

From: [redacted]
Sent: 11 April 2018 21:34:53
To: scottish.ministers@gov.scot
Subject: Beavers - Fao Roseanna Cunningham

Dear Roseanna Cunningham,

I've just read that you intend to have the Strathglass beavers captured and relocated, that despite a previous attempt resulting in the death of two animals.

Given that the Scottish Government has recently approved retention of the Tay beavers as a fact of life and an asset to the biodiversity of the river I am mystified at this decision which appears totally perverse. We holiday near Foyers in South Loch Ness twice a year and will be back there in May when we intended to visit Strathglass more than the usual once or twice to try to see the beavers; clearly if you intend to uplift them at risk to their lives we will be unable to do so.

In due course the Knapdale or Tay populations would expand through the river systems and potentially reach the Glass or Farrer. The Tay beavers were given a shortcut to establishment so why not those in Strathglass. Would you please explain to me (in words of one syllable?) why you have come to this utterly perverse decision.

Sincerely,

[redacted]

This email has been scanned by the Symantec Email Security.cloud service.
For more information please visit <http://www.symanteccloud.com>

This email has been received from an external party and has been swept for the presence of computer viruses.

From: [redacted].
Sent: 11 December 2018 14:52:23
To: Public Engagement Unit
Cc: Cabinet Secretary for the Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform
Subject: FW: Reintroduction of beavers to the UK and Scotland

Attachments: Sustainability and nature of reintroduction Questionnaire.pdf

AO ? [redacted]

Hi,

one for MACCS please.

Kind Regards,

[redacted]

From: [redacted]
<[redacted]>>
Sent: 11 December 2018 13:41
To: Cabinet Secretary for the Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform
<CabSecECCLR@gov.scot<mailto:CabSecECCLR@gov.scot>>
Subject: Re: Reintroduction of beavers to the UK and Scotland

Dear Ms Cunningham,

I am a Sixth Form student at [redacted], and am studying the reintroduction of beavers to the UK for my A-Level Extended Project Qualification (EPQ). I would be really grateful if I could ask you a few questions (attached) about your opinions and knowledge of the sustainability and nature of beaver reintroduction to Scotland. All comments will be strictly for use in my A-Level project. Please let me know if you wish to be made anonymous in the write-up for my completed project.

Yours sincerely,

[redacted]
(Student at [redacted])

This email has been scanned by the Symantec Email Security .cloud service.
For more information please visit <http://www.symanteccloud.com>

Sustainability and nature of reintroduction questionnaire

1. In your opinion, which of the two main reintroductions of beavers to Scotland- the trial reintroduction to Knapdale Forest, and the unlicensed Tayside release- has been the most useful in terms of study?

2. What lessons have been learned from the two populations, in terms of future reintroductions to Scotland?

3. Do you agree or disagree that beaver reintroductions are becoming more necessary, as the Tayside reintroduction has shown that people are willing to release beavers of their own accord?

4. In your opinion, is beaver reintroduction to Scotland and the UK financially sustainable?

5. Do you believe that beaver reintroduction to Scotland and the UK is environmentally sustainable?

6. In your opinion, is beaver reintroduction across Scotland a valid option, or is it better suited to only selected sites/ areas?

Contact details:
[redacted]

From: [redacted]
Sent: 15 March 2019 16:00:09
To: Scottish Ministers
Subject: FAO Roseanna Cunningham

Attachments: Beaver letter to CabSec.pdf

AO - [redacted]

Dear Cabinet Secretary,

Please find attached letter from Jonathan Hughes.

Kind regards,

[redacted]
Public Affairs Manager

[cid:image001.png@01D029CB.59769D30]<<http://www.scottishwildlifetrust.org.uk/>>

Tel: + 44 (0) 131 [redacted]

Skype: [redacted]

E:

[redacted]@scottishwildlifetrust.org.uk<[mailto:\[redacted\]@scottishwildlifetrust.org.uk](mailto:[redacted]@scottishwildlifetrust.org.uk)> Harbourside House 110 Commercial Street Edinburgh EH6 6NF

Follow us on Facebook<<http://www.facebook.com/scottishwildlifetrust>>

Follow us on Twitter<<http://twitter.com/ScotWildlife>>

Save Paper - Do you really need to print this e-mail?

The Scottish Wildlife Trust is a company limited by guarantee and registered in Scotland (registered no. SC040247).

It is also a Scottish registered charity (charity no. SC005792)

This email has been sent from The Scottish Wildlife Trust. The content of this email (including any attachments) is strictly confidential. If you are not the intended recipient, please advise the sender immediately, delete this email and destroy any copies. We do not accept liability for any loss or damage which may result from this email or any file attached.

The Scottish Wildlife Trust is a Scottish charity limited by guarantee (Charity number SC005792, Company number SC0402470). Registered office: Harbourside House, 110 Commercial Street, Edinburgh EH6 6NF. Natural Capital Scotland is a trading subsidiary of Scottish Wildlife Trust (Company number SC424744). Registered office: Harbourside House, 110 Commercial Street, Edinburgh EH6 6NF. Click here<https://scottishwildlifetrust.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2016/09/002_057_publications_policies_Complaints_and_Compliments_Policy_and_Procedures__June_2012__1342016684-1.pdf> to view our complaints policy.

This email has been scanned by the Symantec Email Security.cloud service.
For more information please visit <http://www.symanteccloud.com>

This email has been received from an external party and has been swept for the
presence of computer viruses.

Protecting Scotland's wildlife for the future

Roseanna Cunningham MSP
Cabinet Secretary for Environment, Climate Change
and Land Reform
T3.07
The Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh
EH99 1SP

By email: CabSecECCLR@gov.scot

15 March 2019



**Scottish
Wildlife
Trust**

Dear Roseanna,

Scottish Government decision to grant European Protected Species status to the Eurasian beaver

As today marks my last working day as Chief Executive of the Scottish Wildlife Trust, I wanted to take this opportunity to thank you personally for our collaboration over recent years. It is with mixed emotions that I say goodbye to the environment sector in Scotland, which has been so close to my heart for so long. However, I greatly look forward to continuing to follow developments in Scotland when I take up my new role in Cambridge at UNEP's World Conservation Monitoring Centre.

I also wanted to record, on behalf of the Scottish Wildlife Trust, how delighted we were to receive news of the Scottish Government's historic decision to grant European Protected Species status to beavers.

The Trust remains clear that an effective management framework, including lethal control options as a potential last resort, is necessary to manage any potential conflicts in a fair and balanced way. The Scottish Government's decision will mean that Scotland is able to enjoy the significant benefits that beavers can bring, including improved habitat for a host of species along with reductions in sediment and fertiliser run-off plus improved flood protection.

As this is a time for celebration, we are working with RZSS to organise an event to mark this major milestone. This will take place on Wednesday 1 May, at the Macdonald Holyrood Hotel, between 6pm-8pm. We very much hope you will be able to make space in your diary to attend. A formal invitation will follow.

Thank you once again for your important contribution to biodiversity in Scotland. I hope our paths will cross again.

