

[REDACTED]

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**From:** Natural Resources Division  
**Sent:** 21 January 2019 09:15  
**To:** Natural Resources Division  
**Subject:** Meeting: Mountain Hares and Fieldsports Development  
**Attachments:** Mountain Hares and Grazing- A Briefing (latest version).docx; hares 2.png; hares.png; WP\_20180529\_004.jpg

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Date:** 5 July 2018 at 22:58:38 BST  
**To:** [Fergus.Ewing.msp@parliament.scot](mailto:Fergus.Ewing.msp@parliament.scot)  
**Subject:** Meeting: Mountain Hares and Fieldsports Development

Dear Fergus Ewing MSP,

Please find attached a revised briefing paper and two datasets from GWCT regarding mountain hare management in Scotland. I hope this will be informative ahead of the meeting with SGA [REDACTED] on 18th July.

I, myself, cannot make the meeting as I will be on vacation but I understand that constituents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] will accompany [REDACTED].

All the very best. [REDACTED] The Scottish Gamekeepers Association, on behalf of SGA [REDACTED]

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Cabinet Secretary for the Rural Economy  
Fergus Ewing MSP



Scottish Government  
Riaghaltas na h-Alba  
gov.scot

F/T: 0300 244 4000  
E: [scottish.ministers@gov.scot](mailto:scottish.ministers@gov.scot)

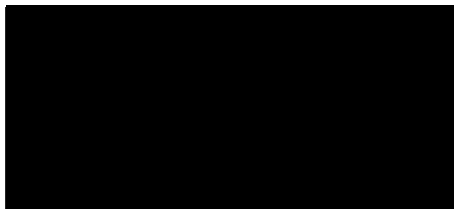
[Redacted]  
By email: [Redacted]

Our ref: 2018/0022186  
18 July 2018

Dear [Redacted]

Thank you for your email of 05 July 2018 inviting Fergus Ewing MSP, Cabinet Secretary for the Rural Economy, to visit your stand at the Moy Highland Field Sports Fair at 11am on 3<sup>rd</sup> August 2018 to present 2 awards.

Mr Ewing would be delighted to accept your invitation subject to Parliamentary business, I would be grateful if you could contact the Ministerial Events and Support Officer, [Redacted] via email at [ARE Ministerial Support and Events](mailto:ARE_Ministerial_Support_and_Events) to make the necessary arrangements.



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[www.gov.scot](http://www.gov.scot)



From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: 04 July 2018 16:36:53  
To: Public Engagement Unit  
Subject: FW: Award presentation invitation: The Scottish Gamekeepers Association

PEU

For MACCS diary please

Thanks

[REDACTED]  
Assistant Private Secretary  
Cabinet Secretary for the Rural Economy  
2N.08 St Andrew's House | Regent Road | Edinburgh | EH1 3DG

? 0131 244 [REDACTED]  
CABSECRE@GOV.SCOT<mailto:cabsecre@gov.scot>

[[https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/0/01/Scottish\\_Government\\_Logo.svg/220px-Scottish\\_Government\\_Logo.svg.png](https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/0/01/Scottish_Government_Logo.svg/220px-Scottish_Government_Logo.svg.png)]

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From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: 04 July 2018 08:53  
To: Cabinet Secretary for the Rural Economy  
Cc: [REDACTED]  
Subject: Fwd: Award presentation invitation: The Scottish Gamekeepers Association

Please note: error in initial email invitation. Where there is a reference to 'broken service', this should read 'unbroken service'. Yours. [REDACTED]

----- Original Message -----

From: [REDACTED]  
To: CabSecREC@gov.scot<mailto:CabSecREC@gov.scot>  
Cc: [REDACTED]  
Date: 04 July 2018 at 08:09  
Subject: Award presentation invitation: The Scottish Gamekeepers Association

Dear Madam/Sir,

The Scottish Gamekeepers Association is inquiring whether Rural Economy Secretary Fergus Ewing may be able to join us on our stand at Moy Highland Fieldsports Fair at 11am on Friday August 3rd 2018 to present the 2018 Ronnie Rose Award for conservation and education and also to present our new Long Service Medals for 40 years of broken service to the professions of gamekeeping, stalking and gillie-ing.

We would be honoured if Fergus could join us on the day and will be happy to liaise with his staff regarding speeches and any comment for press releases, etc.

