[redacted]

From: [redacted]@forestry.gsi.gov.uk>
Sent: 14 May 2018 08:58
To: Cabinet Secretary for the Rural Economy
Cc: DG Economy; Higgins K (Kate); Connal K (Keith); [redacted] Communications Rural Economy & Environment; [redacted] Campbell B (Bridget); [redacted]
Subject: For Information: Media Coverage - Forest Operations & Wildcats
Attachments: P&J cats.pdf; Scotsman cats.pdf; The National - cats.pdf; Sun Telegraph article.pdf

Importance: High

[redacted]

For information the anticipated article on Forest Operations on Scotland's National Forest Estate and Wildcats appeared in yesterday's edition of the Sunday Telegraph, with a number of subsequent articles appearing in today's papers.

We are currently in dialogue with both the Sunday Telegraph and Press & Journal as the articles don't reflect the actual circumstances and were published without any of the lines that we provided. We await their response, however it is likely that we will pursue to seek a right to reply.

We'll also prepare an FMQ Briefing note on the subject.

Let me know if you require any further information or additional clarification.

Regards

[redacted]
Head of Corporate Support

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www.facebook.com/forestrycommissionscotland

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Client: Forestry Commission Scotland Media Coverage
Source: The Press and Journal (Inverness, Highlands & Islands) (Main)
Date: 14 May 2018
Page: 16
Reach: 7867
Size: 1260cm2
Value: 12297.6

Time running out for Scottish wildcats

With warnings that one of our most iconic animals is at risk, Kieran Beattie talks to the people trying to save them

On a misty spring evening, two men dedicated to protecting one of Scotland's most enigmatic creatures survey their surroundings.

There is pristine woodland to their backs, and a vast moor of recently-felled forest in front of them.

They point to one particular stump, where just months previously, a special low-light trail camera had triggered, capturing an image of one of the 13 purebred Scottish wildcats living and breeding in the Clashindarroch area, south-west of Huntly.

But now fears have been raised that without immediate action from the Scottish Government, the tiny population of wildcats in the region – some of the last in Scotland – could be lost forever to make way for windfarms and toilet paper production.

Researchers Kevin Bell and Steve Sleigh volunteer for the grassroots organisation Wildcat Haven, a group that seeks to safeguard the future of the critically endangered predator, which is sometimes known as the Highland Tiger.

Since 2015, the pair have spent countless evenings tracking the furtive felines throughout the remote Clashindarroch.

By looking for tiny paw prints on game trails, searching for kill sites, identifying scratching posts and setting up hidden camera traps, Mr Bell and Mr Sleigh are able to observe the fearsome animals without disturbing them.

The researchers say they have confirmed at least 13 pure Scottish wildcats in the forests.

Although other organisations estimate there are hundreds of genetically pure cats left in the wild, Wildcat Haven – which uses very stringent criteria to determine whether or not an individual is a true wildcat or not – believe the 13 cats of Clashindarroch represent around a third of the remaining unhybridised Scottish wildcats.

And to protect the animal's future, Wildcat Haven has today launched a campaign to give the Clashindarroch region special designation as a protected site and prevent any further deforestation or development.

Forestry Enterprise Scotland (FES), the forestry directorate of the Scottish Government, manages the forests of Clashindarroch.

Wildcat Haven says the commission plans to allow for up to 60% of the area's woodland to be felled over the next 15 to 20 years – and proposals have been put forward for windfarms in the region.

Mr Bell said: "We're appalled by what's going on.

"The exact areas where we've photographed wildcats just weeks ago are now being clear-felled for toilet roll, and set aside for windfarm installations.

"This is the last viable population of Scottish wildcats left anywhere, and the FES, while publicly claiming to be protecting them, are actively chopping down their home around them."

Last night, a spokesman for FES said: "We welcome Wildcat Haven's continued interest in our forest management and for giving us the opportunity to promote and explain the integrated and vital work being done through Scottish Wildcat Action to save Scotland's wildcats."

Wildcats were once widespread but the purebreds are now on the brink of extinction due to persecution, disease, and cross-breeding with feral domestic cats. But one of the largest threats facing the felines is loss of habitat.

Although the predators can adapt to many natural environments, a spokesman for Wildcat Haven said they particularly thrive in woodlands, as they provide cover to stalk prey, and most importantly, to create dens for their kittens.

If mother cats with kittens are disturbed, it is not unknown for them to abandon, or even worse, eat their own young.

Mr Sleigh said in addition to wildcats, he and Mr Bell have captured other threatened animals on camera in the forests, including pine martens and the red squirrel.

He added: "Clashindarroch forest must be protected from further commercial exploitation immediately and without compromise, it's too important.

"This place needs to be left alone, and we're determined to get this forest and these wildcats full legal protection.

"We need MSPs to bring this to parliament, because Nicola Sturgeon needs to understand that Scotland's iconic wildcat is about to be lost on her watch."

Using their strict criteria

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Forestry Commission Scotland
Coimisean na Coillfearachd Alba

of ensuring a cat meets 19 out of 21 special factors to determine genetic purity, Wildcat Haven believes there could be as few as 35 true individuals left.

By analysing patterns on their tails, body, necks, backs and a number of other tell-tale indicators, the group's researchers can both identify the number of individuals in local populations and determine if they are hybrids or not.

In addition to conservation work in Clashindarroch, the organisation also works to protect a population of around 10 wildcats it has identified in west Lochaber, where they have carried out a project to neuter domestic cats in the region in order to prevent cross-breeding.

Comment, Page 31

"Scotland's iconic wildcat is about to be lost on her watch"

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UNDER THREAT: it is thought there could be only 35 pure wildcats left in the whole of Scotland

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Researcher Kevin Bell setting up a camera in the forest. Photograph by Kenny Elrick

A Scottish wildcat caught on film at a site which has since been clear-felled

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Up to 60% of the forest at Clashindarroch – where it is reckoned up to a third of Scotland's pure wildcat population live – could be felled, triggering fears for the future of the so-called 'Highland Tiger'

Client: Forestry Commission Scotland Media Coverage
Source: The Scotsman (Main)
Date: 14 May 2018
Page: 12
Reach: 19792
Size: 391cm2
Value: 2721.36

Forestry Commission Scotland
Coimisean na Coillearachd Alba

Fears over impact on rare wildcats from tree felling

ABERDEENSHIRE

Activists claim 'national scandal' is unfolding in forest

By BRIAN FERGUSON

Campaigners are warning that rare Scottish wildcats are being put at risk with tree felling operations in a forest in Aberdeenshire.

Activists say they have found evidence of 13 different species living in Clashindarroch, near Huntly, which is owned by Scottish Government agency Forestry Commission Scotland.

Conservation group Wildcat Haven says the "commercial exploitation" of the forest is threatening its entire wildcat population, which is said to be among the most important in the world because some of the species are so rare.

Activists claim the work is causing considerable disturbance to the wildcats which can cause females to abandon or even eat their kittens.

However, Forestry Commission Scotland insists its management of Clashindarroch has been scrutinised by independent wildlife experts and meets "international standards of best practice."

The campaign group has raised concerts about the impact of felling in Clashindarroch just weeks after releasing footage it claims shows that one of the world's biggest wildcats is living in the forest.

Wildcat Haven campaigner Kev Bell said: "This is the last viable population of Scottish wildcats left anywhere, and Forestry Commission Scotland, whilst publicly claiming to be protecting them, are actively chopping down their home around them. It's a national scandal – we're at risk of losing our iconic wildcat to these thoughtless actions."

Another activist, Steve Sleigh, said: "Clashindarroch must be protected from further commercial exploitation immediately and without compromise, it's too important. This place needs to be left alone."

A spokesman for Forestry Commission Scotland said: "All our felling and replanting plans and operations are independently certified to international standards of best practice and ensure a balanced structure is maintained.

"The management of commercial forests creates a very good environment for wildcats with more edge habitats that they use to move around, and clear fell and restock sites that are rich with voles and ideal for foraging.