Yours sincerely,

Jonathan Hughes
Chief Executive
Scottish Wildlife Trust

From: [redacted]
Sent: 16 March 2018 10:17:16
To: Public Engagement Unit
Cc: Cabinet Secretary for the Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform
Subject: FW: Letter from ms Roseanna Cunningham MSP

Attachments: [redacted]

Hi,

One for MACCS please, for the attention of [redacted].

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

Roseanna Cunningham, MSP Cabinet Secretary for Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform
2N.08 - St Andrews House - Regent Road ? Edinburgh - EH1 3DG

Tel: [redacted]

Email: CabsecECCLR@gov.scot<mailto:CabsecECCLR@gov.scot>

[cid:image001.png@01D3BC75.80477AC0]<http://home.scotland.gov.uk/home>

From: [redacted]

Sent: 16 March 2018 09:58

To: Cabinet Secretary for the Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform

Cc: fergus.ewing.msp@parliament.scot; [redacted] Subject: FW: Letter from ms Roseanna Cunningham MSP

Dear Ms Cunningham,

Thank you for your letter dated 14th March 2018.

I am most concerned that an illegally released colony beavers from a private collection in the Tay and Earn catchment being given European Protected Status (EPS) sets an unpalatable precedence that Wildlife Crime not only goes unpunished but that the criminals behind this crime are rewarded with European Protected Status for said beavers, and am most surprised that you are willing to set this precedence.

I would welcome further comments from you with regard to this matter.

Yours sincerely

[redacted]

[redacted]

From: [redacted] On Behalf Of
CabSecECCLR@gov.scot<mailto:CabSecECCLR@gov.scot>
Sent: 15 March 2018 15:52
To: [redacted]
Cc: CabSecECCLR@gov.scot<mailto:CabSecECCLR@gov.scot>
Subject: Letter from ms Roseanna Cunningham MSP

Dear [redacted],

Please find attached a letter for your attention from Ms Roseanna Cunningham MSP, Cabinet Secretary for the Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform.

Many thanks,

[redacted]

[redacted]
[redacted]

Roseanna Cunningham, MSP Cabinet Secretary for Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform
2N.08 - St Andrews House - Regent Road ? Edinburgh - EH1 3DG

Tel: [redacted]

Email: CabsecECCLR@gov.scot<mailto:CabsecECCLR@gov.scot>

[cid:image001.png@01D3BC75.80477AC0]<http://home.scotland.gov.uk/home>

*

This e-mail (and any files or other attachments transmitted with it) is intended solely for the attention of the addressee(s). Unauthorised use, disclosure, storage, copying or distribution of any part of this e-mail is not permitted. If you are not the intended recipient please destroy the email, remove any copies from your system and inform the sender immediately by return.

Communications with the Scottish Government may be monitored or recorded in order to secure the effective operation of the system and for other lawful purposes. The views or opinions contained within this e-mail may not necessarily reflect those of the Scottish Government.

Tha am post-d seo (agus faidhle neo ceanglan c?mhla ris) dhan neach neo luchd-ainmichte a-mh?in. Chan eil e ceadachd a chleachdadh ann an d?igh sam bith, a? toirt a-steach c?raichean, foillseachadh neo sgaoileadh, gun chead. Ma ?s e is gun d?fhuair sibh seo gun fhiosd?, bu choir cur ?s dhan phost-d agus lethbhreac sam bith air an t-siostam agaibh agus fios a leigeil chun neach a sgaoil am post-d gun d?il. Dh?fhaodadh gum bi teachdaireachd sam bith bho Riaghaltas na h-Alba air a chl?radh neo air a sgr?dadh airson dearbhadh gu bheil an siostam ag obair gu h-?ifeachdach neo airson adhbhar laghail eile. Dh?fhaodadh nach eil beachdan anns a? phost-d seo co-ionann ri beachdan Riaghaltas na h-Alba.

*

From: [redacted]
Sent: 18 March 2019 15:27:25
To: Public Engagement Unit
Cc: Cabinet Secretary for the Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform
Subject: FW: Correspondence from Claudia Beamish MSP - Eurasian Beaver

Attachments: 180319 R Cunningham - eurAsian beaver protections.pdf

AO -[redacted]

Hi

One for MACCS please, as an MR

Regards

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

St. Andrews House
EDINBURGH
EH1 3DG
0131 [redacted]
cabsececclr@gov.scot<mailto:cabsececclr@gov.scot>

All e-mails and attachments sent by a Ministerial Private Office to any other official on behalf of a Minister relating to a decision, request or comment made by a Minister, or a note of a Ministerial meeting, must be filed appropriately by the recipient. Private Offices do not keep official records of such e-mails or attachments.

Scottish Ministers, Special advisers and the Permanent Secretary are covered by the terms of the Lobbying (Scotland) Act 2016. See www.lobbying.scot<<http://www.lobbying.scot>>

[SG _master_logo _ colour_ CMYK]

From: [redacted]
<[redacted]> On Behalf Of Beamish C (Claudia), MSP
Sent: 18 March 2019 15:04
To: Cabinet Secretary for the Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform
<CabSecECCLR@gov.scot<mailto:CabSecECCLR@gov.scot> >
Subject: Correspondence from Claudia Beamish MSP -Eurasian Beaver

Good afternoon,
Please find attached correspondence from Claudia Beamish MSP on the Eurasian Beaver.
Kind regards
Caroline

[redacted]

Tel: 0131 [redacted] Email:
[redacted]@parliament.scot>

*

The Scottish Parliament: Making a positive difference to the lives of the people of
Scotland

Pàrlamaid na h-Alba: A' toirt deagh bhuaidh air beatha sluagh na h-Alba

www.parliament.scot<<http://www.parliament.scot>> :

facebook.com/scottishparliament<<http://facebook.com/scottishparliament>> :

[twitter.com/scotparl](http://twitter.com/ScotParl)<<http://twitter.com/ScotParl>>

The information in this email may be confidential. If you think you have received this
email in error please delete it and do not share its contents.

*



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Claudia Beamish MSP
South Scotland

Roseanna Cunningham
Cabinet Secretary for Environment, Climate Change
and Land Reform
The Scottish Government
St. Andrew's House
Regent Road
Edinburgh
EH1 3DG

Our Ref: CB/CH

18.3.19

Dear Roseanna

Addition of the Eurasian Beaver to the list of European Protected Species of Animals

I would like to write to welcome your decision to add the Eurasian Beaver to the list of European Protected Species of Animals.

As you know, Beavers are an iconic species whose presence in Tayside does a great deal to deliver public good in agriculture and land use. Studies show that beavers:

- Mitigate Diffuse Pollution
- Reduce Nitrates by 45% preventing algal blooms
- Mitigate erosion
- Reduce suspended sediment by 40%
- Act as carbon sink

I am also aware that Scottish Natural Heritage found in its Beaver report have a positive impact on biodiversity - all the way from aquatic life to water voles and otters. By ecosystem engineering beavers “hold up” up water in a catchment and help reduce flooding providing a cost effective natural solution to our flooding problems which avoids costly “grey infrastructure”.

