

From: [redacted]  
Sent: 02 March 2018 09:19:24  
To: Public Engagement Unit  
Cc: Cabinet Secretary for the Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform  
Subject: FW: Legal protection for beavers

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 - EH1 3DG

Tel: [redacted]

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

[cid:image001.png@01D3B207.8DADD010]<http://home.scotland.gov.uk/home>

From: Cunningham R (Roseanna), MSP  
[mailto:Roseanna.Cunningham.msp@parliament.scot]  
Sent: 01 March 2018 17:29  
To: Cabinet Secretary for the Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform  
Subject: Fwd: Legal protection for beavers

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: [redacted]

<[redacted]>>

Date: 1 March 2018 at 16:46:52 GMT

To:

<Roseanna.Cunningham.MSP@parliament.scot<mailto:Roseanna.Cunningham.MSP@parliament.scot>>

Subject: Legal protection for beavers

Dear Ms Cunningham,

I write as a lowland arable farmer who would like to see beavers given legal protection in Scotland.

Many of my fellow farmers have concerns about the impact of beavers on their land and I can understand their anxiety but I feel that we need an approach which recognises the importance of reintroduced beavers to the natural environment and the need for agriculture to adapt to accept restoration of some of the natural environment which has been destroyed to make way for food production. Farmers need to change their attitudes; they are no longer the protected species they once were under the EU and some help to mitigate and possibly compensate any negative effects of beavers

would help them to do so. Legal protection will help farmers to understand their rights in relation to beavers and to find ways to work out how to live with them.

Best regards,

[redacted]

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From: [redacted]  
Sent: 01 March 2018 19:43:32  
To: scottish.ministers@gov.scot  
Subject: To Roseanna Cunningham MSP, Cabinet Secretary for the Environment

Dear Roseanna,

I am writing to you regarding the upcoming decision on whether Scottish beavers will be awarded European Protected Status. I ask you to ensure that they do, as it is in the public interest to have complete ecosystems.

I am aware that you are under considerable pressure from farmers groups, who are against the reintroduction of beavers. I would like to add to the debate that much of the farmers' union's distate for beavers, is not based on legitimate concerns. Due to beavers long absence, British farmers misinterpret them as a danger to their practices in the same vein as foxes or lynx. However in European countries where the beaver has always remained, such as Sweden and Germany, farmers acknowledge the ecological ways in which beavers contribute to their practices.

Beavers deserve to be in Scotland as much as we do. We killed them for their fur until they were extinct, and then we invited them back. Now they're thriving in an ecosystem that was so severely lacking without them, and suddenly we're contemplating disregarding their chance to be protected. It has been proven time and time again that beavers are the best defence to floods. The UK has spent millions of pounds on artificial flood defences when we could have them for free.

I'm 21 years old and in my final year of university, and I can safely say that the vast majority of young people in my age range, would vote to protect beavers. They would also vote to see the reintroduction of other lost mammals such as Lynx, and a mass restoration of the ecosystem.

Please don't give in to the farmers, Scotland's landscape and ecosystem requires beavers in order to thrive.

Kind Regards,

[redacted]

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From: [redacted]  
Sent: 02 March 2018 11:40:05  
To: Public Engagement Unit  
Cc: Cabinet Secretary for the Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform  
Subject: FW: c/o of Roseanna Cunningham, MSP - voice of support for Scottish beavers

For MACCS please

[redacted]  
[redacted] | Cabinet Secretary for Environment, Climate Change & Land Reform | Scottish Government | 2N:08, St Andrew's House, Regent Road, Edinburgh, EH1 3DG | Tel: +44(0)[redacted]  
[cabsececclr@gov.scot

From: Cunningham R (Roseanna), MSP  
[mailto:Roseanna.Cunningham.msp@parliament.scot]  
Sent: 02 March 2018 11:39  
To: Cabinet Secretary for the Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform  
Subject: Fwd: c/o of Roseanna Cunningham, MSP - voice of support for Scottish beavers

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:  
From: [redacted]  
<redacted]>>  
Date: 2 March 2018 at 11:36:06 GMT  
To:  
"Roseanna.Cunningham.msp@parliament.scot<mailto:Roseanna.Cunningham.msp@parliament.scot>"  
<Roseanna.Cunningham.msp@parliament.scot<mailto:Roseanna.Cunningham.msp@parliament.scot>>, "scottish.ministers@gov.scot<mailto:scottish.ministers@gov.scot>"  
<scottish.ministers@gov.scot<mailto:scottish.ministers@gov.scot>>  
Subject: c/o of Roseanna Cunningham, MSP - voice of support for Scottish beavers

For the attention of Roseanna Cunningham, MSP, Cabinet Secretary for the Environment.

