS	Cases prosecuted	Cases resulting in conviction ²	PF Direct measures issued	Incidents ³ reported in SPRs	
					by year SPR reported	by year of occurrence
2006	3	2			3 ⁴	3
2007	3				3	1
2008	9	7	5		11	11
2009	6	5	2		6	7
2010	15	7	5	6	17	18
2011	2			1	3	1
2012	9	5	3		9	11
2013	3	1	1	1	9	8
2014	5	3	3	1	6	9
2015	5	5	4		8	4
2016	1	1	1		1	1
Total 2012-2016	23	15	12	2	33	33
2017	2	2		1	1	1
2018	3		2	1	3	2
2019	7			3	7	2
2020	3	1		2	3	
2021	3	1		2	1	2
Total 2017-2021	18	4	2	9	15	7

⁴ The figures show only those cases in which the accused was convicted of a snaring offence or of a directly related offence. Cases in which the accused was convicted of a non-related offence only are not included.

³ The number of incidents represents the number of different dates on which the snaring offences included in the SPR occurred.

⁴ This figure includes 2 incidents which occurred in 2005.

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The following parts of this report provide some information about convictions and sentences. It should be noted that in some cases the particular charge may have been one of several, in which case the sentence indicated will not reflect the disposal of the case in its entirety.

The court disposals were as follows:

Year	Offence	Disposal
2013	section 11A(1) and (5)	Community Payback Order 240 hours
2014	section 11A(1)	£200 fine
2014	section 11A(2)	£300 fine
2014	section 11A(1)	Admonished
2014	section 11A(1)	PF Direct Measure
2015	section 11A(1) and (5)	Community Payback Order 200 hours
2015	section 11A(2)(b) and (6)	Admonished
2016	None	-

Year	Offence	Disposal
2017	S11(1)(aa)	PF Direct Measure
2018	S11(2)(a)	PF Direct Measure
2018	S11(1)(aa)	£300
2018	S11(1)(aa)	Community Payback Order (225 hours) and Restriction of Liberty Order for 10 months.
2019	S11(1)(aa)	PF Direct Measure
2019	S11(1)(aa)	PF Direct Measure
2019	S11(1)(aa)	PF Direct Measure
2020	S11(2)(b)	Court – not yet concluded
2020	S11C(a)	PF Direct Measure
2020	S11(2)(b)	PF Direct Measure
2021	S11(1)(aa)	PF Direct Measure
2021	S11(1)(aa)	Court – not yet concluded
2021	S11(1)(a)	PF Direct Measure

Please note:

- The figures relate to cases in which at least one snaring offence was reported to COPFS.
- Where cases involve more than one accused person and the outcome for each person is different, they are counted at the level of the highest outcome only. For example if one person is acquitted while another is convicted, the case is shown as a conviction.
- Direct measures include written warnings by the fiscal or a fixed penalty conditional offer (financial penalty).
- A disposal may include a sentence for more than one charge where the sentence was issued *in cumulo*.

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Disposed offences relate to breaches of the following legislation:

11 Prohibition of certain methods of killing or taking wild animals.

(1) Subject to the provisions of this Part, if any person—

- (a) sets in position or otherwise uses any self-locking snare or a snare of any other type specified in an order made by the Scottish Ministers;

One prosecution under this offence was brought between 2017-2021 which resulted in a PF Direct Measure. This is a reduction from five between 2013-2017.

- (aa) sets in position or otherwise uses any other type of snare which is either of such a nature or so placed (or both) as to be calculated to cause unnecessary suffering to any animal coming into contact with it;

Eight prosecutions under this offence were brought between 2017-2021 which is an increase from zero between 2013-2017.

(2) Subject to the provisions of this Part, a person shall be guilty of an offence if that person—

- (a) uses any trap or snare for the purpose of killing or taking or restraining any wild animal included in Schedule 6 or 6ZA;

One prosecution was brought under the offence, an increase from 2013-2017.

- (b) sets in position any trap or snare of such a nature and so placed as to be—
 - (ii) in Scotland, likely to cause bodily injury to any such wild animal;

Two prosecutions were brought under this offence, an increase of one from 2013-2017.

11C - Snares: authorisation from landowners etc.