"We welcome Wildcat Haven's continued interest in our forest management and for giving us the opportunity to promote and explain the integrated and vital work being done through Scottish Wildcat Action to save Scotland's wildcats."

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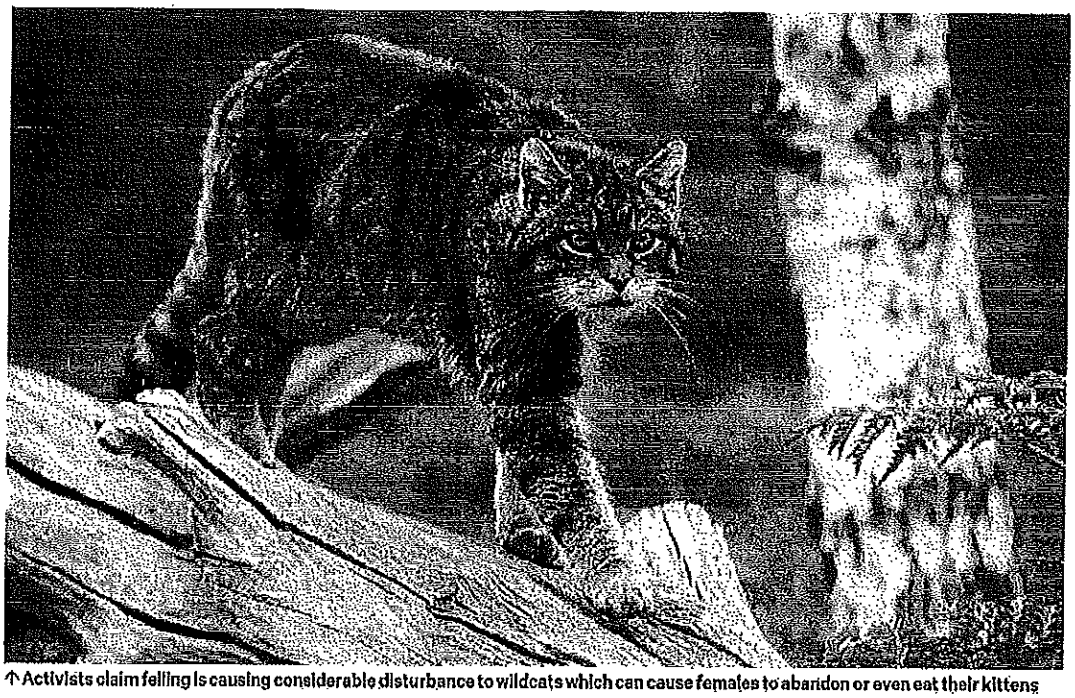

↑ Activists claim felling is causing considerable disturbance to wildcats which can cause females to abandon or even eat their kittens

Client: Forestry Commission Scotland Media Coverage
Source: The National (Scotland) (Main)
Date: 14 May 2018
Page: 6
Reach: 10380
Size: 902cm2
Value: 983.18

Wildcat group digs its claws into Scotland's forestry bosses

Commission denies any threat to the iconic species

BY GREG RUSSELL

FORESTRY bosses have dismissed claims that tree-felling and plans for two wind turbines in an Aberdeenshire woodland are endangering what is the largest viable population of Scottish wildcats in existence.

An independent campaign group – Wildcat Haven – said it had identified at least 13 wildcats living in Clashindarroch Forest, which Scottish Wildcat Action (SWA) had previously named as one of its five priority sites for conservation of the species.

Haven said its research had revealed extensive commercial exploitation in the forest, including widespread clear-felling and the planned installation of two large-scale wind farms, both of which threatened "considerable disturbance" to the wildcats which could lead females abandoning, or even eating their kittens.

The group's Kev Bell, who caught on film a 4ft-long cat dubbed the "Clashindarroch Beast", asked the Forestry Commission Scotland (FCS) to cease their activities more than a year ago.

"We're appalled by what's going on," he said. "The exact area where we filmed the Beast just weeks ago is right now being clear-felled for things like toilet roll and wind farm installations, right when wildcats are breeding and raising kittens.

The 4ft-long cat filmed by Wildcat Haven's Kev Bell and dubbed the 'Clashindarroch Beast'

"This is the last viable population of Scottish wildcats left anywhere, and FCS, while publicly claiming to be protecting them, are actively chopping down their home around them.

"It's a national scandal; we're at risk of losing our iconic wildcat to these thoughtless actions."

FCS, which manages the woodland, said it produces high-quality timber used in housing (60%), wood board, woodfuel and pulp (30%) and pallets (6%), but no toilet paper.

All of Forest Enterprise Scotland's (FES) tree felling and replanting plans and operations were independently certified to international standards of best practice and ensured a balanced structure was maintained.

It said there are proposals for wind arms in the area, but if they progressed they would be subject to "the full environmental impact assessment, public consultation and planning processes".

"The land management plans shared with Wildcat Haven show indicative areas for wind farm boundaries, but the footprint of individual turbines within that area will be comparatively small," said the FCS.

"Wildcats can be present in the forest and yet not be in the vicinity of planned felling operations.

"In this case operations were immediately suspended till further checks were carried out (Wildcat Haven did not provide any evidence of a wildcat being present in the area where felling was taking place) and FES decided to return to the area only outwith the breeding season.

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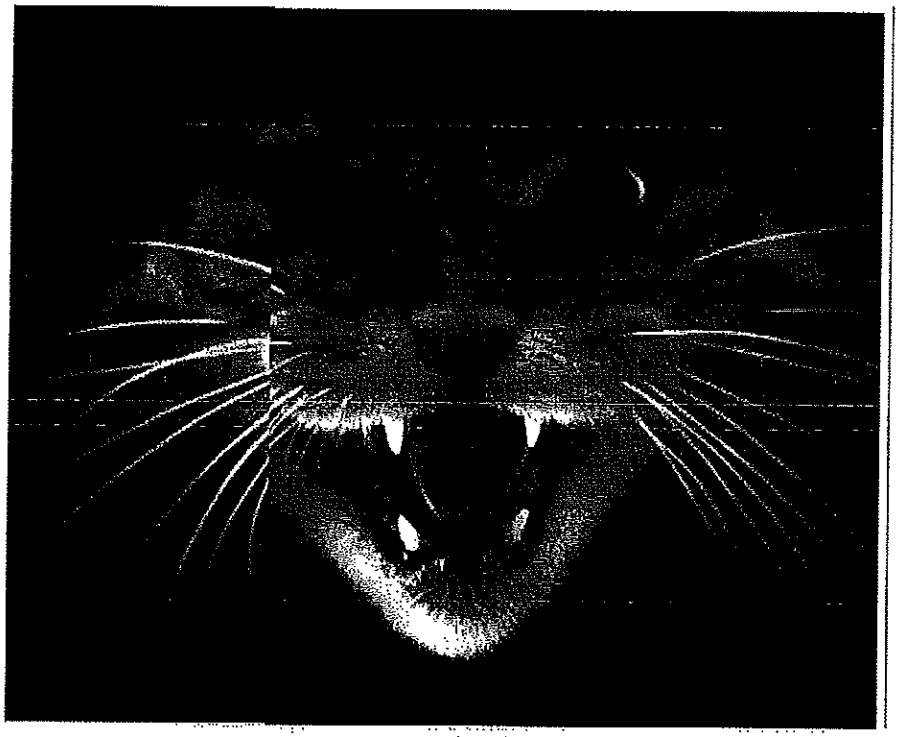

Wildcats are among the rarest species on the planet. At least 13 are said to live in the Clashindarroch Forest

"FES has been presented with one piece of footage that purports to show a wildcat. However, Wildcat Haven does not have our permission to install camera traps in Clashindarroch (where extensive surveying is already being carried out by SWA) and, as they have refused to advise us where this footage was taken, the footage is inconclusive."

A spokesperson for FES added: "We welcome Wildcat Haven's continued interest in our forest management and for giving us the opportunity to promote and explain the integrated and vital work being done through Scottish Wildcat Action to save Scotland's wildcats."