Dear Madam,

It has come to my attention that you have been hearing a great deal of anti-beaver expressed by Scottish farmer's, and such sentiment may pose a threat to the long term future of beaver's in Scotland. I would like, once again, to voice my support for Scottish beaver re-introduction. Farmer's of course have a right to be concerned, but I think they may represent a particularly vocal minority, that may skew the overall picture of public opinion. I thought your and the Scottish government's decision on beaver's was highly commendable, while also having important implications for beaver reintroduction, conservation and rewilding in the UK. Your pioneering move I

strongly feel will act as a green light for beaver reintroduction in England and Wales, and strongly influence decisions there. So I would strongly encourage you to stay on course.

I appreciate it must be very stressful to be a farmer, and I know some farmer's are very ecologically aware and informed (it is a farmer who is supporting and providing land to host a pair of beavers for the Cornwall Beaver Project). However this does not apply to all farmers. After World War 2, we converted almost all of our wildflower meadows to farmland to become self sufficient in food production, and following the war, we did not undo the ecological damage we had inflicted in the name of national security. We Brits live in a highly manicured and manipulated landscape, and having beavers back here I feel will provide an excellent means of injecting some life back into the UK landscape, providing a big boost for our wildlife, while also being a major conservation milestone for the UK, and a big step for the rewilding movement, as well as providing a free means of flood mitigation in some areas. Looking to other European countries, it can be seen beavers are not difficult to manage, and I sincerely think a well planned reintroduction will provide Scotland (and the UK) with far more benefits than disbenefits. Thus I would encourage you to stay on course and I commend you on your past efforts in this area.

All Best Wishes,

[redacted]

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From: [redacted]  
Sent: 03 March 2018 15:10:11  
To: Roseanna Cunningham MSP  
Cc: John Swinney MSP  
Subject: The Beaver Consultation

Dear Cabinet Secretary,

Those of us who have campaigned for the return of the Eurasian beaver were very glad when you said, back in 2016, that you were minded to give the species European Protected Status. We felt that our campaigning since 1998, when SNH had first brought the subject to public attention, had been rewarded.

Rejection of protected status of the beaver at the urging of the NFUS and its allies would be a victory for forces that loathe organisations such as SEPA, whose remit is to protect our environment, and wish to be allowed to go on polluting our water ways and promoting the conditions that make flooding worse.

The return of the Eurasian beaver to Scotland is a triumph for us all and a credit to the people of Scotland. It brings us in line with the many countries of Europe that have brought the species back. We see the return of the beaver as a symbol of regeneration on an environmental and a cultural, level. It is part of the resurgent Scotland that we so much wish for.

Let us show ourselves to be aligned with our friends in Europe in the matter of the beaver.

With best wishes,

[redacted]  
[redacted]

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From: [redacted]  
Sent: 05 March 2018 10:03:59  
To: Public Engagement Unit  
Cc: Cabinet Secretary for the Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform  
Subject: FW: Scottish Beavers

For MACCS please

[redacted]  
[redacted] | Cabinet Secretary for  
Environment, Climate Change & Land Reform | Scottish Government | 2N:08, St  
Andrew's House, Regent Road, Edinburgh, EH1 3DG | Tel: +44(0) [redacted]  
[cabseccclr@gov.scot]

From: Cunningham R (Roseanna), MSP  
[mailto:Roseanna.Cunningham.msp@parliament.scot]  
Sent: 03 March 2018 16:18  
To: Cabinet Secretary for the Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform  
Subject: Fwd: Scottish Beavers

Sent from my iPad

Begin forwarded message:  
From: [redacted]  
<[redacted]>>  
Date: 3 March 2018 at 16:01:11 GMT  
To:  
Roseanna.Cunningham.MSP@parliament.scot<mailto:Roseanna.Cunningham.MSP@parliament.scot>  
Subject: Scottish Beavers

Dear Cabinet Secretary  
Thank you for planning to protect the Scottish Beavers. I am very much looking forward to hearing that the legislation has gone through. It makes me proud to be part of a country that places such a high regard on the environment, on increasing biodiversity and returning to their rightful place a species we thought we had lost forever. Hopefully some good news in these otherwise gloomy times.