Yours Sincerely, [REDACTED] The Scottish  
Gamekeepers Association, on behalf of [REDACTED]

[cid:7aeb0d4805bc45e99afddf825fe84ff3@Open-Xchange]

Cabinet Secretary for Environment, Climate Change and  
Land Reform  
Roseanna Cunningham MSP



Scottish Government  
Riaghaltas na h-Alba  
gov.scot

T: 0300 244 4000  
E: scottish.ministers@gov.scot



Our ref: 2018/0013184  
August 2018

Thank you for your email of 3 April 2018 to The First Minister requesting a meeting with her, Mr Ewing, and myself, regarding mountain hares. I am responding as this falls under my portfolio responsibility and I apologise for the delay in doing so.

I understand that the Scottish Gamekeepers Association met with Mr Ewing on 18 July to discuss amongst others things, mountain hares, and I do not think another meeting with another Minister is necessary at this time.

**Roseanna Cunningham**

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[www.gov.scot](http://www.gov.scot)



From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: 05 April 2018 10:33:03  
To: Public Engagement Unit  
Subject: FW: Meeting Request: Mountain Hares

PEU

Grateful if you could put this on MACCS, as a diary case for signature by FM's Deputy Private Secretary, [REDACTED]

Cheers

[REDACTED]  
[cid:image009.jpg@01D3CCC9.79B193D0]<<https://firstminister.gov.scot/>>

[cid:image003.png@01D3CCC9.799C3710] <<https://twitter.com/scotgovfm>>  
[cid:image004.png@01D3CCC9.799C3710]  
<<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCU4l3pgRnFJJQLJK35-fbg>>  
[cid:image005.png@01D3CCC9.799C3710]  
<<https://www.flickr.com/photos/scottishgovernment/>>  
[cid:image006.png@01D3CCC9.799C3710]  
<<https://www.facebook.com/TheScottishGovernment>>  
[cid:image007.png@01D3CCC9.799C3710] <<http://www.instagram.com/scotgov>>

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[ First Minister's Ministerial Private Office | 5th Floor | St Andrew's House | Regent Road | Edinburgh | EH1 3DG | 0131 244 6314 |

Please note, I work a part time flexible working pattern over Tuesday-Friday. My mailbox is not monitored on a Monday.

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From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: 03 April 2018 12:24  
To: First Minister; Cabinet Secretary for the Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform; fergus.ewing.msp  
Subject: Meeting Request: Mountain Hares

Dear First Minister,

The Scottish Gamekeepers Association (SGA) and members of Scotland's regional moorland groups would like to organise a meeting with yourself, Roseanna Cunningham and Fergus Ewing- at your earliest convenience- on the subject of

mountain hares.

SGA members and representatives from the regional groups, covering Loch Ness down to the Lammermuir Hills in the Borders, actively manage mountain hare populations in Scotland.

I look forward to hearing from you regarding this.

Yours Sincerely, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] The Scottish Gamekeepers Association.

(Sent on behalf of [REDACTED] by [REDACTED] - please respond to this email address).

[cid:image010.jpg@01D3CCC9.79B193D0]

Minister for Rural Affairs and the Natural Environment  
Mairi Gougeon MSP



Scottish Government  
Riaghaltas na h-Alba  
gov.scot

T: 0300 244 4000  
E: scottish.ministers@gov.scot



Scottish Gamekeepers Association

Via email:

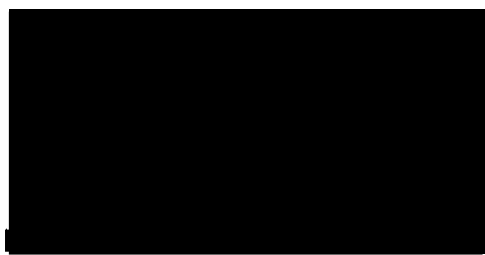
Our ref: 2018/0029504  
13 September 2018

Dear

Thank you for your email of 27 August 2018 requesting a meeting to discuss mountain hares. This area of responsibility now falls under Mairi Gougeon's portfolio who would be pleased to meet with you.

I would therefore be grateful if you could contact her Diary Secretary, by email at [ministerrane@gov.scot](mailto:ministerrane@gov.scot) to make the necessary arrangements. We will also arrange for relevant staff from Scottish Natural Heritage to attend as suggested in your letter however as you have recently met with Mr Ewing to discuss this subject, we do not think there is any need for him to join the meeting.