Client: Forestry Commission Scotland Media Coverage
Source: The Sunday Telegraph (Sunday)
Date: 13 May 2018
Page: 14
Reach: 351709
Size: 1317cm2
Value: 30132.96

Forestry Commission Scotland
Coimisean na Coillteagachd Alba

Forest fight in the Scottish wildcat's last stronghold

SAVING SPECIES

Conservationists claim tree felling could wipe out one of our rarest mammals. Boudicca Fox-Leonard visits their remote home

Clashindarroch Forest, Aberdeenshire; a destination for cross-country skiers rather than dog walkers. Britain doesn't get much wilder. Remote, silent and unfrequented, these are the exact qualities which have made the 16,000-acre forest the final stronghold of a creature 70 times rarer than the giant panda.

Over the past two and a half years, locals Kev Bell and Steve Sleigh have been tracking Scottish wildcats among the trees. So far they've found evidence of 13 cats on 28 different videos.

Volunteers with a passion for these elusive animals, they have been working with Wildcat Haven, an independent conservation group, to survey the forest, which they believe houses the most viable breeding population left in the wild. There are thought to be 35 in Scotland, of which as many as 15 are in Clashindarroch.

Yet despite their protected status, this precious habitat is under threat.

The publicly owned forest, managed by Forest Enterprise Scotland (FES), part of the Forestry Commission, is being commercially cleared for timber and products such as toilet paper. Areas have also been cleared for wind farms. A freedom of information (FOI) request by Wildlife Haven has revealed the areas scheduled for felling between now and 2039, with multiple sites set to be cleared in the next 10 years. There are also plans for two more wind farms. While FES say an average of 222 acres of the forest are felled annually, Wildcat Haven estimate up to a million trees will be felled every year for the next 20 years.

"The whole thing is basically parcelled

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Forestry Commission Scotland
Coimisean na Coillearachd Alba

off. It's like the Congo. All these trees will end up as toilet roll," says Sleigh, as we walk into the forest. On the outskirts of the forest is an old clear felled area. FES say management of commercial forests creates a "very good environment" for wildcats, "ideal for foraging", but Wildcat Haven say the yellowed stumps are no habitat for a forest-dwelling mammal. Looking at the scale of the felled area it's certainly hard to imagine a wildcat here.

Both Bell and Sleigh have grown frustrated to the point of anguish about the felling in the forest. This is in spite of the Forestry Commission Scotland (FCS) being a key partner with Scottish Wildcat Action, the official wildcat conservation project (a recipient of lottery funding) which has named Clashindarroch one of its five priority sites for wildcat conservation.

Last year, after Wildcat Haven contacted the FCS demanding that logging be stopped in a female wildcat's territory during breeding season due to concerns that it may abandon any kittens, Kenny Kortland, the species ecologist for the FCS, sent an email (obtained by the conservation group under FOI) to other officials at FCS, Scottish Wildcat Action and Scottish National Heritage, saying: "The presence of a cat does not preclude forestry operations, however we might anticipate some media coverage."

Meanwhile, in another email concerning two proposed new wind farms, a forestry official says: "I will be surprised if the presence of the Scottish wildcat does not become a significant issue during the planning process. I flag this simply to ensure that we do not create any hostages to fortune regarding the scale of our felling operations."

The emails make Sleigh and Bell question how seriously the presence of wildcats is being taken by the official organisations in place to protect them. And while FES say the proposed wind farms will be subject to a full Environmental Impact Assessment, Wildcat Haven are not confident of protection as a result. "Basically it's a massive inconvenience to them having the rarest animal on the planet living in this forest because it's affecting their coffers," says Sleigh.

The wildcat has already been squeezed to the brink by humans. Once found all over Britain, the animals were forced north by deforestation in the 1700s. During the Victorian period numbers further dwindled as they were shot for being a threat to the grouse on sporting estates.

Today, wildcats are at risk of hybridisation from feral cats, and those in captivity are often hybridised. But from studying the markings on the cats in their videos, Wildlife Haven are confident that they are pure bred.

In March footage captured by Bell of a wildcat nicknamed "the Beast" went viral. The cat exemplified the club-like tail and ringed markings of the species. "You can have cameras out for a month and get nothing," says Bell. "Then suddenly there's a beautiful shot of a cat."

He has encountered "ghost cats" and kittens. "They are amazing. The ghost cat spends its life avoiding man, and then you get a fleeting glimpse."

FES say: "Wildcat Haven does not have our permission to install camera traps in Clashindarroch (where extensive surveying is already being carried out by SWA)". However Wildcat Haven claim the right to roam and say FES, despite knowing about their cameras, has never asked them to stop. Bell has shown evidence of his filming to Kenny Kortland, but refused to hand over location details without a guarantee that the cats wouldn't be trapped. Wildcat Haven believe the emphasis should be on preserving the habitat, rather than removing the cats to captivity.

We're making our way to one of

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Bell's motion activated cameras. Wading through the remnants of winter snow, we pass the remains of a roe deer; a reminder that it's not just wildcats that live here, but other rare creatures including red squirrels, pine martens, goshawks and hen harriers.

Also present is wildcat scat. Unlike feral cats that live in packs, wildcats are solitary and mark their territorial boundaries. It's a sure sign of activity. In a glade Bell checks a camera. A piece of mackerel sits on a branch. Nothing this time, disappointingly.

Hiking back up to the path, the sound of diggers and then the smell of freshly cut timber greets us. Stretching out in front of me, not 100 yards from the camera site, are stacks of freshly felled trees. Beyond the long line of stacks a vast tranche of mud opens out in front of us.

FES later tell me via email that: "wildcats can be present in the forest and yet not be in the vicinity of planned felling operations and the reason that commercial forestry can take place in Clashindarroch is precisely because a comprehensive survey has been done" by Scottish Wildcat Action.

Standing in the clear-fell site, the contrast with the tidy sections marked on the proposed felling map was stark. The reality, Wildcat Haven say, is chaos, and must be devastating for the cats in their carefully demarcated territories. "They're not going to hang around with all this noise. It's a huge disturbance to the social structure in the forest," says Sleigh.

Wildcat Haven say they are not against forestry as such. "It's created this habitat. We're not averse to any management. But the forest is why the cats are here. So why chop it down?" says Steve Piper, a wildcat expert who walked out on the SWA project five years ago and joined Wildcat Haven. "There are plenty of bare hills to put wind turbines on, and so much forestry that in the big scheme of things Scotland can afford to not log this," he adds. "But it can't afford to lose its wildcats. Scotland's heritage and wildlife is worth much more than that fell timber."

Forest Enterprise Scotland seem unperturbed by the criticism. "We welcome Wildcat Haven's continued interest in our forest management," their spokesman said, "and for giving us the opportunity to promote and explain the integrated and vital work being done through Scottish Wildcat Action to save Scotland's wildcats."

A spokesperson for SWA said: "We work very closely with FES to ensure the wildcats in our priority areas continue to be protected and identify how FES management approaches can be used to inform wildcat conservation in other commerical forests."