Yours  
[redacted]

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From: [redacted]  
Sent: 05 March 2018 10:03:44  
To: Public Engagement Unit  
Cc: Cabinet Secretary for the Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform  
Subject: FW: Beavers

For MACCS please

[redacted]  
[redacted] | Cabinet Secretary for  
Environment, Climate Change & Land Reform | Scottish Government | 2N:08, St  
Andrew's House, Regent Road, Edinburgh, EH1 3DG | Tel: +44(0) [redacted]  
|cabsececlr@gov.scot

From: Cunningham R (Roseanna), MSP  
[mailto:Roseanna.Cunningham.msp@parliament.scot]  
Sent: 03 March 2018 19:13  
To: Cabinet Secretary for the Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform;  
[redacted]  
Subject: Fwd: Beavers

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:  
From: [redacted]  
<[redacted]>>  
Date: 3 March 2018 at 18:17:55 GMT  
To: Roseanna Cunningham Msp  
<Roseanna.cunningham.msp@parliament.scot<mailto:Roseanna.cunningham.msp@parliament.scot>>  
Subject: Beavers

Just to say, I am in total agreement. Let's ensure their survival through protection.

"Dear Cabinet Minister,

I was so delighted in the autumn 2016 when you said that the Government was ?minded? to leave the beavers in Knapdale, Tay and Earn in the wild, allow them to spread naturally, and give them European Protected Species status, subject to a satisfactory outcome from two studies.

Now that the studies are done and you are on the eve of the final decision I can imagine that you may be hearing a lot about the downside of beavers from the low ground farmers who are dealing with dams and burrows on their land.

I just want to remind you that there is a whole huge constituency of us who care deeply about the beavers and are delighted by their return to Scotland and I am sure you and your predecessors have heard from many of us over the years. This is not just people who generally like animals without any specialist knowledge, although there are lots of them. It is also scientifically informed people who recognise the vital role that beavers play in the restoration of damaged nature. I am sure we can trust you to hold your nerve over this!

Here are a few thoughts to encourage you as you decide to go ahead and protect

Scotland's very beloved beavers.

As the world faces a period of dramatic extinctions, the return of an animal to our countryside that can provide habitat for thousands of other species, not only increasing biodiversity, but also hugely increasing abundance of common species must be an enormously good thing.

Eco tourism businesses such as ours at [redacted] have flourished as a result of beavers in our landscape creating beautiful dams and pools and there is huge interest in watching the animals themselves.

Beavers create meadows that are excellent habitat for desperately needed pollinators such as bumble bees.

Beavers in the uplands can slow the flow of water and reduce flooding at times of heavy rain. (Artificial beaver dams have been built in some burns such as the Eddlestone Water above Peebles to mimic this effect).

Beavers hold water on the land which can be vital for watering crops or livestock at times of drought. And with climate chaos anything is possible - even drought in Scotland.

Beaver wetlands absorb agricultural run-off. SEPA's map shows diffuse pollution of waterways in the lowground of the Tay basin. (This pollution can ultimately cause problems such as algal blooms and oceanic deadzones).

It must be worth the cost and effort of applying mitigation to protect valuable farmland as has been done elsewhere in Europe and the USA, allowing the beavers to stay in places where their benefits can be especially effective.

Some of the most marginal arable land was only 'reclaimed' by drainage in recent decades, reducing wildlife habitat to often catastrophic effect for farmland birds etc. Some farmers lobby against beavers instead of lobbying for money for the much needed restoration of nature in such places, as has been done in the Netherlands and Switzerland. Such 'nutrient farming' is now becoming seen as a necessity around the world - with the recognition that the land is often more valuable wet than dry.

Allowing farmers the freedom to remove dams and shoot beavers without regulation would lead to many problems. Beavers would keep cutting trees to build more dams and they would keep coming into good habitat and keep being shot. With only 300 beavers in Scotland, compared to 70,000 in Norway, we still have very few beavers and need to look after our fragile population and allow it to grow.

The management of beaver reintroduction with ESP status has been achieved across 22 European countries. It would be incredibly sad if we failed to do it in Scotland. I have always believed that the SNP are a reasonably environmentally enlightened party and hope to be proved right.

The majority of us voted against Brexit here in Scotland. Lets show our support by keeping the EUs laws.