I do, of course, recognise that some farmers in the region have understandable reservations about possible damage that beavers could do to agricultural land through building dams on watercourses.

Claudia Beamish MSP | Member of the Scottish Parliament for South Scotland

Email: claudia.beamish.msp@parliament.scot **Website:** www.claudiabeamish.com

Parliamentary Office The Scottish Parliament, Edinburgh, EH99 1SP Tel: 0131 348 6889
Regional Office 12 St Vincent Place, Lanark, ML11 7LA Tel: 01555 664 065

However, I believe that the costs are outweighed by the environmental benefits of an active and healthy beaver population. For that reason, I urge you to ensure that the necessary framework management plan, while ensuring that beaver populations remain at sustainable levels while adequately protecting the species from illegal population control. that I encourage you to look closely at practical opportunities of support for farmers were managing and mitigating the effects of the beavers on farmland.

I again would like to note my support for this measure and would be grateful if you would provide updates on the formulation of the framework management plan.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Claudia".

Claudia Beamish MSP

From: [redacted]
Sent: 18 August 2018 11:31:40
To: scottish.ministers@gov
Subject: .scot Beaully beavers

Dear Roseanna Cunningham?

Well isn't it all going terribly well!

Another beaver relocated and dead. Why didn't SNH just give themselves one of their licences to kill and just dispose of the animals in one fell swoop? After all they give these out like sweets to anyone with the slightest need but that's what happens when you put bean counters rather than environmentalists in charge. Perhaps they/you thought bumping off the beavers one at a time wouldn't be as noticeable.

It really is beyond belief that no-one had the intelligence to simply licence the animals on the Beaully since they will get there eventually. Perhaps the male which died at Knappedale was trying to return home or look for its family members.

For Heaven's sake just licence the other animals instead of killing them through stupidity, intransigence and jobsworthiness.

[redacted]

This email has been scanned by the Symantec Email Security.cloud service.
For more information please visit <http://www.symanteccloud.com>

This email has been received from an external party and has been swept for the presence of computer viruses.

From: [redacted].
Sent: 20 August 2018 10:46:18
To: Public Engagement Unit
Cc: Cabinet Secretary for the Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform
Subject: FW: Beavers

Hi,

One for MACCS please.

Kind Regards,

[redacted]

From: Cunningham R (Roseanna), MSP
<Roseanna.Cunningham.msp@parliament.scot>
Sent: 18 August 2018 12:27
To: Cabinet Secretary for the Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform
<CabSecECCLR@gov.scot>
Subject: Fwd: Beavers

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:
From: [redacted] Date: 18 August 2018 at 12:25 :58 BST
To:
<Roseanna.Cunningham.msp@parliament.scot<mailto:Roseanna.Cunningham.msp@parliament.scot>>
Subject: Beavers
I am English, but I want to vent my anger at the recent story I have read about beavers on the River Beaulieu being captured but dying after two weeks in captivity. There is extensive evidence that this native mammal is hugely beneficial to our environment. If it was really necessary to relocate them, why could you not arrange for a shorter capture and release period ? it sounds like complete ineptitude to me. I hope you have sleepless nights feeling guilty about the outcome of your heartless decision, and if you don't you should not have that role in Government ? leave the environment to someone who cares about it.

[redacted]

*

The Scottish Parliament: Making a positive difference to the lives of the people of Scotland
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba: A' toirt deagh bhuaidh air beatha sluagh na h-Alba

www.parliament.scot<http://www.parliament.scot> :
facebook.com/scottishparliament<http://facebook.com/scottishparliament> :
twitter.com/scotparl<http://twitter.com/ScotParl>

The information in this email may be confidential. If you think you have received this email in error please delete it and do not share its contents.

*

This email has been scanned by the Symantec Email Security.cloud service.
For more information please visit <http://www.symanteccloud.com>

--

From: [redacted].
Sent: 21 August 2018 12:11:25
To: Public Engagement Unit
Cc: Cabinet Secretary for the Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform
Subject: FW: Letter to the Cabinet Secretary - Management of beavers in Scotland - 21 August 2018

Attachments: Letter to Cabinet Secretary - Scottish Beavers - 21 August 2018.pdf

Hi,

One for MACCS please.

Kind Regards,

[redacted]

From: [redacted] Sent: 21 August 2018 12:08
To: Cabinet Secretary for the Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform
<CabSecECCLR@gov.scot>
Cc: [redacted]
Subject: Letter to the Cabinet Secretary - Management of beavers in Scotland - 21 August 2018

Good afternoon,

Please find attached a joint letter from The Royal Zoological Society for Scotland, The Scottish Wild Beaver Group and the Scottish Wildlife Trust regarding the management of beavers in Scotland for your attention.

Kind regards,

[redacted]

[redacted]

[cid:image001.png@01D029CB.59769D30]
<<http://www.scottishwildlifetrust.org.uk/>>

T 0131 [redacted]
W [scottishwildlifetrust.org.uk](http://www.scottishwildlifetrust.org.uk)<<http://www.swt.org.uk/>>
Harbourside House 110 Commercial Street Edinburgh EH6 6NF

Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/scottishwildlifetrust>
Follow us on Twitter: <http://twitter.com/ScotWildlife>

The Scottish Wildlife Trust is a company limited by guarantee and registered in Scotland (registered no. SC040247).
It is also a Scottish registered charity (charity no. SC005792)

P Save Paper - Do you really need to print this e-mail?

This email has been sent from The Scottish Wildlife Trust. The content of this email (including any attachments) is strictly confidential. If you are not the intended recipient, please advise the sender immediately, delete this email and destroy any copies. We do not accept liability for any loss or damage which may result from this email or any file attached.

The Scottish Wildlife Trust is a Scottish charity limited by guarantee (Charity number SC005792, Company number SC0402470). Registered office: Harbourside House, 110 Commercial Street, Edinburgh EH6 6NF. Natural Capital Scotland is a trading subsidiary of Scottish Wildlife Trust (Company number SC424744). Registered office: Harbourside House, 110 Commercial Street, Edinburgh EH6 6NF. Click here<https://scottishwildlifetrust.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2016/09/002_057_publications_policies_Complaints_and_Compliments_Policy_and_Procedures__June_2012__1342016684-1.pdf> to view our complaints policy.

This email has been scanned by the Symantec Email Security.cloud service.
For more information please visit <http://www.symanteccloud.com>

This email has been received from an external party and has been swept for the presence of computer viruses.



Roseanna Cunningham MSP
Cabinet Secretary for Environment,
Climate Change and Land Reform
St. Andrew's House
Regent Road
Edinburgh
EH1 3DG

21 August 2018

Dear Cabinet Secretary,

Management of beavers in Scotland

We thought it may be helpful to write to outline our support for the work which Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) has been undertaking to develop *Guidance for Licensing Management Operations for beavers in Scotland*. SNH has worked collaboratively with stakeholders for 18 months to develop a comprehensive and clear framework document that is supported by a number of more detailed technical notes.