But Wildcat Haven are calling on Nicola Sturgeon to intervene. "She needs to know that she could be the First Minister who oversees the extinction of the wildcat. This is not private forest, it's a government action plan," says Piper. "If this forest goes, we're at the point of writing off the wildcat. It was once found all over Britain, but this is its last bastion of significant forest. We need to let it have some peace here and let it survive."

wildcathaven.com

'The whole thing is parcelled off. It's like the Congo. All these trees will end up as toilet roll'

'If this forest goes, we're at the point of writing off the wildcat. This is its last bastion'

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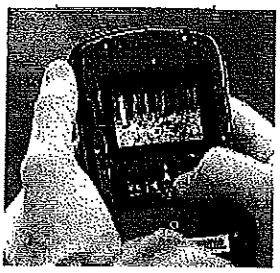
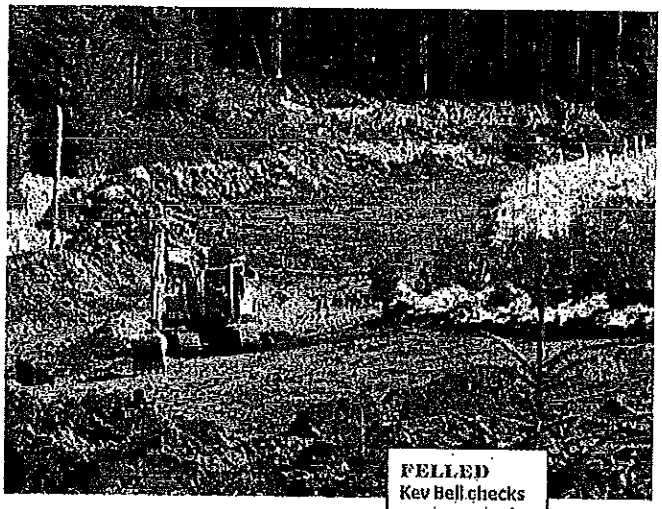
Forestry Commission Scotland
Coimisean na Gàillearachd Alba

FELINE THREAT There may be as few as 35 wildcats left





FELLED Kev Bell checks a camera, main; a cleared area, above

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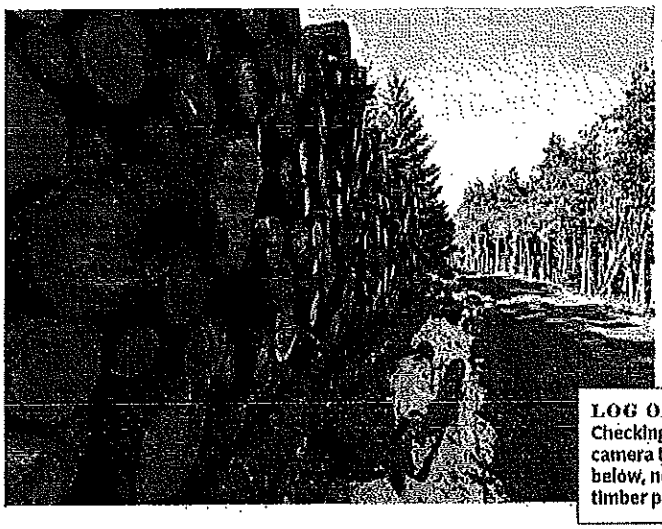

LOG ON Checking a camera trap, below, near a timber pile, left

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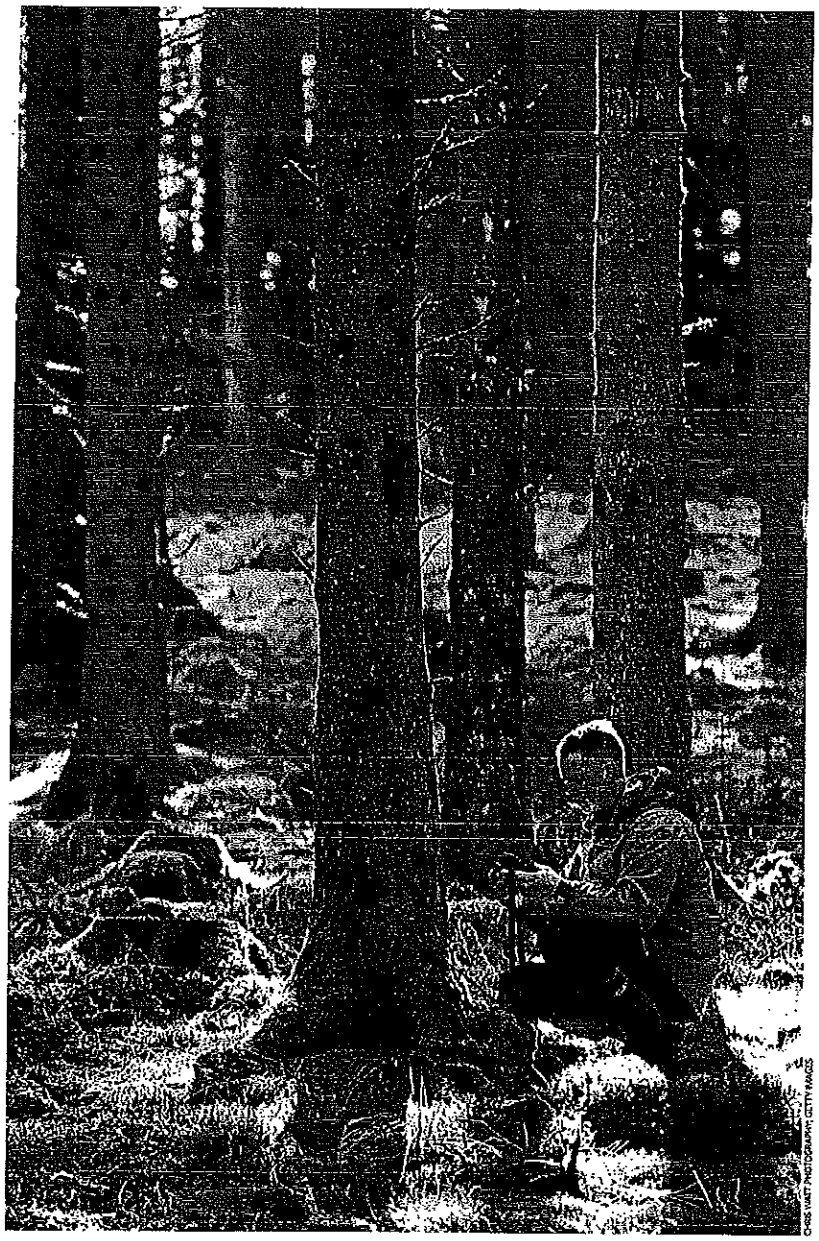

CHRIS WATT PHOTOGRAPHY/GETTY IMAGES

[redacted]

Subject: FW: URGENT: Wildcats - Sunday Express enquiry

From: [redacted]@forestry.gsi.gov.uk>
Sent: 01 June 2018 13:55
To: Higgins K (Kate) <Kate.Higgins@gov.scot>
Cc: Communications Rural Economy & Environment <CommunicationsRuralEconomy&Environment@gov.scot>; [redacted] Connal K (Keith) <Keith.Connal@gov.scot>; [redacted]@forestry.gsi.gov.uk>; [redacted]@forestry.gsi.gov.uk [redacted]@forestry.gsi.gov.uk>; [redacted]@forestry.gsi.gov.uk>; [redacted]@forestry.gsi.gov.uk>
Subject: RE: URGENT: Wildcats - Sunday Express enquiry

Thanks, Kate.

Regards
[redacted]

From: Kate.Higgins@gov.scot [mailto:Kate.Higgins@gov.scot]
Sent: 01 June 2018 13:54
To: [redacted]
Cc: CommunicationsRuralEconomy&Environment@gov.scot; [redacted]@gov.scot; [redacted]@gov.scot; [redacted]@gov.scot; [redacted]@gov.scot; Keith.Connal@gov.scot; [redacted]
Subject: RE: URGENT: Wildcats - Sunday Express enquiry

happy

Kate Higgins
Special Advisor to the First Minister
Rural Economy and Connectivity
[redacted]

My working hours are now:
Mon, Tues, Thurs 9.30 – 4.30; Wed 8.30 -4.30
Fri 9 – 5 and working from home, contactable on [redacted]

Scottish Government
St Andrew's House, 2 Regent Road, Edinburgh, EH1 3DG
Scottish Ministers, Special advisers and the Permanent Secretary to the Scottish Government are covered by the terms of the Lobbying (Scotland) Act 2016. See www.lobbying.scot.

From: [redacted]@forestry.gsi.gov.uk]
Sent: 01 June 2018 13:39
To: Higgins K (Kate)
Cc: Communications Rural Economy & Environment; [redacted] Connal K (Keith); [redacted]
Subject: RE: URGENT: Wildcats - Sunday Express enquiry
Importance: High

HI Kate

Revised line as follows. OK to go?