Kind Regards,

[redacted]

From [redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

From: [redacted]  
Sent: 03 March 2018 11:26:52  
To: scottish.ministers@gov.scot  
Subject: FAO Roseanna Cunningham MSP, Cabinet Secretary for the Environment

Dear Cabinet Secretary,

I was so delighted in the autumn 2016 when you said that the Government was ?minded? to leave the beavers in Knapdale, Tay and Earn in the wild, allow them to spread naturally, and give them European Protected Species status, subject to a satisfactory outcome from two studies.

Now that the studies are done and you are on the eve of the final decision I can imagine that you may be hearing a lot about the downside of beavers from the low ground farmers who are dealing with dams and burrows on their land. I just want to remind you that there is a whole huge constituency of us who care deeply about the beavers and are delighted by their return to Scotland and I am sure you and your predecessors have heard from many of us over the years. This is not just people who generally like animals without any specialist knowledge, although there are lots of them. It is also scientifically informed people who recognise the vital role that beavers play in the restoration of damaged nature. I am sure we can trust you to hold your nerve over this! All of these people are very grateful for the decision your government is minded to make.

Here are a few thoughts to encourage you as you decide to go ahead and protect Scotland's very beloved beavers.

As the world faces a period of dramatic extinctions, the return of an animal to our countryside that can provide habitat for thousands of other species, not only increasing biodiversity, but also hugely increasing abundance of common species, must be an enormously good thing.

Ecotourism businesses such as ours at Bamff have flourished as a result of beavers in our landscape creating beautiful dams and pools and there is huge interest in watching the animals themselves.

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Beavers hold water on the land which can be vital for watering crops or livestock at times of drought. And with climate chaos anything is possible - even drought in Scotland.

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It must be worth the cost and effort of applying mitigation to protect valuable farmland as has been done elsewhere in Europe and the USA, allowing the beavers to

stay in places where their benefits can be especially effective.

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Allowing farmers the freedom to remove dams and shoot beavers without regulation would lead to many problems. Beavers would keep cutting trees to build more dams and they would keep coming into good habitat and keep being shot. With only 300 beavers in Scotland, compared to 70,000 in Norway, we still have very few beavers and need to look after our fragile population and allow it to grow.

The management of beaver reintroduction with ESP status has been achieved across 22 European countries. It would be incredibly sad if we failed to do it in Scotland. I have always believed that the SNP are a reasonably environmentally enlightened party and hope to be proved right.

The majority of us voted against Brexit here in Scotland. Lets show our support by keeping the EU's laws.

Looking forward to hearing good news!

Kind Regards,

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

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From: [redacted]).  
Sent: 03 September 2018 15:56:04  
To: Public Engagement Unit  
Cc: Cabinet Secretary for the Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform  
Subject: FW: Correspondence from NFU Scotland - Beavers

Attachments: 918 - NFUS - Cab Sec ECCLR - Beavers.pdf

Hi,

One for MACCS please - diary.

Many thanks.

[redacted]  
From: [redacted]>  
Sent: 03 September 2018 15:38  
To: Cabinet Secretary for the Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform  
<CabSecECCLR@gov.scot>  
Cc: [redacted]  
Subject: Correspondence from NFU Scotland - Beavers

Good afternoon

On behalf of NFU Scotland, please see attached a letter from the President, Andrew McCornick, concerning beavers and European Protected Status.

We look forward to a response.

Kind regards

[redacted]

NFU Scotland | 0 131 [redacted]  
<https://twitter.com/NFUSParliament>

[image002]<<https://www.nfus.org.uk/userfiles/images/Policy/Brexit/STEPS%20FOR%20CHANGE%20March%202018%20-%20for%20email.pdf>> We need your views on our new document, 'Steps to Change - A New Agricultural Policy for Scotland', which can be found here: <https://bit.ly/2IxLhHp>  
Feed in your views: [brexit@nfus.org.uk](mailto:brexit@nfus.org.uk)<<mailto:brexit@nfus.org.uk>> or call 0131 472 4000.  
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Cabinet Secretary for Environment, Climate Change and Land  
Reform  
Scottish Government  
St Andrew's House  
Regent Road  
Edinburgh  
EH1 3DG



3 September 2018

Dear Roseanna,

I write to raise the issue of beaver management and to seek a meeting with you to discuss the topic at your earliest convenience.