Yours sincerely



Private Secretary

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From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: 27 August 2018 15:16:20  
To: Public Engagement Unit  
Cc: Cabinet Secretary for the Rural Economy, Cabinet Secretary for the Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform, Minister for Rural Affairs and the Natural Environment  
Subject: FW: Mountain Hares and Way Forward- Scottish Gamekeepers Association.

Attachments: Mountain Hares Watson and the Way Forward- SGA\_.pdf

Hi,

One for MACCS please.

Kind Regards,

[REDACTED]  
From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: 27 August 2018 14:07  
To: Scottish Ministers <Scottish\_Ministers@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for the Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform <CabSecECCLR@gov.scot>; Mairi.Gougeon.msp@parliament.scot  
Subject: Mountain Hares and Way Forward- Scottish Gamekeepers Association.

Dear Fergus Ewing, Roseanna Cunningham, Mairi Gougeon.

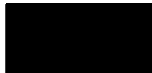
Please find attached a briefing paper from the Scottish Gamekeepers Association on the subject of mountain hares. We are aware that the publication of the recent report by Dr Adam Watson has placed this issue back in the spotlight. Our paper looks at this report as well as proposing potential future actions.


We acknowledge concerns expressed by charities and how this influences public opinion. However, we are very concerned that reporting of this issue and the language of some of the campaigning does not reflect the true or full nature of the issue.

The Scottish Gamekeepers Association believes that moorland managers, single-handedly the focus of attention, hold the key to conservation of the mountain hare in Scotland and we are eager to work with SNH and Scottish Government to increase understanding of the threats facing the species in this country and to undertake counting and reporting in order to assist SNH in meeting its responsibility to ensure the species remains in good conservation health.

We would like to meet with you, either individually or collectively, as soon as is practicable to discuss the way forward and are happy for SNH to be present also.

Yours Sincerely,



 The Scottish Gamekeepers Association.

[SGA logo1.jpg]

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[REDACTED]

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 26 October 2018 14:13  
**To:** Minister for Rural Affairs and the Natural Environment  
**Subject:** Meeting Attendees: Scottish Gamekeepers Association  
**Attachments:** Mountain Hares, Watson and the Way Forward- SGA..docx

Good afternoon [REDACTED] I am notifying you of attendees for the meeting with Mairi Gougeon on Tuesday 30th October at 1pm regarding mountain hare.

The SGA will be represented by [REDACTED] and myself, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] of GWCT will also attend.

I have also attached a paper by the SGA which offers a critique of the recent research paper on the subject of mountain hares by Dr Adam Watson and I would be most grateful if you can pass this on to the Minister ahead of our meeting. We very much appreciate that she has made time available.

Thanks and all the best, [REDACTED] The Scottish Gamekeepers Association.

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[REDACTED]

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 27 September 2018 16:16  
**To:** Minister for Rural Affairs and the Natural Environment  
**Subject:** Re: Meeting dates- Mountain Hare

Will do. Thanks. [REDACTED]

On Thu, 27 Sep 2018 at 16:11, <MinisterRANE@gov.scot> wrote:

Thanks, please could you let me know a week in advance instead of on the day?

[REDACTED]

Assistant Private Secretary to Minister for Rural Affairs and the Natural Environment

2N.08 - St Andrews House - Regent Road – Edinburgh - EH1 3DG

Tel: 0131 244 [REDACTED]

Email: [MinisterRANE@gov.scot](mailto:MinisterRANE@gov.scot)

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 **The Scottish Government**

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 27 September 2018 15:57

**To:** Minister for Rural Affairs and the Natural Environment <MinisterRANE@gov.scot>  
**Subject:** Re: Meeting dates- Mountain Hare

Great stuff, [REDACTED], thanks and, yes, GWCT will join us. It will be [REDACTED] I will get back to you with who will represent SGA on the day. Yours sincerely. [REDACTED]

On Thu, 27 Sep 2018 at 15:52, <MinisterRANE@gov.scot> wrote:

Good afternoon,

Luckily the 30<sup>th</sup> October is still available so I'm happy to confirm 13:00 at the Scottish Parliament.

Please could you confirm if GWCT will be joining you at the meeting?