Regards
[redacted]

A spokesperson for Forest Enterprise Scotland said:

"It is heartening to know that so many members of the public have such a keen interest in wildcat conservation. The protection and conservation of the Scottish Wildcat is something we feel strongly about too.

"FES undertakes a huge range of actions to conserve wildcats and also other important species such as red squirrels, capercaillie and birds of prey – they all benefit from our conservation management.

"Clashindarroch is a working forest and is very important in terms of supplying materials to the timber industry in Scotland. It is managed sustainably, therefore clearfelling and replanting are all part and parcel of its ongoing management, as well as leaving mature areas of trees.

"This structural diversity supports a significant amount of biodiversity and published research indicates strongly that this mosaic of habitats is very beneficial for Scottish wildcats.

"FES follows all the best-practice standards in sustainable forest management and we are happy to share our work openly."

From: Kate.Higgins@gov.scot [mailto:Kate.Higgins@gov.scot]
Sent: 01 June 2018 12:30
To: [redacted]
Cc: CommunicationsRuralEconomy&Environment@gov.scot; [redacted]@gov.scot; [redacted]@gov.scot; [redacted]@gov.scot; [redacted]@gov.scot; Keith.Connal@gov.scot; [redacted]
Subject: RE: URGENT: Wildcats - Sunday Express enquiry

We discussed [redacted] and you are going to add in previous strong lines on what we are doing and we are going to push the blogs on it all again over the weekend – grateful if Greener Scotland twitter account could be used for this too

Kate Higgins
Special Advisor to the First Minister
Rural Economy and Connectivity
[redacted]

My working hours are now:
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Fri 9 – 5 and working from home, contactable on [redacted]

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From: [redacted]@forestry.gsi.gov.uk]
Sent: 01 June 2018 12:09
To: Higgins K (Kate)
Cc: Communications Rural Economy & Environment; [redacted] Connal K (Keith); [redacted]

Subject: URGENT: Wildcats - Sunday Express enquiry
Importance: High

Hi Kate

For some weeks now we have been countering an on-going campaign from a fringe interest group (Wildcat Haven), which has taken against the work of the official conservation partnership (Scottish Wildcat Action).

The fringe group's claims are often factually incorrect or distortions and they have so far provided no evidence to back up their own claimed findings.

The campaign has sought to undermine the work being done and in recent weeks has asserted that felling in Clashindarroch forest, where most of the conservation work has been focussed, is threatening wildcats. The scientific literature indicates that sustainable forest management creates more of the habitat that wildcats need to flourish.

They have started a petition and the Sunday Express will run a story this weekend because this petition has apparently gathered 160,000 signatures.

We have been asked for a comment and will be submitting the following line. (any thoughts on alt's by 2pm, please)

> A spokesperson for Forest Enterprise Scotland said:
>
> "It is heartening to know that so many members of the public have such a keen interest in wildcat conservation.
>
> "FES follows all the best-practice standards in sustainable forest management, which has been shown to be of significant benefit to wildcats.
>
> "We are happy to share our work openly."

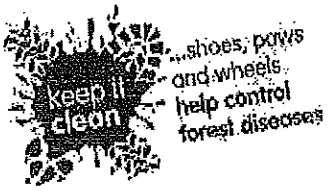
I will also be sending the journalist a couple of lings to blog posts from us and from SWA that go into great detail of the forestry practices carried out as part of wildcat conservation.

Thanks

Regards

[redacted]
Media Manager
Forestry Commission Scotland
[redacted]

Forestry Commission Scotland is part of the Scottish Government's Environment & Forestry Directorate.



[redacted]

Subject: FW: Response Required: Ministerial Submission - Management of Clashindarroch / Wildcats

Attachments: Ministerial Submission - Management of Clashindarroch and Wildcats.docx

Importance: High

From: [redacted]
Sent: 07 June 2018 09:26
To: Cabinet Secretary for the Rural Economy <CabSecRE@gov.scot>
Cc: Cabinet Secretary for the Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform <CabSecECCLR@gov.scot>; First Minister <firstminister@gov.scot>; Miller D (David) <David.Miller@gov.scot>; Higgins K (Kate) <Kate.Higgins@gov.scot>; Connal K (Keith) <Keith.Connal@gov.scot>; Communications Rural Economy & Environment <CommunicationsRuralEconomy&Environment@gov.scot>; [redacted]@forestry.gsi.gov.uk>; [redacted]@forestry.gsi.gov.uk>; [redacted]@forestry.gsi.gov.uk>; [redacted]@forestry.gsi.gov.uk>; [redacted]@forestry.gsi.gov.uk>; [redacted]@gov.scot>; Campbell B (Bridget) <Bridget.Campbell@gov.scot>; [redacted]@forestry.gsi.gov.uk>; [redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]@forestry.gsi.gov.uk>; [redacted]@forestry.gsi.gov.uk>; [redacted]@forestry.gsi.gov.uk>; [redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]@gov.scot>
Subject: Response Required: Ministerial Submission - Management of Clashindarroch / Wildcats
Importance: High

[redacted]

As requested please find attached the requested Briefing on the Management of Clashindarroch / Wildcats following the recent media coverage in the Sunday Express.

In addition the briefing includes a 'draft' letter / statement for the Cabinet Secretary to issue to Wildcat Haven in response to their recent petition and letter writing campaign to the First Minister (refer to e-mail below).

Let me know if you require any further information or additional clarification.

Regards

[redacted]
Head of Corporate Support

Forest Enterprise Scotland
Forest Enterprise Scotland Head Office
1 Highlander Way
Inverness Business Park
Inverness, IV2 7GB

[redacted]@forestry.gsi.gov.uk

+44 (0) 300 067 6000 (Switchboard)
[redacted]

www.forestry.gov.uk/scotland
www.facebook.com/forestrycommissionscotland

Forest Enterprise Scotland is an agency of the Forestry Commission managing Scotland's National Forest Estate.

-------- Original message --------
From: firstminister@gov.scot
Date: 04/06/2018 15:24 (GMT+00:00)
To: [redacted]@gov.scot, [redacted]@gov.scot, [redacted]@gov.scot, [redacted]@forestry.gsi.gov.uk>, [redacted]@gov.scot
Cc: Kate.Higgins@gov.scot, CabSecECCLR@gov.scot, CabSecREC@gov.scot, FirstMinisterFMQs@gov.scot, [redacted]@gov.scot, [redacted]@gov.scot, [redacted]@gov.scot, firstminister@gov.scot
Subject: endangered Scottish wildcats found in Clashindarroch Forest,

Dear All (apologies not sure which team will lead on this)

FMPO have received approx. 900 e-mails (copy example attached) since Friday on the future of the endangered Scottish wildcats found in Clashindarroch Forest, Aberdeenshire.

I am copying in [redacted] who manages the Public Engagement Unit so he can advise you on whether any such emails have been received by the Scottish Minister's mailbox.

The normal procedure adopted by FMPO to respond to campaigns and petitions in the last few years is as follows – You should contact the relevant private office, special advisors and seek confirmation the Minister is content for a response to issue in the Minister's name to the organiser of the campaign with a suggestion that they are free to publish it on to their website or pass it on to their members as they see fit.

Please let me know how you wish to handle as FMPO will have to trf the correspondence to PEU.

Thanks

[redacted]
Office of the First Minister
Scottish Government
5TH floor/St Andrews House/Regent Road
Edinburgh EH1 3DG
Tel [redacted]

****
******

From: [redacted]
Forest Enterprise Scotland
Date: 06 June 2018

Cabinet Secretary for the Rural Economy and Connectivity

MANAGEMENT OF CLASHINDARROCH FOREST / WILDCATS

Purpose

1. To provide the Cabinet Secretary further background to the management of Clashindarroch Forest by Forest Enterprise Scotland with particular reference to Scottish Wildcats.