We were extremely disappointed at the last SNH Scottish Beaver Forum meeting that the (local) National Farmers Union Scotland (NFUS) representative seemed to be walking away from the collaborative compromise that has been developed among all stakeholders over the last 18 months.

SNH has worked creatively and tirelessly to develop the management principles previously agreed to by NFUS, Scottish Land Estates, the Royal Zoological Society of Scotland and the Scottish Wildlife Trust, and which were provided to you in November 2016. We stand by our commitment to acknowledge that beaver impacts can require management, especially in prime agricultural land or if major infrastructure is threatened, even if this means lethal control. However, we also need the farming representatives to stand by their commitment that beavers will be tolerated and managed appropriately. There cannot be exclusion zones declared or areas of Scotland where the agricultural sector do not have to adhere to the good management practices that all other stakeholders support.

We feel that we have adopted a patient approach to the development of the *Licensing and Management Operations for Beavers in Scotland* but are now increasingly concerned that, two years on from your favourable decision, the framework is still being debated. SNH's limited resources are being tied up in trying to appease the intractable views of a mere handful of local NFUS members. We are also concerned that progress towards securing European Protected Species status is much slower than originally stated. In particular, it is difficult to get clarity from Scottish Government officials on the timetable for initiating the statutory process required to secure European Protected Species status.

Scottish Wildlife Trust Harbourside House 110 Commercial St Edinburgh EH6 6NF
T 0131 312 7765 F 0131 312 8705 E enquiries@swt.org.uk W scottishwildlifetrust.org.uk

The Scottish Wildlife Trust is a company limited by guarantee and registered in Scotland (registered no. SC040247).
It is also a Scottish registered charity (charity no. SC005792)

In the meantime, public concern is growing about the systematic removal of beavers by local land managers in certain areas since your decision. The recently completed national beaver survey indicates an absence of beavers in several previously populated areas. It's also the case that the welfare standards of the removal practices are currently going unchecked.

We believe that SNH have developed an excellent package of measures which balances the need to allow beavers to colonise naturally whilst establishing a clear, flexible, and rapid response framework. Their proposed approach can deal with a wide range of scenarios, whilst maintaining an ability to assess ecological, social and economic impacts and to protect animal welfare. We believe that that is important to maintain public confidence that beavers will be adequately protected and be allowed to naturally colonise and reach favourable conservation status.

Inevitably the process to-date focused on mitigating the problems of beavers and we are keen that the wide range of benefits this significant key stone species are also recognised in the decision-making. These include regulation of downstream-flooding, improved water quality, riparian habitat management, increased biodiversity and the social and economic benefits around education and tourism.

Not all the answers are known, and we will need to continue to learn and adapt the *Guidance for Licensing Management Operations for Beavers in Scotland* as we go on. We would therefore urge that the SNH work is brought to a close and that their proposals – with or without the support of the NFUS – are provided to Scottish Ministers so that we can move to give beavers adequate protection and to manage them in an appropriate way.

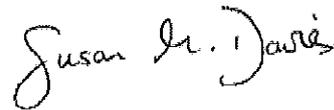
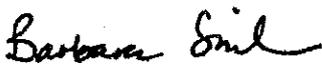
Yours sincerely,

Signed for and on behalf of:

Royal Zoological Society for
Scotland

Scottish Wild Beaver Group

Scottish Wildlife Trust



Barbara Smith
CEO

James Nairne
Trustee

Susan Davies
Director of Conservation

For response please.

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone.

From: [redacted]

<[redacted]>>

Sent: Friday, 22 February 2019 16:40

To: Cabinet Secretary for the Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform Subject: Urgent protection request for beavers

Dear Cabinet Secretary,

I'm emailing to express my deep concern about today's news that a beaver has been found shot dead on a Scottish Wildlife Trust reserve in Tayside:

<https://www.thecourier.co.uk/news/scotland/834425/beaver-found-shot-in-the-chest-on-tayside-wildlife-reserve/>

The beavers in Tayside, particularly on wildlife reserves and near towns like Dunkeld, have brought huge joy and multiple benefits to the region. They have brought in considerable number of tourists, who have come to take pictures and go on guided tours to see beavers in their natural habitats. This has brought benefits for towns through overnight stays, using local services etc. There are also considerable environmental benefits, such as water purification and providing habitat for young fish.

Whilst there has been some conflict with farmland, there are humane measures to deal with this (e.g. 'deceiver' devices). Overall the beavers have been a huge benefit to Perthshire.

I am extremely disheartened, and honestly deeply depressed, by the news that this beaver has been killed on a wildlife reserve, and in such a cruel and torturous manner. There should be absolutely no need to kill beavers, as there are multiple options available to deal with them in problematic situations (e.g. 'deceiver' devices, relocation in extreme circumstances).

There is simply no excuse to delay giving beavers full and immediate protected status. This has been delayed for far too long, and now Tayside's beaver population are at serious risk of being killed off.

There are huge gains to be had for Scotland from beavers and they can be a real asset for our country, environmentally and economically. At a time where many of our native species are at risk from persecution, pollution, habitat loss and climate change, we're at risk of losing one of our most valuable national assets in wildlife.

I urge you to work with your colleagues to give full and immediate protection to beavers in Scotland, without exception.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Kind regards,
[redacted]

From: Cabinet Secretary for the Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform
Sent: 22 February 2019 17:29:56
To: Connal K (Keith), Public Engagement Unit
Cc: [redacted], Communications Rural Economy & Environment, [redacted]
Subject: Re: Urgent protection request for beavers

Apologies Keith that would be fine thanks.

It was [redacted] email that had urgent heading. working off BlackBerry on a number of things & didn't change title when sent on to MACCS.

Regards
[redacted]
Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone.
From: Connal K (Keith)
Sent: Friday, 22 February 2019 17:24
To: Cabinet Secretary for the Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform; Public Engagement Unit
Cc: [redacted]; Communications Rural Economy & Environment; [redacted]
Subject: RE: Urgent protection request for beavers

[redacted]

I assume not for immediate response – better to get onto MACCS but provide a reply early next week referring to the laying of the SSI etc and, if appropriate, the (anticipated) welcome this step will receive from SWT and others.

Let me know if you wish it handled differently.

Keith

Keith Connal
Deputy Director

Natural Resources Division
Directorate for Environment & Forestry
Area 3G South, Victoria Quay, Edinburgh, EH6 6QQ
T: 0131 [redacted]
M: [redacted]

From: Cabinet Secretary for the Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform <CabSecECCLR@gov.scot>
Sent: 22 February 2019 17:19
To: Public Engagement Unit <CorrespondenceUnit@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for the Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform <CabSecECCLR@gov.scot>
Cc: Connal K (Keith) <Keith.Connal@gov.scot>; [redacted]; Communications Rural Economy & Environment <CommunicationsRuralEconomy&Environment@gov.scot>; [redacted]>
Subject: Fw: Urgent protection request for beavers

From: [redacted].
Sent: 23 March 2018 09:32:03
To: Public Engagement Unit
Cc: Cabinet Secretary for the Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform
Subject: FW: Beavers

Hi,

One for MACCS please - MR.