Beaver management is a big issue for NFU Scotland. When we wrote to you, along with the other key organisations in the beaver forum in 2016, we accepted that beavers should be protected. Since then we have actively engaged with SNH and other forum members to ensure there is a fit-for-purpose management regime to minimise the impacts on farming, and the funding to deliver it on a long-term basis.

We view this issue as important because the beaver population is expanding and so the species will begin to have an impact on more and more of our members over time and it is important that we have a management regime that works.

I am writing to you now because we know that discussions in the forum have reached a point where clarity is needed on when beavers will be given European Protected Species (EPS) status. We fully expect that other interests in the forum will be pushing for this to happen as soon as possible, but we wanted to make sure that you understand that we believe that this move would be premature and that there is still work to do before granting this status.

More specifically, while initial drafts of the management framework were inadequate from our perspective, subsequent drafts have got better and we have moved closer to a workable light-touch licensing framework that will allow for lethal control and the protection of farming interests. Most recently, we were discussing the possibility of special arrangements for those on Prime Agricultural Land, which we were pleased to see and wanted to explore in more detail (although those discussions appear to have stalled, awaiting the outcome of your decision on EPS). I should say at this point that we fully acknowledge that SNH have moved a long way in this process. SNH staff have engaged with us and listened to our concerns and appear to have looked for solutions.

There is, however, an issue that we believe should be addressed before beavers in Scotland are given EPS status. NFU Scotland contends that existing and new innovative mitigation measures should be fully trialled and evaluated before the European beaver is granted EPS status by the Scottish Government. When NFU Scotland signed the joint letter (along with SWT, RZSS & SLE) agreeing that beavers should be protected, we did so on the basis that there would be management and licensing tools available to farmers and land managers. What we currently have on the table is a framework that focuses on the licensing for lethal control and operations such as dam removal; what is missing is a comprehensive package of mitigation options that farmers and land managers might be able to adopt. Only half the framework we had envisaged is potentially ready and so moving to grant EPS status now is premature.

We have approached our members and sought involvement in mitigation trials and so far 24 members have come forward with potential trial sites, but this work is only at a very early stage, so we have only a limited idea of efficacy and costs. This work needs to be given time to be completed so that we know what we are getting in to when we formally protect beavers.

You will be all too aware of how contentious, unpleasant and personal wildlife issues can get. In recent times, for example, we understand that marksmen shooting geese have been photographed and recorded going about their legally approved activities and there have been highly publicised outcries relating to the granting of licenses to cull a small number of ravens. When we grant EPS status to beavers we will be creating another highly contentious arena and forcing farmers and other land

managers to apply for licenses to kill an animal that is cherished by many others thereby drawing them much more concretely into this contentious arena where they could be at risk of unwanted publicity and condemnation. If farmers are able to mitigate and prevent beaver impacts effectively they would not be forced to go down the lethal control route and so be forced into a contentious wildlife management arena. A comprehensive suite of mitigation options would hopefully mean less lethal control.

Time needs to be taken to build confidence in the management regime prior to granting EPS status. Granting EPS status and thereby forcing farmers into a legal framework that brings risks with it, is not the way to build trust and confidence in the regime. It puts the cart before the horse. Time needs to be taken for SNH to engage with land managers but also critically with wider stakeholders so that the need for management is accepted and some of the contentiousness of control and management is removed.

Crucially, the population is expanding and not at risk; we have time to move forward in such a way that we build confidence in the regime and do so collaboratively. SNH and the beaver forum should continue its work to ensure that a comprehensive regime is put in place when EPS status is granted and NFUS is committed to engaging constructively in this process.

With these issues in mind I would like to seek a meeting with you at your earliest convenience. I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Yours Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A. McCornick', written in a cursive style.

Andrew McCornick

President, NFU Scotland

From: [redacted]  
Sent: 04 March 2018 14:55:13  
To: scottish.ministers@gov.scot  
Subject: FAO: Roseanna Cunningham Cabinet Secretary for the Environment

Dear Ms Cunningham,

I have just responded to the consultation on the Beavers in Scotland Strategic Environmental Assessment Environmental Report.

The careful consideration that has been given to this reintroduction is evident. In short I would like to express my support for the reintroduction of this species and my sincere hope that European Protected Status will be given to the Scottish Beavers without delay. Furthermore, I think it is incredibly important that the profit of individuals and companies is not put above the wildlife and biodiversity value of this species. Beavers belong in Scotland and any mitigation that needs to take place should always have lethal control as a very last resort.