Priority

2. Urgent (As a result of recent media / public interest following a petition and targeted letter writing campaign by supporters of Wildcat Haven).

Background

3. Forest Enterprise Scotland (FES) is a partner in Scottish Wildcat Action (SWA), a multi-agency partnership project aiming to save the Scottish wildcat from extinction. Annex II details those organisations participating in the partnership.

4. Clashindarroch Forest (part of Scotland's National Forest Estate) is one of six priority areas, identified by SWA, where detailed survey work and an extensive feral cat neutering and vaccination programme is being undertaken to protect the remaining wildcats.

5. Clashindarroch Forest is also a large-scale multi-purpose forest. Each year approximately 90 hectares of forest is felled in Clashindarroch, approximately 1.3% of the whole forest area. Sustainably managed forests, involving well-planned timber production, offer an ideal range of habitats for wildcats; with lots of edge habitats, which the wildcats use for moving through the forest as well as clear fell sites and replanted sites. FES's forest management, including at Clashindarroch, is certified to international standards of best practice.

Issue

6. FES withheld access approval for Wildcat Haven (WH), a campaign group, to install cameras within an SWA priority area at Clashindarroch Forest, near Huntly. This was because of implications for FES in terms of managing its operations effectively (including health and safety aspects), should an additional permission [to the existing SWA one] cover the same ground and run throughout the year. SWA already had an extensive camera project ongoing in the forest.

7. FES offered WH access to nearby forests for survey work, which would have complemented the SWA work. Despite the eminence of the scientists involved in the Scottish Government-backed project, and the independently certified management of the forest, WH argues that forest management at Clashindarroch

and the wider project are misguided and is calling for timber harvesting to stop. They have now increased their campaign efforts with an on-line petition and letter writing campaign to the First Minister and MSP's. As a result a number of media outlets (e.g. Sunday Times, Sunday Herald and Sunday Express) have picked-up on the story.

Mitigation

8. FES has worked closely with SWA partners since October 2013 to ensure that the management of Clashindarroch, and other forests on the NFE, enhance their value as important habitat for wildcats.

9. [redacted]

   - [redacted]
   - [redacted]
   - [redacted]
   - [redacted]
   - [redacted]
   - [redacted]

10. Additionally, the monitoring activity by SWA on site at Clashindarroch, and regular contact (weekly) between the local FES environment team and the SWA Scottish wildcat expert ensure all sightings of Scottish wildcat are recorded and immediately included in a robust local planning process.

11. Survey work for Scottish wildcats does not end when operations begin. Environmental staff provide all machine operators with an information pack and regularly speak to them about being vigilant for signs of wildcats. Operational activity is halted, at the instigation of the operator, when protected species are unexpectedly located on site.

12. Most scientific groups recognise that interbreeding with feral cats is one of the main threats to Scottish wildcats and key factor in their serious decline. As a result SWA has an extensive feral cat neutering and vaccination programme in and around Clashindarroch.

Recommendation

13. The Cabinet Secretary is asked to:
    - note the ongoing work and collaboration between FES and SWA to ensure that the management of Clashindarroch, and other forests on the NFE, protect and enhance an important habitat for wildcats; and

- confirm that he is happy for the letter/statement in Annex I to be issued to Wildcat Haven in his name, in line with recent advice from the Office of the First Minister.

[redacted]
Acting Head of Land Management
Forest Enterprise Scotland
[redacted]

Copy List:	For Action	For Comments	For Information		
			Portfolio Interest	Constit Interest	General Awareness
First Minister					X
Cabinet Secretary for Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform			X		
PS/DG Economy Bridget Campbell, Environment and Forestry Director Keith Connal, Natural Resources Communications Rural Economy & Connectivity [redacted] SG Kate Higgins, Special Advisor David Miller, Special Advisor [redacted] Forestry Devolution [redacted] FES [redacted] FES [redacted] FES [redacted] FES [redacted] FCS [redacted]r, FCS [redacted], FCS [redacted] FCS [redacted] SG [redacted], SG [redacted] SG [redacted] SG					

Annex I

[redacted]
Chief Scientific Advisor
Wildcat Haven
[redacted]

Dear [redacted]

MANAGEMENT OF CLASHINDARROCH FOREST / WILDCATS

Across all of Scotland's National Forest Estate (NFE), and in relation to all of the management activities that occur on it, Forest Enterprise Scotland (FES) goes to great lengths to protect wildlife.

There is a hierarchy of planning with its origins in the Scottish Forestry Strategy subsequently interpreted for FES into a National Strategy for the Estate, which in turn develops a local Strategic Plan for each Forest District and a Land Management Plan for each forest. These embed robust statements for the conservation and enhancement of species and habitats and put these at the heart of all of FES's activities.

For each felling operation, FES staff and/or contractors working on their behalf adhere to a formal Work Plan process. All known and potential wildlife issues are identified and appropriate mitigation is developed. To inform the development of these plans, FES Environment staff carry out site surveys before operations commence. Liaison with individual stakeholders and conservation organisations to obtain additional information is an important part of that process.

In the case of Scottish wildcat in Clashindarroch, close collaboration and data sharing with staff and volunteers from Scottish Wildcat Action is crucial and ongoing.

FES undertakes a huge range of actions to contribute to the Scottish Biodiversity Strategy and to satisfy the environmental requirements of forest certification. Species such as Scottish wildcat, red squirrels, capercaillie and raptors benefit from wide-ranging and long-term conservation management. This includes habitat management and the use of 'buffer zones' to minimise disturbance.

Clashindarroch is a particularly an important forest in terms of supplying materials to the timber industry in Scotland. Its significant scale enables FES to maintain significant volumes of timber production whilst clearfelling and then re planting less than 2% of the area each year. The result of the management is a forest comprising clear fells, restocked areas, and stands of mature timber.

Published and ongoing research indicates strongly that this mosaic of habitats is very beneficial for Scottish wildcats. FES is funding research to improve our knowledge in this regard.

More generally, the structural diversity of plantations managed for timber production supports significant biodiversity. As consumers of products derived from Scottish timber, we should all take great comfort from this fact.

FES and its partner Scottish Wildcat Action have already produced background information on both Clashindarroch and Scottish Wildcat which may be of further interest to your supporters:

https://scotland.forestry.gov.uk/news/2005-managing-forests-for-wildcats

In light of your recent campaign I would be grateful if you could share this letter with your supporters.

Likewise I would urge you to work collaboratively with the Scottish Wildcat Action partnership.

Working together we can do more to protect this iconic species.

Organisations participating in the Scottish Wildcat Action Partnership

Aigas Field Centre
British Association for Shooting and Conservation
British Veterinary Association
Cairngorms National Park Authority
Cats Protection
Chester University
Confor
Edinburgh University
Feline Advisory Bureau
Forestry Commission Scotland
Forest Enterprise Scotland
Game and Wildlife Conservation Trust
Highland Biological Recording Group
Highland Council
Highland Foundation for Wildlife
Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management
John Muir Trust
Loch Lomond and Trossachs National Park Authority
National Farmers Union Scotland
National Museums Scotland
National Species Reintroduction Forum
National Trust for Scotland
Partnership for Action Against Wildlife Crime in Scotland
Royal Society for the Protection of Birds
Royal Zoological Society of Scotland
Science & Advice for Scottish Agriculture
Scottish Countryside Alliance
Scottish Environment LINK
Scottish Gamekeepers Association
Scottish Government
Scottish Land and Estates
Scottish Natural Heritage
Scottish Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals
Scottish Wildcat Conservation
Scottish Wildlife Trust
The Aspinall Foundation
The European Nature Trust
The Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary

[redacted]

Subject: FW: URGENT: SNH line for approval: wildcats

From: Minister for Rural Affairs and the Natural Environment <MinisterRANE@gov.scot>
Sent: 17 October 2018 23:01
To: [redacted]@gov.scot>
Cc: Communications Rural Economy & Environment <CommunicationsRuralEconomy&Environment@gov.scot>; [redacted]@gov.scot>; Dobson L (Leanne) <Leanne.Dobson@gov.scot>; [redacted]@gov.scot>; Connal K (Keith) <Keith.Connal@gov.scot>; [redacted]@gov.scot>; Higgins K (Kate) <Kate.Higgins@gov.scot>; Minister for Rural Affairs and the Natural Environment <MinisterRANE@gov.scot>
Subject: Re: URGENT: SNH line for approval: wildcats

[redacted]

Ms Gougeon has cleared the lines.