Many thanks

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Assistant Private Secretary to Minister for Rural Affairs and the Natural Environment

2N.08 - St Andrews House - Regent Road – Edinburgh - EH1 3DG

Tel: 0131 244 [REDACTED]

Email: [MinisterRANE@gov.scot](mailto:MinisterRANE@gov.scot)

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 27 September 2018 15:45  
**To:** Minister for Rural Affairs and the Natural Environment <[MinisterRANE@gov.scot](mailto:MinisterRANE@gov.scot)>  
**Subject:** Re: Meeting dates- Mountain Hare

Dear [REDACTED] my apologies. After speaking again with the relevant parties, it appears that October 30th is now possible- there was a change this morning. If this date remains available, please pencil us in for then. Thanks and all the best. [REDACTED]

On Thu, 27 Sep 2018 at 10:51, <[MinisterRANE@gov.scot](mailto:MinisterRANE@gov.scot)> wrote:

Morning,

What about 13:45 on the 22<sup>nd</sup> November or 13:00 on the 27<sup>th</sup> November?

Thanks

[REDACTED]  
Assistant Private Secretary to Minister for Rural Affairs and the Natural Environment

2N.08 - St Andrews House - Regent Road – Edinburgh - EH1 3DG

Tel: 0131 244 [REDACTED]

Email: [MinisterRANE@gov.scot](mailto:MinisterRANE@gov.scot)

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 26 September 2018 13:21  
**To:** Minister for Rural Affairs and the Natural Environment <[MinisterRANE@gov.scot](mailto:MinisterRANE@gov.scot)>  
**Subject:** Re: Meeting dates- Mountain Hare

Hi [REDACTED], thanks for the prompt reply. I have asked the relevant parties and, unfortunately, there are clashes on both days. Are there any other possibilities? [REDACTED] (appreciate the Minister is busy).

On Tue, 25 Sep 2018 at 11:24, <[MinisterRANE@gov.scot](mailto:MinisterRANE@gov.scot)> wrote:

Good afternoon [REDACTED]

The Minister has availability for a meeting at the Parliament on the 30<sup>th</sup> October at 13:00 and also the 1<sup>st</sup> November at 10:00, do either of these dates suit you all?

Many thanks

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Assistant Private Secretary to Minister for Rural Affairs and the Natural Environment

2N.08 - St Andrews House - Regent Road – Edinburgh - EH1 3DG

Tel: 0131 244 [REDACTED]

Email: [MinisterRANE@gov.scot](mailto:MinisterRANE@gov.scot)

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 24 September 2018 14:35  
**To:** Minister for Rural Affairs and the Natural Environment <[MinisterRANE@gov.scot](mailto:MinisterRANE@gov.scot)>  
**Subject:** Meeting dates- Mountain Hare

Dear [REDACTED], on 27th August, Scottish Gamekeepers Association [REDACTED] wrote to Ministers asking for a meeting to discuss mountain hares.

We have since received a response, REF: 2018/0029504 stating that we should contact yourself regarding a meeting with Minister, Mairi Gougeon MSP, on this subject.

Having spoken to SGA [REDACTED], we would be very happy to meet with Mairi at a time convenient for her. Can you let me know what dates may be available in the Minister's diary? We would also like to have Game and Wildlife Conservation Trust's [REDACTED] with us at the meeting, if the dates work out.

If you can get back to me on this, that would be great. Thanks and all the very best. [REDACTED]  
Communications, on behalf of SGA [REDACTED]

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Tha am post-d seo (agus faidhle neo ceanglan còmhla ris) dhan neach neo luchd-ainmichte a-mhàin. Chan eil e ceadichte a chleachdadh ann an dòigh sam bith, a' toirt a-steach còraichean, foillseachadh neo sgaoileadh, gun chead. Ma 's e is gun d'fhuair sibh seo gun fhiosd', bu choir cur às dhan phost-d agus lethbhreac sam bith air an t-siostam agaibh agus fios a leigeil chun neach a sgaoil am post-d gun dàil.

Dh'fhaodadh gum bi teachdaireachd sam bith bho Riaghaltas na h-Alba air a chlàradh neo air a sgrùdadh airson dearbhadh gu bheil an siostam ag obair gu h-èifeachdach neo airson adhbhar laghail eile. Dh'fhaodadh nach eil beachdan anns a' phost-d seo co-ionann ri beachdan Riaghaltas na h-Alba.  
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