Kind Regards,

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

Roseanna Cunningham, MSP Cabinet Secretary for Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform
2N.08 - St Andrews House - Regent Road ? Edinburgh - EH1 3DG

Tel: [redacted]

Email: CabsecECCLR@gov.scot

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

From: Dey G (Graeme), MSP [mailto:Graeme.Dey.msp@parliament.scot]
Sent: 22 March 2018 16:55
To: Miller D (David)
Subject: Fwd: Beavers

Can you get this into the system ? Cab Sec wanted me to raise officially
Graeme

>

> Dear Roseanna,

>

> I write to raise an issue brought to me by Kirriemuir Angling Club in my constituency regarding the re-introduction of Beavers.

> Specifically they are interested in how the planned management scheme will work in relation to fisheries.

> Kirriemuir AC have access to a pond on farmland just outside the town. They use it to introduce youngsters and families to the sport.

> However, with the arrival of beavers the pond banks have been completely undermined by tunnelling and of course the trees have been attacked.

> As a result access to fishing is being threatened. I have seen this for myself.

> But there is a wider issue concerning the club.

> They have beats on two nearby rivers where riparian planting has taken place.

> They query what response measures might be available if the beavers appear there and begin damaging the riverbanks and attacking the trees in a significantly detrimental way.

> It strikes me these are legitimate points they raise and I hope you will be able to respond to these in due course.

> Kind regards
> Graeme Dey MSP
>
> Sent from my iPad

*

The Scottish Parliament: Making a positive difference to the lives of the people of
Scotland
P?rlamaid na h-Alba: A? toirt deagh bhuaidh air beatha sluagh na h-Alba

www.parliament.scot<<http://www.parliament.scot>> :
facebook.com/scottishparliament<<http://facebook.com/scottishparliament>> :
[twitter.com/scotparl](http://twitter.com/ScotParl)<<http://twitter.com/ScotParl>>

The information in this email may be confidential. If you think you have received this
email in error please delete it and do not share its contents.

*

This email has been scanned by the Symantec Email Security.cloud service.
For more information please visit <http://www.symanteccloud.com>

From: [redacted]
Sent: 23 February 2019 09:58:08
To: scottish.ministers@gov.scot
Subject: Beavers protected species

To: Roseanna Cunningham, Environment Secretary Thank you so much for your role in bringing about the protection of Beavers in Scotland, it will be a wonderful decision both for nature and humanity and I hope will inspire a similar path by authorities in Wales where I live. It's time to escape the dead end of current rural land use and move to a sustainable and holistic solution to benefit the countryside and all its inhabitants for the future. Your courage is an important start to this. Kind regards [redacted], North Wales.

This email has been scanned by the Symantec Email Security.cloud service.
For more information please visit <http://www.symanteccloud.com>

From: [redacted] 25
Sent: March 2019 14:18:25
To: Scottish Ministers
Subject: Beavers

AO ? [redacted]

Dear Roseanna Cunningham,

If current stories are to be believed then it appears that the Scottish government has lost all semblance of rationality. Not content with granting residential status to beavers within months of deciding to evict those on the Beaulieu, which could be natural escapees from the Aigas centre rather than deliberate releases, it now seems that any interested party can learn how to control them by lethal means. Really!!!

It is no wonder that sporting estates have got away, and continue to get away, with the persecution of raptors, mustelids (pine marten) and possibly the wildcat with such mixed messages coming out of government and the office you hold. Ditto with the changes to hunting with dogs; you can only use two dogs unless we grant you permission to use as many as you like? or at least that's what it appears.

For heaven's sake get a grip and make protection, protection with no ifs and buts to suit a minority supported by a vociferous coalition of NFU/SLE/SGA. The present situation is totally unacceptable.

[redacted]

This email has been scanned by the Symantec Email Security.cloud service.
For more information please visit <http://www.symanteccloud.com>

This email has been received from an external party and has been swept for the
presence of computer viruses.

From: [redacted]
Sent: 04 April 2019 08:59:46
To: Public Engagement Unit
Cc: Cabinet Secretary for the Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform
Subject: Letter from John Finnie MSP

Attachments: u440198_04-04-2019_08-54-03.pdf

AO - [redacted]

Hi

One for MACCS please as an MR

Thanks

[redacted], Cabinet
Secretary for Environment, Climate Change, and Land Reform

St. Andrews House
EDINBURGH
EH1 3DG
0131 [redacted]
cabsececc lr@gov .scot<mailto:cabsececc lr@gov .scot>

All e-mails and attachments sent by a Ministerial Private Office to any other official on behalf of a Minister relating to a decision, request or comment made by a Minister, or a note of a Ministerial meeting, must be filed appropriately by the recipient.

Private Offices do not keep official records of such e-mails or attachments.

Scottish Ministers, Special advisers and the Permanent Secretary are covered by the terms of the Lobbying (Scotland) Act 2016. See www.lobbying.scot<<http://www.lobbying.scot>>

[SG _ master _ logo _ colour _ CMYK]



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

John Finnie

Member of the Scottish Parliament
Highlands and Islands

John Finnie

Ball Pàrlamaid na h-Alba
A' Ghàidhealtachd agus na h-Eileanan

Roseanna Cunningham MSP
Cabinet Secretary for Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform
St. Andrew's House
Regent Road
Edinburgh
EH1 3DG

26th March 2019

Dear ~~Cabinet Secretary~~

SNH- Best Practice in Lethal Control Workshops

Last week it was announced that, from 1st May 2019, the Eurasian Beaver would be given protected status in Scotland and I was delighted to be confirmed as the Parliamentary Species Champion for the Eurasian Beaver.

In the last few days (21st–23rd March), Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) has carried out, "Best Practice in Lethal Control Workshops," for beaver culling, in Crieff, Dunkeld and Alyth.

Whilst I don't doubt that SNH will state that this is a pragmatic system, given that course advice sheet's final line is, "No assessment (neither written or firearms) will be required," it hardly indicates rigorous standards of 'control' are being applied and is rightly seen by some as a *get killing beavers before they're protected* scheme.

You will be aware of reports of pregnant mothers being shot by farmers and there is widespread public concern that this course, proceeding official protected status, will be seen as a 'green light' to eliminate as many beaver as possible before protection commences.

I would be grateful if you could clarify the following.

Concerns have been raised with me that SNH originally refused to give information to members of the press regarding this event, suggesting a furtive approach giving that week's vote on giving Beavers protection. Was this refusal to give information to the press a decision which was approved by Ministers?

Room MG.16
The Scottish Parliament
EDINBURGH
EH99 1SP

john.finnie.msp@parliament.scot
(0131) [redacted]

Seòmar MG.16
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba
DÚN ÈIDEANN
EH99 1SP

John Finnie

Member of the Scottish Parliament
Highlands and Islands

John Finnie

Ball Pàrlamaid na h-Alba
A' Ghàidhealtachd agus na h-Eileanan

The timing of the event so close to the Committee's decision not to oppose the protection of Beavers will look to many as an attempt to reduce the number of Beavers prior to the coming into force of their protection, was the date of the *training* discussed by SNH with Ministers and did Ministers at any point raise objections.