Thanks

[redacted]

From: [redacted]
Sent: Wednesday, 17 October 2018 21:49
To: Minister for Rural Affairs and the Natural Environment
Cc: Communications Rural Economy & Environment; [redacted] Dobson L (Leanne); [redacted] Connal K (Keith); [redacted] Higgins K (Kate)
Subject: RE: URGENT: SNH line for approval: wildcats

To update that the BBC will not be running this story tomorrow morning.

Would be grateful if the Minister was able to clear the line by 1000 tomorrow if possible though.

[redacted]

From: [redacted]
Sent: 17 October 2018 18:50
To: Minister for Rural Affairs and the Natural Environment <MinisterRANE@gov.scot>
Cc: Communications Rural Economy & Environment <CommunicationsRuralEconomy&Environment@gov.scot>; [redacted]@gov.scot>; Dobson L (Leanne) <Leanne.Dobson@gov.scot>; [redacted]@gov.scot>; Connal K (Keith) <Keith.Connal@gov.scot>; [redacted]@gov.scot>; Higgins K (Kate) (Kate.Higgins@gov.scot) <Kate.Higgins@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: URGENT: SNH line for approval: wildcats

Copying in Kate.

From: [redacted]
Sent: 17 October 2018 18:32
To: Minister for Rural Affairs and the Natural Environment <MinisterRANE@gov.scot>
Cc: Communications Rural Economy & Environment <CommunicationsRuralEconomy&Environment@gov.scot>; [redacted]@gov.scot>; Dobson L (Leanne) <Leanne.Dobson@gov.scot>; [redacted]

[redacted]@gov.scot>; Connal K (Keith) <Keith.Connal@gov.scot>; [redacted]@gov.scot>
Subject: URGENT: SNH line for approval: wildcats

Hi [redacted]

SNH have asked for us to clear their lines below. This is in response to a news release which Wildcat Haven have issued (embargoed for tomorrow morning), announcing their intention to publish plans to release wildcats in the Scottish Borders (see below).

The following has been agreed with SpAds and officials.

Scottish Wildcat Action's Project Manager Dr Ruairidh Campbell said:

"Any reintroduction of wildcats to Scotland would require a licence from Scottish Natural Heritage, and to date no request has been received.

"Also, despite our repeated requests, Wildcat Haven continue not to share the scientific basis of their decisions with us, or with any other reputable organisations. As a result, we have no means of ascertaining the practical value of their work.

"We find Wildcat Haven's latest announcement concerning, as any proposed re-introduction of wildcats would be very complex. And, if not done properly, will simply make the situation worse for the wildcats."

British wildcat to be reintroduced to Scottish-English border

Conservation group Wildcat Haven, which conserves Scottish wildcats across the Highlands, has announced the British Wildcat Project: a plan to reintroduce the wildcat to the Scottish-English border region of Galloway, Borders, Cumbria and Northumberland, establishing a new British wildcat population.

FOR RELEASE 00:01AM THURSDAY 18th OCTOBER 2018 (WILDCAT HAVEN)

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Focusing first on Galloway in the south west of Scotland, the population will be encouraged to spread across Galloway, Borders, Cumbria and Northumberland, creating a new British wildcat population group. This brings with it the prospect of wildcats being present in England for the first time in 300 years after it was wiped out as a result of human persecution and habitat loss.

"The British ecology needs a wildcat in it," explains Dr Paul O'Donoghue, Chief Scientific Advisor with Wildcat Haven, "and wildcats fit in perfectly, helping to control species like rabbit and actively avoiding conflict with humans.

"The Highlands can't afford to lose any Scottish wildcats so we'll be looking to healthy, wild-living European populations, and using them to re-establish a British wildcat population on both sides of the Scottish-English border."

Survey and research work has just begun in Galloway Forest, set in the remote and wild south-west corner of Scotland, which offers a mixture of natural and commercial forestry connectivity all the way across the border to Kielder Forest in Northumberland.

"We've seen that wildcats can really thrive in man-made forests, and an important part of our research is understanding how we can create a sustainable population in this environment. The Galloway-Northumberland border region is often overlooked but this is one of the most well connected and diverse habitats in the UK, and certainly rivals the Highlands for biodiversity potential."

The plan already has considerable landowner support coming from Gresham House Forestry, one of the largest owners of forestry in the UK and the Galloway region.
Jason Sinden, Director of Forestry, comments; "Gresham House manages almost 140,000 acres of forestry assets in the border region. These forests are managed to produce a sustainable supply of timber and this helps to create almost ideal habitats for a range of native woodland specialists, such a red squirrels, badgers and roe deer. The forests are now being re-colonised by pine-martens and we hope that the habitat can also be suitable for the wildcat, which is such an important component of forest eco-systems. We will be working with Wildcat Haven to identify appropriate sites for release and monitoring."
The British Wildcat Project is part of a comprehensive strategy being developed by Wildcat Haven, focused on connecting Scottish wildcats from their primary Highlands fieldwork areas and restoring a healthy population of wildcats to the Scottish Southern Uplands which can spread naturally across the border in one of the UK's least populated regions.
"Wildcats once lived across the UK," adds O'Donoghue, "deforestation was the thing that wiped most of them out, but that's a trend which has reversed considerably over the last century. There's an incredible amount of space from Edinburgh and Glasgow all the way down to Leeds, York and the proposed Northern Forest project, and it's crying out for the wildlife which lived there in the past.
"The wildcat is the UK's most endangered animal, and it's probably the most charismatic and iconic species that has managed to cling on here against all odds; they're incredible survivors and I have no doubt they will thrive in the forests of the Southern Uplands and Northern England. The British Wildcat Project is the beginning of a conservation and rewilding mega-project."
ENDS
##################
PICTURE CREDIT
Scottish wildcat by[redacted]
Scottish wildcat kitten by[redacted]
Videos available at www.youtube.com/ScottishWildcatHaven
CONTACT
[redacted] Chief Scientific Advisor, Wildcat Haven
[redacted]
[redacted]wildcathaven.co.uk

[redacted]

Subject: FW: URGENT: SNH line for approval: wildcats

From: [redacted]@forestry.gsi.gov.uk>
Sent: 18 October 2018 11:07
To: Dobson L (Leanne) <Leanne.Dobson@gov.scot>
Cc: Higgins K (Kate) <Kate.Higgins@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: URGENT: SNH line for approval: wildcats

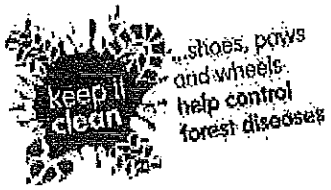
Hi Leanne

Not sure how fast your head is spinning but if you have a moment, pass me your number (or give me a call) and we can chat through the wildcat stuff.

Regards
[redacted]

[redacted]
Media Manager
Forestry Commission Scotland
[redacted]

Forestry Commission Scotland is part of the Scottish Government's Environment & Forestry Directorate.



From: Kate.Higgins@gov.scot [mailto:Kate.Higgins@gov.scot]
Sent: 18 October 2018 11:02
To: [redacted] Leanne.Dobson@gov.scot
Subject: RE: URGENT: SNH line for approval: wildcats

[redacted] meet Leanne our new environment spad – will leave you to pick this up

Kate Higgins
Special Advisor to the First Minister
Rural Economy and Connectivity
[redacted]

My working hours are:
Mon, Tues, Thurs 9.30 – 4.30; Wed 8.30 -4.30
Fri 9 – 5 and working from home, contactable on [redacted]

Scottish Government
St Andrew's House, 2 Regent Road, Edinburgh, EH1 3DG
Scottish Ministers, Special advisers and the Permanent Secretary to the Scottish Government are covered by the terms of the Lobbying (Scotland) Act 2016. See www.lobbying.scot.