You will be well versed in these debates so I will not go into further detail on this point. I would, however, like to express my support for Beaver introduction in terms of education and cultural value. I work in environmental education. As you may know most primary aged children in Scotland will learn about 'Scotland's Native Nature' as a topic. Having recently taught this and explored Beaver ecology with a group of students I am aware just how important these charismatic native species are. They capture children's imaginations; they enthuse young people about nature; and they foster a real sense of pride in Scotland. While these things may seem intangible they are crucial to young people growing up as active citizens connected to their natural environment.

I wish the Scottish Government courage in the decisions they have taken to reintroduce Beavers - our country will be more biodiverse, more resilient to environmental stressors because of it; our young people will have reason to feel proud of the country's approach to biodiversity and conservation.

Kind Regards,

[redacted]

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From: [redacted]  
Sent: 04 March 2018 20:09:55  
To: scottish.ministers@gov.scot  
Subject: Beaver reintroduction FAO Ms. Roseanna Cunningham

Dear Cabinet Secretary,

I hope you will take a view on the fate of the beavers based on the evidence of the two studies and the report (Strategic Environmental Assessment Environmental Report) and not by the strength of the voices of those who have no doubt contacted you, faced with change due to the reintroduction of a native species made extinct by man's activity. I am a lay person, though nature lover, in regard to this matter but am persuaded by the report and instinct that beavers can play a useful role in restoring Scotland's environment to the benefit of more than a few landowners.

I believe that beavers have been successfully reintroduced with ESP status in 22 European countries to the benefit of the environment, requiring only minimal compensation to the land owners and managers affected. I acknowledge that intervening in nature is complex and, in my opinion, often in the past accompanied with unintended and unwanted consequences when seen in the long run. However, managed well, beavers will provide opportunities for 'eco-tourism'. The meadows that result from their activities will support a diverse biome including the pollinating insects that are under threat and which we need for our food production and our resilience. Mindful and enlightened management of beaver colonies could reduce the incidence of flooding and reduce the speed of water run-off thereby improving fish stocks and reducing the amount of silt getting to the sea. There are many potential benefits and few detriments, none unmanageable.

Apparently we are in the sixth 'great extinction' so bringing back the beaver that would provide habitat for many other species, increase biodiversity and increase the abundance of common species, must be a good idea. The secondary benefits to society are an added bonus way outweighing the costs to the current land owners.

Please allow beavers to continue to live here, where they belong.

Yours sincerely

[redacted]

[redacted]

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The Scottish Parliament  
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

John Swinney MSP  
Member of the Scottish Parliament for Perthshire North

RECEIVED  
17 APR 2019  
10:21

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

Our Ref: JS4203RA

4 April 2019

*R. Roseanna*

[redacted]

I have been contacted by my above constituent, [redacted], who is concerned over the deliberate killing of a beaver in Perthshire.

My constituent is concerned that a beaver was recently shot dead and he is disheartened that this incident happened on a wildlife reserve.

My constituent would like to know what policing measures will be taken to protect beavers when their European protected status comes into force in May 2019.

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.

*JS*

From: [redacted]  
Sent: 05 March 2018 12:51:38  
To: scottish.ministers@gov.scot  
Subject: Attn.: Roseanna Cunningham MSP, Cabinet Secretary for the Environment

Dear Roseanna,

I write to you as a very concerned member of the public, with some education about the importance of rebalancing our natural ecosystems. The protection of all Scottish beavers is something that I feel very strongly about, in light of the huge, positive effect that they are proven to have on our landscape - rebuilding biodiversity, creating natural flood prevention, not to mention the ecotourism benefits and so much more.

Please do not bend to the pressures of the profit-driven, financially-motivated or ecologically-ignorant few who shout so loudly. Their concerns are for short-term gains, with little or no respect to the environment and apparently no interest in the ongoing damage created by current farming practices, of which a rebalance in natural ecosystems can most certainly turn around. The beavers, as I am sure you are aware, are a vital part of this rebalance, and most urgently require full protection.

Thank you for planning to protect our Scottish beavers, I can't wait to hear that the legislation has gone through.