Subject to the provisions of this Part, any person who without reasonable excuse—

- (a) while on any land has in his possession any snare without the authorisation of the owner or occupier of the land;

One prosecution was brought under this offence, an increase from 2013-2017.

It is difficult to draw conclusions based upon this information. On the one hand, the identification of an operator will be inherently more difficult if a snare identification number is not used, which will result in lower prosecutions. On the other hand, the data could be interpreted as providing evidence that Section 11A improves detection of offences, and enables prosecution of

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technical offences, which otherwise may have gone undetected, ultimately improving compliance with the legislation.

The overall number of cases reported to COPFS is low, so it is difficult to draw any conclusions in terms of the efficacy of the legislation, however the Review Group consider that it would be very difficult to legislate for the actions of individuals where the *modus operandi* is to undertake an act of snaring with the intention of committing an associated crime.

Had the cases (and associated offences) suggested recklessness by trained operators then the inference would be that the legislation is failing. However the cases prosecuted tend to point to deliberate abuse for purposes ranging from poaching to badger persecution.

Other Sources of Data

SSPCA were asked to provide details of the number of recorded crimes in relation to snaring offences. SSPCA are an investigatory agency with powers under the Animal Health and Welfare (Scotland) Act 2006 who may report crime under this Act directly to COPFS for prosecution.

While offences under the Animal Health and Welfare (Scotland) Act 2006 do not relate directly to the provisions made under the WANE Act, they may be used as an indicator of associated snaring offences and provide a measure of the impact of the WANE Act on welfare-related offences.

Likewise OneKind were also asked to provide details of the number of incidents they recorded in relation to snaring. OneKind does not have any statutory remit for investigation of crime and does not report to COPFS, however incident data may be used to assess the impact of the WANE Act on the number of recorded incidents (including bad practice and those which do not constitute an offence but may have welfare implications).

There is no requirement for OneKind, and SSPCA to record crime to Scottish Crime Recording Standards as described in the Police Scotland 'Crime Recording and Scottish Government Counting Rules (2016)', therefore detailed analysis and comparison of the datasets is not possible. The snaring incidents OneKind have records for are submitted by members of the public via their Snarewatch website. In any case where illegal activity is suspected OneKind report it to the police or Scottish SPCA, if the person involved has not already done so.

OneKind recorded that during the five year period there were 27 snaring incidents submitted by members of the public via their Snarewatch website. Of those, 12 appeared to involve illegal use of snares, 5 appeared to involve legal snaring and there insufficient information in relation to the remaining cases. Species involved included foxes, rabbits, badgers, cats, dogs. For comparison, OneKind recorded 27 incidents between 2013 (enactment of the WANE Act) and November 2016, with 5-8 of these recorded as 'crimes'.

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Approximately half (3-4) of these 'crimes' involve snares which did not have an identification number attached.

SSPCA recorded 45 incidents between 2016 and 2021. It is not clear from the information provided which are 'crimes.'. The equivalent figure for incidents between 2013 and November 2016 was 60.

13 of these incidents involve snares which do not have an identification number attached, 13 involve snares with an identification number and a further 11 are not listed.

The SSPCA Special Investigations Unit reports cases directly to the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service (COPFS). As a result, any crimes or suspected crimes investigated solely by the Scottish SPCA will not appear in the Police recorded crime statistics. If reported for prosecution however, they will be included in the COPFS figures and those cases will have been given a Scottish Criminal Records Office (SCRO) number.

Not all incidents identified as crimes will provide sufficient evidence for a prosecution to be progressed to COPFS. Based on the data provided by the SSPCA, there is clearly evidence that there is still widespread misuse of snares.

More detailed information provided by the SSPCA is attached at Annex 2.

4. REVIEW SNARE TRAINING AND ASSESS THE ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURE

4.1 Snare Training⁵

The Snares (Training) (Scotland) Order 2012 came into force on 4 June 2012 and introduces the need for competence in key areas in order to be issued with a training certificate as determined by an approved body. The Order specifies the following as approved training bodies: British Association for Shooting and Conservation, Game & Wildlife Conservation Trust, Scottish Association for Country Sports and Scottish Gamekeepers Association.