From: [redacted]@forestry.gsi.gov.uk>
Sent: 18 October 2018 08:25
To: Higgins K (Kate) <Kate.Higgins@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: URGENT: SNH line for approval: wildcats

No worries.

From: Kate.Higgins@gov.scot [mailto:Kate.Higgins@gov.scot]
Sent: 18 October 2018 08:20
To: [redacted]
Subject: RE: URGENT: SNH line for approval: wildcats

[redacted]

Can you have a chat with new environment spad Leanne Dobson? If ok with that, will introduce you by email

Kate Higgins
Special advisor to the First Minister
Rural Economy and Connectivity

[redacted]

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Sent with BlackBerry Work

From: [redacted]@forestry.gsi.gov.uk>
Date: Wednesday, 17 Oct 2018, 7:41 pm
To: Higgins K (Kate) <Kate.Higgins@gov.scot>
Subject: Re: URGENT: SNH line for approval: wildcats

Further to previous... [redacted].

[redacted]

Regards
[redacted]

Sent from my Samsung Galaxy smartphone.

-------- Original message --------
From: Kate.Higgins@gov.scot
Date: 17/10/2018 18:53 (GMT+00:00)
To: [redacted]@gov.scot, MinisterRANE@gov.scot
Cc: CommunicationsRuralEconomy&Environment@gov.scot, [redacted]@gov.scot, Leanne.Dobson@gov.scot, [redacted]@gov.scot, Keith.Connal@gov.scot, [redacted]@gov.scot, [redacted]' <[redacted]@forestry.gsi.gov.uk>, [redacted]@forestry.gsi.gov.uk>
Subject: RE: URGENT: SNH line for approval: wildcats

[redacted]

Tba for forestry interests. Do you have contact with Gresham House forestry?

Kate Higgins
Special advisor to the First Minister
Rural Economy and Connectivity

[redacted]

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Sent with BlackBerry Work

From: [redacted]@gov.scot>
Date: Wednesday, 17 Oct 2018, 6:50 pm
To: Minister for Rural Affairs and the Natural Environment <MinisterRANE@gov.scot>
Cc: Communications Rural Economy & Environment <CommunicationsRuralEconomy&Environment@gov.scot>, [redacted]@gov.scot>, Dobson L (Leanne) <Leanne.Dobson@gov.scot>, [redacted]@gov.scot>, Connal K (Keith) <Keith.Connal@gov.scot>, [redacted]@gov.scot>, Higgins K (Kate) <Kate.Higgins@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: URGENT: SNH line for approval: wildcats

Copying in Kate.

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Sent: 17 October 2018 18:32
To: Minister for Rural Affairs and the Natural Environment <MinisterRANE@gov.scot>
Cc: Communications Rural Economy & Environment <CommunicationsRuralEconomy&Environment@gov.scot>; [redacted]@gov.scot>; Dobson L (Leanne) <Leanne.Dobson@gov.scot>; [redacted]@gov.scot>; Connal K (Keith) <Keith.Connal@gov.scot>; [redacted]@gov.scot>
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The plan already has considerable landowner support coming from Gresham House Forestry, one of the largest owners of forestry in the UK and the Galloway region.

Jason Sinden, Director of Forestry, comments; "Gresham House manages almost 140,000 acres of forestry assets in the border region. These forests are managed to produce a sustainable supply of timber and this helps to create almost ideal habitats for a range of native woodland specialists, such a red squirrels, badgers and roe deer. The forests are now being re-colonised by pine-martens and we hope that the habitat can also

be suitable for the wildcat, which is such an important component of forest eco-systems. We will be working with Wildcat Haven to identify appropriate sites for release and monitoring."

The British Wildcat Project is part of a comprehensive strategy being developed by Wildcat Haven, focused on connecting Scottish wildcats from their primary Highlands fieldwork areas and restoring a healthy population of wildcats to the Scottish Southern Uplands which can spread naturally across the border in one of the UK's least populated regions.

"Wildcats once lived across the UK," adds O'Donoghue, "deforestation was the thing that wiped most of them out, but that's a trend which has reversed considerably over the last century. There's an incredible amount of space from Edinburgh and Glasgow all the way down to Leeds, York and the proposed Northern Forest project, and it's crying out for the wildlife which lived there in the past.

"The wildcat is the UK's most endangered animal, and it's probably the most charismatic and iconic species that has managed to cling on here against all odds; they're incredible survivors and I have no doubt they will thrive in the forests of the Southern Uplands and Northern England. The British Wildcat Project is the beginning of a conservation and rewilding mega-project."

ENDS

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PICTURE CREDIT

Scottish wildcat by [redacted]

Scottish wildcat kitten by [redacted]

Videos available at www.youtube.com/ScottishWildcatHaven

CONTACT

[redacted], Chief Scientific Advisor, Wildcat Haven

[redacted]

[redacted]@wildcathaven.co.uk

[redacted]

Subject: FW: FYI - Wildcat - belated validation

From: Higgins K (Kate) <Kate.Higgins@gov.scot>
Sent: 07 December 2018 08:17
To: [redacted]@forestry.gsi.gov.uk>
Subject: RE: FYI - Wildcat - belated validation

Thanks and well done!

Kate Higgins
Special advisor to the First Minister
Rural Economy and Connectivity

[redacted]

Scottish Ministers, special advisors and the Permanent Secretary to the Scottish Government are covered by the terms of the Lobbying (Scotland) Act 2016. See www.lobbying.scot for more information.

Sent with BlackBerry Work

From: [redacted]@forestry.gsi.gov.uk>
Date: Friday, 07 Dec 2018, 7:45 am
To: Higgins K (Kate) <Kate.Higgins@gov.scot>
Cc: [redacted]@forestry.gsi.gov.uk>, [redacted]@forestry.gsi.gov.uk>, [redacted]@forestry.gsi.gov.uk>, [redacted]@forestry.gsi.gov.uk>, [redacted]@forestry.gsi.gov.uk>, [redacted]@forestry.gsi.gov.uk>, [redacted]@forestry.gsi.gov.uk>, [redacted]@forestry.gsi.gov.uk>, [redacted]@forestry.gsi.gov.uk>
Subject: FYI - Wildcat - belated validation

HI Kate

[redacted]

Wildcat Haven has issued another press release claiming that they have found another wildcat kitten (which is at this stage unverifiable) [redacted]

Regards
[redacted]

[redacted]

Subject: FW: FYI - Wildcat - belated validation

From: Higgins K (Kate) <Kate.Higgins@gov.scot>
Sent: 07 December 2018 08:17
To: Dobson L (Leanne) <Leanne.Dobson@gov.scot>
Subject: FW: FYI - Wildcat - belated validation

To be aware

Kate Higgins
Special advisor to the First Minister
Rural Economy and Connectivity

[redacted]

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Sent with BlackBerry Work

From: [redacted]@forestry.gsi.gov.uk>
Date: Friday, 07 Dec 2018, 7:45 am
To: Higgins K (Kate) <Kate.Higgins@gov.scot>
Cc: [redacted]@forestry.gsi.gov.uk>, [redacted]
<[redacted]forestry.gsi.gov.uk> [redacted] <[redacted]@forestry.gsi.gov.uk>, [redacted]
[redacted]@forestry.gsi.gov.uk>, [redacted]@forestry.gsi.gov.uk>, [redacted]
[redacted]@forestry.gsi.gov.uk>, [redacted]@forestry.gsi.gov.uk>
Subject: FYI - Wildcat - belated validation

HI Kate

[redacted]

Wildcat Haven has issued another press release claiming that they have found another wildcat kitten (which is at this stage unverifiable [redacted]

Regards
[redacted]