Can you outline what assessment the Scottish Government has done on the use of dogs in 'controlling' Beavers and other protected species? I note from the evidence to the Parliament's Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform Committee that destruction of dams less than 14 days after construction will remain permitted without permission. What assessment has the Scottish Government done to establish the ability of "accredited controllers" in being able to correctly identify the age of the dams regardless of whether young are present or not.

Can the Scottish Government outline what assessment has taken on impact of the targeting of family groups as outlined by the SNH leaflet on the *training* SNH will provide?

To what extent can the public be reassured that licences be awarded to "accredited controllers" who have undergone no assessment of their capabilities, will not result in harm and distress to protected species. Does the Scottish Government routinely award licences for work to individuals accredited based solely on their presence in a room while a lecture is ongoing therein?

Kind regards



John Finnie MSP



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

20 OCT 2018

John Swinney MSP
Member of the Scottish Parliament for Perthshire North

Ms Roseanna Cunningham MSP
Cabinet Secretary for Environment, Climate Change & Land Reform
St. Andrews House
Regent Road
Edinburgh
EH1 3DG

1 RECD 11

Our Ref: JS3856RA

26 October 2018

[redacted]

I recently met with my above constituent, [redacted], regarding the legal protection for beavers in Scotland.

[redacted] wishes to discover the legislative timetable for granting protective status for the two populations of European beavers in Scotland.

I would be grateful if you were able to look into this matter and inform me of your views and of any assistance you can give. I look forward to hearing from you.

From: [redacted].
Sent: 01 March 2019 08:41:48
To: Public Engagement Unit
Cc: Cabinet Secretary for the Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform
Subject: FW: Protecting beavers

[redacted])

Hi,

One for MACCS please.

Many thanks,

[redacted]

From: [redacted]
<[redacted]>>
Sent: 28 February 2019 21:54
To: Cabinet Secretary for the Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform
<CabSecECCLR@gov.scot<mailto:CabSecECCLR@gov.scot>>
Subject: Protecting beavers

Dear Ms Cunningham,

It is not clear whether I should write to you direct or through your office so I have done both. I am writing to you to ask why the Scottish Parliament is legislating to protect Beavers in Scotland. I do so because there is ample evidence that introducing an animal such as a beaver can have catastrophic consequences for the environment, destroying forests and causing flooding over large areas. This is what has happened in Tierra Del Fuego where beavers were introduced with a huge fanfare in 1948. Fifty years later this was recognised as a huge mistake because they had caused enormous environmental problems across southern Argentina and Chile. In 2011 both governments started talks about eradicating the estimated 100,000 beavers which were destroying large tracts of forest and flooding areas with their dam building.

The Weather Channel carries an article on the damage caused by these wild animals which you can see by opening the following link.

<https://www.theweathernetwork.com/news/articles/canadian-beavers-were-sent-to-argentina-chile-tierra-del-fuego-caused-ecological-disaster/101140>

Please ask your colleagues to urgently reconsider the proposal to give these animals protected species status. In Scotland, as in South America, they have no natural predator and will increase in numbers over the years, destroying Scotland's natural beauty in the process. I have already witnessed destruction of mature trees in Perthshire and would not wish to see this turn into an environmental disaster for the next generations to have to deal with.

Yours sincerely

[redacted]
[redacted]

[redacted]
[redacted]

This email has been scanned by the Symantec Email Security.cloud service.
For more information please visit <http://www.symanteccloud.com>

-

From: [redacted]
Sent: 04 January 2019 11:41:56
To: Public Engagement Unit
Cc: Cabinet Secretary for the Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform, Dignon [redacted]
Subject: FW: Pow of Inchaffray

For MACCS, please.

[redacted]

[redacted]

All e-mails and attachments sent by a Ministerial Private Office to any other official on behalf of a Minister relating to a decision, request or comment made by a Minister, or a note of a Ministerial meeting, must be filed appropriately by the recipient. Private Offices do not keep official records of such e-mails or attachments. Scottish Ministers, Special advisers and the Permanent Secretary are covered by the terms of the Lobbying (Scotland) Act 2016. See www.lobbying.scot<<http://www.lobbying.scot/>>

From: Cunningham R (Roseanna), MSP
<Roseanna.Cunningham.msp@parliament.scot>
Sent: 28 December 2018 17:07
To: [redacted]; Cabinet Secretary for the Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform <CabSecECCLR@gov.scot>
Subject: Fwd: Pow of Inchaffray

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: [redacted]
<[redacted]>> Date: 28 December 2018 at 16:09:02 GMT
To:
"Roseanna.Cunningham.msp@parliament.scot<<mailto:Roseanna.Cunningham.msp@parliament.scot>>"
<Roseanna.Cunningham.msp@parliament.scot<<mailto:Roseanna.Cunningham.msp@parliament.scot>>>
Cc: [redacted]
Subject: Pow of Inchaffray
Dear Roseanna,

I am writing to you in my capacity as a Pow Commissioner . At a recent meeting, the issue of Beavers was discussed.
As I'm sure you know, the Pow water is an artificial drainage channel of great antiquity of considerable length.

A fairly recent housing development has been completed at Balgowan and the sewage outfall runs directly into the Pow.
There is of course no problem about that.
The problem is that Beavers have decided to build one of their Dams just downstream of the outfall!

I'll leave the rest to your imagination.

It would be much appreciated if you were able to meet up there, have a look at the dam, and generally discuss the problem?
Another Commissioner [redacted] would come along too if the date suits.
Much looking forward to hearing from you, I hope in the not too distant future.

With Best Wishes for a Happy New Year,

Yours sincerely,

[redacted].

Sent from my iPhone

*

The Scottish Parliament: Making a positive difference to the lives of the people of Scotland

P?rlamaid na h-Alba: A? toirt deagh bhuaidh air beatha sluagh na h-Alba

www.parliament.scot<<http://www.parliament.scot>> :

facebook.com/scottishparliament<<http://facebook.com/scottishparliament>> :

twitter.com/scotparl<<http://twitter.com/ScotPari>>

The information in this email may be confidential. If you think you have received this email in error please delete it and do not share its contents.

*

This email has been scanned by the Symantec Email Security.cloud service.
For more information please visit <http://www.symanteccloud.com>

From: [redacted]
Sent: 29 March 2018 12:20:08
To: Roseanna Cunningham MSP
Cc: John Swinney MSP
Subject: University of Sussex press release

Dear Cabinet Secretary,

Far too little emphasis is being given to the vital contribution that beavers can make to our countryside, both in terms of flood mitigation and protection of biodiversity. Here is an interesting contribution to the discussion.

>

>

>

>

> Post-Brexit farming subsidies could be used to pay farmers to host dam-building beavers

>

> For immediate release

>

>

>

> Farmers should be paid to give over parts of their land to enable beavers to create natural flood defences, a University of Sussex scientist has said.