Best regards,  
[redacted]

[redacted]  
[redacted]  
[redacted]

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05/03/18 2

From: [redacted]  
Sent: 05 March 2018 18:20:16  
To: scottish.ministers@gov.scot  
Subject: FAO Roseanna Cunningham MSP, Cabinet Secretary for the Environment

Dear Roseanna Cunningham

I am writing to you on the subject of giving full legal protection to beavers in Scotland. They may not have the money of the salmon fishing industry, or the clout of the farming lobby, but there is little that these amazing creatures can't do when it comes to improving our environment.

I hope that you can see through the ignorance and misinformation from those who are opposed to the reintroduction and protection of beavers. Intensive farming and the use of our environment for the benefit of a few wealthy landowners are unsustainable, and beavers can play an important part in saving the Scottish countryside. And for this to happen, they need full protection.

[redacted]

[redacted]

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From: [redacted]  
Sent: 05 March 2018 15:29:57  
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]

[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@01D3B496.D11B55C0]<<http://home.scotland.gov.uk/home>>

From: Cunningham R (Roseanna), MSP  
[mailto:Roseanna.Cunningham.msp@parliament.scot]  
Sent: 05 March 2018 14:46  
To: Cabinet Secretary for the Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform  
Subject: Fwd: Beavers

Sent from my iPad

Begin forwarded message:

From: [redacted]  
<[redacted]>  
Date: 5 March 2018 at 14:35:30 GMT  
To:  
"Roseanna.Cunningham.MSP@parliament.scot<mailto:Roseanna.Cunningham.MSP@parliament.scot>"  
<Roseanna.Cunningham.MSP@parliament.scot<mailto:Roseanna.Cunningham.MSP@parliament.scot>>  
Subject: Beavers

Hi,

I would just like to say that it's coming up time for beavers kits to be born and therefore the parents and young need legal protection.

If the Scottish Government aspires to be part of the EC it needs to give beavers the protection they deserve as our rarest native species.

I am fully aware that they can cause problems under some farming regimes but there are now tried and tested methods that can be employed to over come these without shooting the beavers. We have seen what happens when landowners have free reign to kill whenever they like. Pregnant and suckling mothers are amongst the casualties with often inhuman kill methods employed (see previously killed beaver stats. SNH).

Beavers are unusual in that they are not fully adult until two years old. The yearlings helping to raise this years kits so it is debatable if an open season could/should be applied. Better would be a system of first trying beaver deceivers and such like, and only then allowing the beavers to be trapped by licenced operators and for them to re-located to a less controversial location. If no suitable location can be found then they can be dispatched cleanly and legally. Just shooting beavers in the countryside doesn't work. More beavers will come in time. Better to learn to live with the ones you have. If landowners planted good riparian margins of 20-50m width with native tree species then a lot of beaver-problems would be contained. This is one of the aims of Natural Flood Management to allow watercourses to flood naturally in their upper reaches and natural floodplains/intermittent wetlands thereby preventing such extensive floods lower down in towns/industry. Lately Scottish farmers have been pulling up marginal woodland/scrub in an effort to increase their area of farmed land which increases farm-pollution. NFM is subject of a 4.1M British government initiative announced in Nov.2017 duplicating beaver-analogue structures and encouraging tree planting. It would potentially benefit beavers who rarely go more that 20-50m from their watercourse unless they have too thereby reducing conflict. That beaver dams in the headwaters and wetlands where possible, delay peak flood waters, reduce the amount of flooding as they hold some of it back but can also help ameliorate drought when that might strike under increasingly unpredictable weather now-a-days is remarkable and scientifically proven. Please don't throw away the opportunity to really make things better. The landowners can learn to live with the beavers under the correct management structure for the beavers, but they are frightened at the moment because life is changing and they don't know what it brings or if they can survive.

Yours in hope  
[redacted]

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From: [redacted]  
Sent: 06 March 2018 13:00:39  
To: scottish.ministers@gov.scot  
Subject: For Roseanna Cunningham MSP, Cabinet Secretary for the Environment

Dear Cabinet Secretary,

Please afford beavers the full protection that they deserve: European Protected Status.

I was absolutely delighted when the government announced beavers were here to stay. The first reintroduction of mammals to the country is a fantastic story and a huge win for conservation and the environment. They not only benefit their own local environment but that of other wildlife as well, increasing biodiversity wherever they are. Beavers also greatly contribute to the economy, wildlife tourism and help prevent flooding.