The Snares (Training) (Scotland) (No. 2) Order 2012 came into force on 21 June 2012 and revokes the previous Order. The following are added to the list of approved bodies: Borders College, Elmwood College, The North Highland College, The Scottish Agricultural College. There are no other substantive changes over the previous Order.

The Snares (Training) (Scotland) Order 2015 came into force on 1 January 2016 and revokes the previous Order. The list of approved bodies is

⁵ Relevant Orders: The Snares (Training) (Scotland) Order 2012
The Snares (Training) (Scotland) (No. 2) Order 2012
The Snares (Training) (Scotland) Order 2015
The Snares (Identification Numbers and Tags) (Scotland) Order 2012

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amended to the following: Borders College, British Association for Shooting and Conservation Limited, Countryside Alliance, Game and Wildlife Conservation Trading Limited, The Board of Management of The North Highland College, Scottish Association for Country Sports, Scottish Gamekeepers Association Charitable Trust and Scotland's Rural College.

There are no other substantive changes over the previous Order.

To date a total of 3207 have been trained. 629 snaring operators have successfully undertaken snaring training since the 2016 Snaring Review.

Key to all three Orders is article 3⁶, which makes provisions regarding the training requirements that must be met prior to a person being deemed as being 'trained' by an approved body.

The determination of trainee competence under article 3(3) and ability to set a snare in accordance with the law under 3(3)(b) is subjective and reliant on both the delivery methods of the approved training bodies and the quality assurance processes that they employ.

Assessment Process: The measures employed to assess competency of trainees vary slightly between approved training bodies, with differences in the pass mark required in the exam. The use of continuous assessment throughout the delivery of the course and identification and addressing areas of weakness is to be encouraged and seems appropriate.

A standardisation of the assessments methods and level of attainment required for a 'pass' and therefore competence should be encouraged either through agreement between the approved bodies in association with SASA or via incorporation as an annex in the Code of Practice.

Failure Rates: 629 snaring operators have undertaken the required training course and none have failed. In comparison, in the first snaring review which covered 2011-2016, a total of 3 failures from 2578 passes (certified to operate snares)

Quality Assurance: All respondents stated (to a greater or lesser degree) that the knowledge, experience and ongoing awareness of staff delivering training provided quality assurance in meeting the requirements of Article 3. One

⁶ 3.—(1) A person is trained when that person holds a training certificate issued in accordance with paragraphs (2) and (3).

(2) The training certificate is issued by an approved body.

(3) The training certificate is issued to a person whom the approved body determines (by examination or otherwise) is competent to—

(a) select an appropriate location for a snare to be set;

(b) set a snare in accordance with the law;

(c) identify and remedy defects in the setting and use of a snare; and

(d) set a snare in such a manner, and in such a place, that it is reasonable to expect that—

(i) use of the snare is consistent with animal welfare; and

(ii) the setting of the snare is an appropriate method of predator control

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respondent also stated that training was delivered to meet with the Code of Practice. While it is likely that all approved training bodies do in fact adhere to the standards within the Code of Practice, the Review Group would like to see this formally incorporated into the delivery of all snare training, through agreement among the approved training bodies.

4.2 Administrative procedure for obtaining snaring ID

Articles 3 to 6 of The Snares (Identification Numbers and Tags) (Scotland) Order 2012 outline the administrative procedure for obtaining a snare identification number from Police Scotland and the requirement for Police Scotland to maintain records of identification numbers issued and the person to whom they relate.

The effectiveness of the administrative procedure for obtaining snaring identification has been assessed by the Review Group by questioning the approved training bodies on operators' perspectives and Police Scotland on their ability to provide a service.

Feedback from the approved training bodies indicates that the administration procedure for obtaining a snaring ID number from Police Scotland is satisfactory. Once the paperwork (application including photo ID and fee) has been received by the Firearms Licensing department at Police Scotland, a letter is sent out to the applicant usually within one day.

The approved training bodies and Police Scotland both confirmed that the administrative procedure for snaring operators obtaining their ID number was satisfactory.

4.3 Compliance with the administrative procedure for obtaining snaring identification

Compliance with the administrative procedure for obtaining snaring identification was assessed by reviewing prosecuted cases involving non-compliance under Section 11A and the evaluation of the uptake of training against the number of operators who applied for an identification number. It must be noted however that this latter is merely a reflection of the number of people who have not chosen to register with Police Scotland for an identification number and criminality cannot be inferred by any discrepancy between the numbers.