>

>

>

> Prof Fiona Mathews, a professor of environmental biology, hopes that post-Brexit reform of agricultural subsidies could be used to greater incentivise farmers to allow their land to be set aside for use for a range of natural flood defences which could include reintroducing beavers who help to slow the flow of water through river catchments with their extraordinary engineering skills.

>

>

>

> Speaking at a Sussex Sustainability Research Programme event celebrating World Water Day, Prof Mathews said expanding the numbers of beavers reintroduced into the UK would have huge benefits in reducing flood risk, improving water quality and diversifying habitats.

>

>

>

> She cited the example of the huge benefit just two beavers in North Devon have had within a year with their network of little dams creating habitats for frogs and encouraging much greater birdlife to the area while other parts of the UK have benefitted from beavers creating complex wetland ecosystems to the benefit of wildlife and water quality and reducing water flow speeds.

>

>

>

> She added: 'Elsewhere in Europe, where beavers have been allowed to recover, they become major ecosystems engineers. There are examples in Germany where beavers have been allowed to restore a network of wetlands in the middle of a quite intensively farmed landscape. We should be exploring whether farmers could be paid to allow beavers to live on their land to give us all benefits in terms of flood control instead of putting all their fields into agricultural production. There is a lot of exciting discussion what could be done to make agricultural subsidies more effective in delivering ecosystem services after Brexit. We are not saying they are a universal panacea. But beavers are a very, very important tool in the kit. They are not the only solution, and are not appropriate everywhere, but they should definitely be in the mix.'

>

>

>

> Prof Mathews added there was resistance to inexpensive natural flood defences in an engineering sector which favoured large concrete-based projects with greater opportunities for turning a profit.

>

> She said: 'Major construction projects obviously involve a hierarchy of people. Whilst there is often an ecologist involved, they are often led by civil engineers and people focussed on hard engineering solutions. So there's a cultural issue that needs to be grasped to move this forward. 'Soft solutions' like planting trees, managing farmland in ways that encourages water to be absorbed into the soil rather than running straight off into rivers, and reintroducing beavers have an important role to play.'

>

>

>

> Prof Mathews' call for more nature-based flood defences also found support among the rest of the panel at the event organised by the SSRP, a key global centre at the University of Sussex that aims to deliver science to support the UN Sustainable Development Goals. The SSRP currently funds 20 interdisciplinary and global research projects.

>

>

>

> Dr Lydia Burgess-Gamble, principal scientist from the flood risk research team at the Environment Agency [EA], said a review after the devastating 2007 floods, estimated to have cost the country '3 billion, concluded that it was not effective to keep building bigger and bigger concrete flood defences and that a bigger portfolio of flood defence types, including natural solutions, were needed.

>

>

>

> EA studies show every one of 14 types of natural flood management measures in England have the potential to reduce flood risk whilst also providing wider ecosystem service benefits. She added natural flood defences were in some cases the only option in some communities where larger engineered solutions were either not cost beneficial or not feasible due to the topography of the catchment.

>

>

>

> Tom Ormesher, an environment and land use adviser for the National Farmers' Union, said farmers are willing and able to contribute to wider ecosystem services in the form of wildlife enhancements and flood storage; and have been doing so in one form or another for many years.

>

>

>
> He added: ?However there needs to be a fair policy and system of payments to allow farms to provide the services that wider society wants and needs; and we shouldn?t forget that British farmers also provide safe, nutritious high quality food for a population that is set to increase rapidly over the coming decades. On a global scale, the number of people supplied by just one farmer doubles every twenty years and as such we need to make sure farmers can stay in business in the challenging years to come.?
>
>
>
> Commenting on the event, SSRP Director and former UN Environment Chief Scientist Prof Joseph Alcamo said: ?Natural flood management is very much an idea in its pioneer phase and it has to compete in a field dominated by civil engineering thinking. Now the big questions are:? Can it compete? Can it be scaled up and be as effective everywhere as engineering works in protecting people from extreme river flows? Will it protect us from the more severe weather we are expecting under climate change? I personally believe the answer to these questions is that it can make a big contribution to flood protection in river basins everywhere, but we need more research from the SSRP and other organizations to prove the concept.?
>
>
>
> Notes to editors
> For more information on the Sussex Sustainability Research Programme visit <http://www.sussex.ac.uk/ssrp/> <<http://www.sussex.ac.uk/ssrp/>>.
>
>
>
> Regards,
> [redacted] >

> Media Relations Manager
>
> University of Sussex
> Sussex House, Falmer, Brighton BN1 9RH
>
> Tel: +44 (0)[redact]>
> [redacted]>
> www.sussex.ac.uk/communications <<http://www.sussex.ac.uk/communications>>
> www.sussex.ac.uk <<http://www.sussex.ac.uk/>>
> @SussexUniPress
>
>
With best wishes,

[redacted]

For more information please visit <http://www.symanteccloud.com>

This email has been received from an external party and has been swept for the presence of computer viruses.

21 March 2019

Roseanna Cunningham
Cabinet Secretary for Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform
Scottish Government
St Andrew's House
Regent Road
Edinburgh
EH1 3DG



Dear Cabinet Secretary

I am writing to thank you for your recent letter to our chairman Jeremy Peat regarding the Scottish Statutory Instrument (SSI) that will provide beavers in Scotland with European Protected Species status.

The Royal Zoological Society of Scotland is very proud to have played an integral role in the reintroduction of the beaver along with our partners and 1 May, when the SSI will come into force, will be a historic day. We firmly believe that this success validates the rigorous approach to conservation best practice which the partnership adopted throughout the Scottish Beaver Trial, setting an example both within Scotland and internationally for the standards required of reintroduction.

RZSS will now continue to work in partnership with the Scottish Wildlife Trust and others to secure the beaver population at Knapdale over the long-term.

We will also continue to provide our expertise and input to the Scottish Beaver Forum and are committed to working with the diverse stakeholders represented. We believe the aim must be to achieve successful beaver management across Scotland with the ecological benefits and welfare of beavers at its core.

In addition, we believe a national beaver strategy is now needed to provide a long-term vision for how the species will expand, its populations will connect and how it will co-exist with people in Scotland. We hope that this is an action that can be taken forward soon by the relevant agencies in consultation with stakeholders.

I would also like to thank you for visiting Highland Wildlife Park recently to launch the IUCN-SSC Cat Specialists Group's Scottish wildcat report.

As you will be aware, we are committed to applying our expertise in species recovery to the Scottish wildcat, which may involve the creation of an RZSS National Wildlife Reintroduction Centre, subject to a successful outcome of the EU Life bid and match funding campaign.

We would welcome the opportunity to meet with you to discuss this potential development and will be in touch with your office in due course.

Yours sincerely

Barbara Smith
CEO



From: [redacted]
Sent: 25 March 2019 11:39:23
To: Public Engagement Unit
Cc: Cabinet Secretary for the Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform
Subject: FW: (SSI) Beavers

Attachments: 201903211343033 18.pdf

AO - [redacted]

Hi,

One for MACCS please.