Many other countries have shown that is possible to live alongside these wonderful animals. There are beavers in the middle of Munich! By allowing them to stay and giving them European Protected Status you will pushing Scotland to the fore front of positive conservation and showing the world what a great country this is. Alternatively, if you listen to the small minority of power hungry farmers and upper class landowners with their dark age ideas, who care for nothing that doesn't make them richer, then once again conservation will be shown to have no back bone. It will taken advantage of and walked over much like the current shameful and inept handling of raptor persecutions.

Please take the morally and environmentally correct decision and fully protect beavers in Scotland.

Give us something to make us proud!

Thank you

[redacted]

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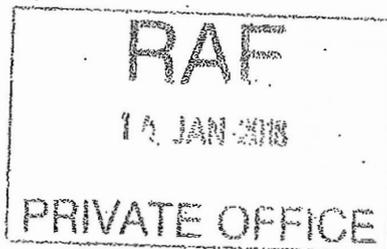


The Scottish Parliament  
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

15 JAN 2019

John Swinney MSP  
Member of the Scottish Parliament for Perthshire North

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



Our Ref: JS3992RA

8 January 2019

*De Roseanna,*

{redacted}

I have been contacted by my above constituent, [redacted], regarding beaver culling in Highland Perthshire.

[redacted] states that beavers were illegally introduced on the River Tay and that their current population is out of control. My constituent is of the view that beavers are causing considerable damage to important and historic trees in Highland Perthshire.

My constituent would like the Scottish Government to take on board his perspective on this issue and ensure that the ability to exercise appropriate population control on beavers remains so that the natural environment can be reasonably protected.

I would be grateful if you were able to reflect on the perspective raised by my constituent and inform me of your views and of any assistance you can give. I look forward to hearing from you.

*Yr*

Parliamentary Office: The Scottish Parliament, Edinburgh, EH99 1SP Tel: 0131 348 5717  
Constituency Office: 17-19 Leslie Street, Blairgowrie, PH10 6AH Tel: 01250 876 576  
email: john.swinney.msp@parliament.scot www.johnswinney.scot

[redacted]

**From:** [redacted], on behalf of Cabinet Secretary for the Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform  
**Sent:** 10 January 2019 11:58  
**To:** Public Engagement Unit  
**Cc:** Cabinet Secretary for the Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform  
**Subject:** FW: [redacted] - Highland Perthshire for Wildlife  
Highland Perthshire for Wildlife - 10.1.19\_000785.pdf  
**Attachments:**  
Follow up  
**Follow Up Flag:** Flagged  
**Flag Status:** [redacted]  
**Categories:**

Hi,

One for MACCS please.

Kind regards,

[redacted]

**From:** [redacted]>  
**Sent:** 10 January 2019 11:29  
**To:** Cabinet Secretary for the Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform <CabSecECCLR@gov.scot>  
**Subject:** Re: [redacted] - Highland Perthshire for Wildlife

Dear Cabinet Secretary,

I wonder if you could look over the attached correspondence that Mr Swinney has received from a local group in his constituency, Highland Perthshire for Wildlife, and advise on the concerns they raise regarding the present legal and animal welfare status of the wild beaver population in Scotland.

I look forward to hearing from you in due course.

Kind regards,

[redacted]

[redacted]  
Personal Assistant to John Swinney  
MSP for Perthshire North / Deputy First Minister / Cabinet Secretary for Education & Skills

**Tel:** 0131 [redacted] [www.johnswinneymsp.com](http://www.johnswinneymsp.com) / [www.scottish.parliament.uk](http://www.scottish.parliament.uk)



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# Highland Perthshire for wildlife

John Swinney MSP  
T4.23  
The Scottish Parliament  
Edinburgh  
EH99 1SP

17 December 2018

Dear John Swinney

The undersigned are a group of Highland Perthshire locals in your constituency who are concerned about the present legal and animal welfare status of the wild beaver population in Scotland. For some time the Government has been saying that the legal protection and status of these animals would be defined. However no action has yet been taken, merely a series of deferments, the latest following a commitment made in Parliament in Edinburgh on 20th December 2017. We therefore are writing to ask you:

- a. Can you provide any clarity on the timescale for specifying the legal status and protection of beaver?
- b. Can you assure us that Ministers are not backtracking on the commitment made almost a year ago?

Many thanks for your attention, and we look forward to your response. Any reply to either of the first two persons named below will be passed along to the other signatories.

Yours truly,

[redacted]

[redacted]

**Name**

[redacted]

**Signature**

**Postcode or address**

[redacted]