A total of 3207 people have successfully completed snare training (an increase of 629 from the 2016 Review) and 1877 of these have registered with Police Scotland and received a snaring identification number. The approved training bodies have proposed a number of explanations for this difference:

- Not all students are successful in gaining employment as gamekeepers;

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- Some gamekeepers may lose employment and not need to operate snares;
- Many gamekeepers are switching to shooting with thermal imaging / light intensifiers equipment for pest control;
- The burden placed upon operators by the legislation is too onerous and some choose not to continue snaring;
- Concerns of being falsely accused of an offence in cases where snares have been tampered with;
- Some trainees (land owners and land managers) undertake training solely to gain a better understanding of snaring;
- Some trainees attend training but do not have an immediate need to operate snares.

All of these explanations seem valid, although concerns regarding being falsely accused in the event of snares being tampered with could be potentially mitigated through accurate and timely record keeping. None of these explanations points to a failure to comply with the administrative procedure, and it is therefore the view of the Review Group that it is currently meeting the requirements of the legislation.

5. IMPACT OF LEGISLATION ON ANIMAL WELFARE

The primary objective of the changes to snaring legislation was to better assure that practices were not causing unnecessary suffering. It is not within the scope of this review to assess whether that degree of suffering is acceptable. As such the discussion and assessment of the various sections with their associated prosecution rates provides a view as to the effectiveness of the legislation with regards animal welfare.

There are two recommendations which would require change to legislation which the Review Group highlight for consideration.

Fox snare stop position: In order to reduce the risk of constriction injury where large specimens of the target species are caught and to lessen welfare issues associated with accidental capture around body (target & non-target species), TAG proposed to increase the stop position on fox snares to enlarge noose size to 26cm.

Number of swivels on fox snare: To reduce the risk of entanglement, especially if a single swivel becomes locked, e.g. with vegetation, TAG proposed to increase the required number of swivels on a fox snare to two.

Mountain hares

Section 11A(2)(c) of WCA⁷ requires that snares intended to catch brown hares, rabbits and foxes must display a code to identify the target species. No such requirement applies to other potential target species, including mountain hares.

⁷ and The Snares (Identification Numbers and Tags) (Scotland) Order 2012

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The Animals and Wildlife (Penalties, Protections and Powers) (Scotland) Act 2020 added mountain hares to Schedule 5 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 which provides protection to the species and they can now only be controlled under a licence issued by NatureScot for limited, specified purposes.

Following concerns raised with NatureScot over the welfare impacts of snaring hares to the effect that it is difficult to advise on a method of snaring that does not cause unnecessary suffering in that they cannot be used effectively as a 'killing' trap because animals take too long to die and are not effective as a restraining means because there is too high a risk of killing or injury. The lack of any apparent means or guidance to avoid this means that NatureScot do not intend to issue licences that allow for the snaring of mountain hares unless the contrary can be evidenced.

6. CONCLUSIONS

Consideration was given to all of the information made available (through COPFS, Police Scotland, the TAG, the approved training bodies and that provided by SSPCA, Scottish Badgers, OneKind) in respect to Section 11 of WCA (as amended by the WANE Act 2011), and in accordance to the requirements in Section 11F of the same Act.

The number of reported incidents of snaring-related offences during the review period (2017-2021) has reduced compared to the previous review (2012-2016). Although the number of cases notified to the SSPCA is still high.

Feedback from the approved training bodies indicates that the administration procedure for obtaining a snaring ID number from Police Scotland is satisfactory.

The outstanding recommendations from the Snaring Review undertaken in 2017 should be introduced as soon as a suitable legislative route can be taken.

Snaring in Scotland – A Practitioners' Guide, has been updated with the relevant recommendations from the 2016 Snaring Review.

Given the continuing concerns regarding the welfare of animals caught in snares, a wider review of snaring should be undertaken as soon as is practicable.

The Review Group should assess the following points further:

- Temporary revoking snaring ID number and refresher courses for snaring operators for some minor breaches of some of the snaring legislation, such as failure to keep records etc.
- Clarify the position, and amend legislation if necessary, that permission may be given for other persons to check snares other than the identified operator and that whoever sets the snare is responsible

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for it when set even if it is checked by another person, and whether or not persons checking snares needs a snaring ID number.