Many thanks,

[redacted]

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

From: [redacted]

Sent: 25 March 2019 10:52

To: Cabinet Secretary for the Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform
<CabSecECCLR@gov.scot>

Subject: (SSI) Beavers

Dear [redacted]

Please see attached a letter from Barbara Smith, RZSS CEO, in response to a letter from the Cabinet Secretary dated 23 February 2019.

Kind regards

[redacted]

This email has been scanned by the Symantec Email Security.cloud service.
For more information please visit <http://www.symanteccloud.com>

--

From: [redacted]
Sent: 17 January 2018 12:26:56
To: Public Engagement Unit
Cc: Cabinet Secretary for the Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform
Subject: FW: FUNDING SUPPORT MECHANISMS FOR MANAGING BEAVER IMPACTS IN SCOTLAND

Attachments: FUNDING SUPPORT MECHANISMS FOR MANAGING BEAVER IMPACTS IN SCOTLAND .pdf

Hi,

One for MACCS please.

Kind Regards,

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

Roseanna Cunningham, MSP Cabinet Secretary for Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform
2N.08 - St Andrews House - Regent Road - Edinburgh - EH 1 3DG

Tel: [redacted]

Email: CabsecECCLR@gov.scot<mailto:CabsecECCLR@gov.scot>

[cid:image003.png@0 1D3 8F8E. 7 4A 11 C80]<http://home.scotland.gov .uk/home>

From: [redacted] @scottishlandandestates.co.uk]

Sent: 17 January 2018 12:19

To: Cabinet Secretary for the Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform

Subject: FUNDING SUPPORT MECHANISMS FOR MANAGING BEAVER IMPACTS IN SCOTLAND

Dear Ms Cunningham

Following the decision to allow beavers to remain in Scotland, Scottish Land & Estates has been engaging with Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) as it seeks to develop the management framework.

Discussions so far have predominately focussed on developing management arrangements for beavers, with little attention given to the funding mechanisms that will be made available to help affected or at-risk land managers to mitigate beaver damage.

At the last forum meeting held in December, SNH intimated that internal discussions suggest land managers should pay the costs of mitigation measures. This thinking is extremely disappointing to Scottish Land & Estates and we are writing to you to express our concern and seek reassurance that the Scottish Government is prepared to fund the costs of mitigation measures and that these costs will not simply be handed over to land managers.

We would be very grateful if you, or your officials, could confirm that the government does intend to provide funding to cover the costs of beaver management.

It was disappointing not to have representation from the Scottish Government at the recent forum meeting in December to discuss the fundamental point of funding. We hope to see representation at the next Forum meeting in January so that commitment on future funding and support mechanisms can be given.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Kind Regards
[redacted]

[redacted]
Policy Officer (Conservation & Wildlife Management)

Scottish Land & Estates
Stuart House, Eskmills Business Park, Musselburgh EH21 7PB
T: [redacted]

Follow us: @ScotLandEstates on Twitter<<https://twitter.com/scotlandestates>> |
ScottishLandandEstates on
Facebook<<https://www.facebook.com/ScottishLandandEstates>>

[<http://www.helpingithappen.co.uk/email/slae-signature.jpg>][cid:image003.jpg@01D2EB44.93B91710]

All information in this email and any files attached are confidential. If you are not the intended recipient please notify us and delete it from your computer system and on no account copy, distribute, disclose or take any action in reliance on it. Any opinions expressed in this message are not necessarily those of Scottish Land & Estates. Any information provided reflects information reviewed at the time of its publication. Accordingly, account must always be taken of any relevant changes in the law, policy or circumstances since that time. It is for general information only, and must never be relied upon as any substitute for professional advice, which should always be taken in any situation in which financial or other interests may be at stake. No liability can be accepted by Scottish Land & Estates or any of its staff for any misstatement in it or omission from it. Scottish Land & Estates accepts no responsibility for loss or damage arising from the use of this e mail transmission, including damage from virus.

Scottish Land & Estates Limited is registered in Scotland No. SC257726. Registered Office as above.

This email has been scanned by the Symantec Email Security.cloud service.
For more information please visit <http://www.symanteccloud.com>



Roseanna Cunningham MSP
Cabinet Secretary for Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform
St. Andrew's House
Regent Road
Edinburgh
EH1 3DG

17 January 2018

Dear Cabinet Secretary

FUNDING SUPPORT MECHANISMS FOR MANAGING BEAVER IMPACTS IN SCOTLAND

Following the decision to allow beavers to remain in Scotland, Scottish Land & Estates has been engaging with Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) as it seeks to develop the management framework.

As a member of the Scottish Beaver Forum, Scottish Land & Estates has been involved in the development of a management framework for the species which will allow beaver to be managed to prevent serious damage to land uses such as agriculture, forestry and fisheries.

Discussions so far have predominately focussed on developing management arrangements for beavers, with little attention given to the funding mechanisms that will be made available to help affected or at-risk land managers to mitigate beaver damage.

At the last forum meeting held in December, SNH intimated that internal discussions suggest land managers should pay the costs of mitigation measures. This thinking is extremely disappointing to Scottish Land & Estates and we are writing to you to express our concern and

seek reassurance that the Scottish Government is prepared to fund the costs of mitigation measures and that these costs will not simply be handed over to land managers.

If an appropriate funding mechanism is not put in place to help land managers mitigate beaver damage, we would be in a situation where land managers have to shoulder the financial burden created by an illegally re-introduced species that has subsequently been allowed to remain by the government. In choosing to allow the beaver to remain, the government surely has a responsibility to provide support to land managers rather than expecting the land managers to pay the costs for that illegal re-introduction.

The current thinking within SNH that land managers will have to cover the cost is particularly disappointing because it is at odds with the joint position letter sent to the Scottish Government by NFUS, SWT, RZSS and SLE. That joint letter was viewed as a positive step because it identified the common ground on what can be a contentious issue. Scottish Land & Estates signed up to this letter on the basis that it secured a commitment that those negatively affected by beaver would be able to have access to management controls and because it urged Scottish Government to put in place a mechanism whereby appropriate funding is made available to help affected or at-risk land managers to mitigate beaver damage (e.g. to install flow control devices, bank and flood protection, and beaver fencing).

Scottish Land & Estates has been viewing this letter as outlining the principles of how the licensing regime should be put in place and in the spirit of seeking to work constructively together we have been seeking to adhere to it in our own engagement in the current discussions on the management regime. We had also hoped, given that the letter resulted from a meeting you convened to encourage a positive and collaborative approach, that the Scottish Government would seek to support that agreement between the different organisations.

We would be very grateful if you, or your officials, could confirm that the government does intend to provide funding to cover the costs of beaver management. It was disappointing not to have representation from the Scottish Government at the recent forum meeting in December to discuss the fundamental point of funding. We hope to see representation at the next Forum meeting in January so that commitment on future funding and support mechanisms can be given.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a stylized, cursive 'D' followed by a horizontal line that tapers to the right.

David Johnstone

Chairman, Scottish Land & Estates