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Methodology Adopted in the Review

1. Assessing efficacy of the legislation

Relevant Sections:

Section 11 - Those provisions regarding snaring, including the setting of snares;

Section 11A - Training. Identification numbers, tags etc;

Section 11B - Duty to Inspect;

Section 11C - Authorisation from Landowners;

Section 11D - Presumption arising from the Identification number;

Section 11E - Record Keeping.

Relevant Order: The Snares (Identification Numbers and Tags) (Scotland) Order 2012

The most objective means of assessing the efficacy of and compliance with the legislation under section 11 and 11B-11E is through comparison of the incidents of snaring offences for the period after enactment of Section 11, with those for a similar period prior to enactment.

Recorded Crime:

Recorded crimes relate only to those which have been detected and met with Scottish Crime Recording Standards to constitute a crime. The identification of a suspect and sufficiency of evidence with which to bring charges cannot be assumed for each recorded crime.

It is impossible to quantify the affect that any change in detection rates may have had on recorded crime figures. The publicity surrounding the snaring provisions under the WANE Act, increased awareness among snare operators through training requirements and changes to the structure of Scottish Policing through the formation of Police Scotland will all have impacted upon the level of crime detected.

Standard Prosecution Reports:

COPFS were asked to provide details of the number of Standard Prosecution Reports (SPRs) received from Police Scotland/legacy Scottish police Forces in relation to snaring offences.

SPRs can be used as an indicator of those recorded crimes where a suspect has been identified and the police or Scottish SPCA consider that it is appropriate to report the case to COPFS for consideration.

This, together with the number of recorded crimes will provide an objective assessment of the efficacy of the legislation in terms of compliance from snare operators but also the ability of the police to enforce the legislation when an offence has been committed.

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Cases Marked for Prosecution:

COPFS were asked to provide details of the number of cases marked for prosecution.

In marking cases COPFS review the available evidence and if the admissible evidence is sufficient to prove, prima facie, that an offence has been committed by an identified person, will go on to consider whether it is within the public interest for action to be taken, whether by prosecution or by the use of an alternative to prosecution (PF direct measure).

Convictions:

COPFS were asked to provide details of the number of convictions for snaring offences.

COPFS also provided a note of the sentences imposed by the Courts in individual charges and also the number of direct measures issued.

A comparison of the number of recorded crimes with the number of convictions for the period after enactment of Section 11 with those for a similar period prior to enactment will give a relative indication of the enforceability of the legislation.

Annex 2

Snaring Incidents Recorded by the SSPCA Year	Number of Incidents	Legally Set	Illegally Set	Tagged	Untagged	Wildlife ⁽²⁾	Domestic Animal ⁽²⁾	Submitted to COPFS ⁽¹⁾
2013-14	6	1	4		5	4	1	6
2014-15	17	5	4	5	5	12	2	7
2015-16	16	2	5	1	9	7	6	0
2016-17	21	1	16	1	16	15	7	3
TOTAL	60	9	29	7	35	38	16	16
2017-18	8		7		7	8		1
2018-19	17	1	11	7	3	13	3	4
2020-21	20	5	13	6	10	9	7	3
TOTAL	45	6	31	13	20	30	10	8

(1) This figure is the number of incidents submitted to the COPFS. The actual number of offences reported to COPFS may be higher than shown as some incidents may have breached more than one snaring offence.

(2) Each incident may involve one or more species, including wildlife and domestic animals.

**TECHNICAL ASSESSMENT GROUP
SNARES & SNARING**

The following bodies are represented on the Scottish Technical Assessment Group.

Borders College
British Association for Shooting and Country Sports (BASC)
Elmwood College, Scottish Rural Colleges (SRUC)
Game and Wildlife Conservation Trust (GWCT)
Police Scotland / National Wildlife Crime Unit (PS / NWCU)
Science and Advice for Scottish Agriculture (SASA)
Scottish Association for Country Sports (SACS)
Scottish Gamekeepers Associated (SGA)
Scottish Government Animal Health and Welfare Division (SG)
Scottish Government Wildlife and Protected Areas Division (SG)
Scottish Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SSPCA)



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