

Minister for Rural Affairs and the Natural Environment
Mairi Gougeon MSP



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Mr Alex Cole-Hamilton MSP
The Scottish Parliament
EDINBURGH
EH99 1SP

Your ref: ACH/MM/Foxhunting/Cunningham
Our ref: 2018/0043768
21st December 2018

Dear Alex,

Thank you for your letter of 7 December 2018 to the Cabinet Secretary for Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform, Roseanna Cunningham, on behalf of your constituents who had enquired about fox hunting.

Fox hunting passed into my portfolio as part of my animal health and welfare brief following my appointment as Minister for Rural Affairs and the Natural Environment in June. This is a complex subject and it is necessary for me to take the time to consider the full extent of the issues before announcing any new proposals.

Following the publication of the independent analysis of the 20,000 or so responses to our consultation on Lord Bonyon's review earlier in 2018, I hope to be in a position to outline the Scottish Government's response very soon.

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Dr Andrew Murrison MP
House Of Commons
LONDON
SW1A 0AA

Your ref: AM/SJG/06/021118
Our ref: 2018/0039199

20th November 2018

Dear Mr. Murrison,

Thank you for your letter of 2 November 2018 to the First Minister of Scotland, Nicola Sturgeon, on behalf of your constituents regarding fox hunting.

Fox hunting passed into my portfolio as part of my animal health and welfare brief following my appointment as Minister for Rural Affairs and the Natural Environment in June. This is a complex subject and it is necessary for me to take the time to consider the full extent of the issues before announcing any new proposals.

Following the publication of the independent analysis of the 20,000 or so responses to our consultation on Lord Bonython's review earlier this year, I hope to be in a position to outline the Scottish Government's response very soon.

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Ms Gill Furniss MP
House of Commons
LONDON
SW1A 0AA

Your ref: GF7855
Our ref: 2018/0038133

27th November 2018

Dear Gill,

Thank you for your letter of 23 October on behalf of your constituents regarding fox hunting.

Fox hunting passed into my portfolio as part of my animal health and welfare brief following my appointment as Minister for Rural Affairs and the Natural Environment in June. This is a complex subject and it is necessary for me to take the time to consider the full extent of the issues before announcing any new proposals.

Following the publication of the independent analysis of the 20,000 or so responses to our consultation on Lord Bomy's review, I hope to be in a position to outline the Scottish Government's response very soon.

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Mr Tom Mason MSP
The Scottish Parliament
EDINBURGH
EH99 1SP

Our ref: 2018/0038962

28th November 2018

Dear Tom,

Thank you for your letter of 7 November on behalf of your constituents on the subject of fox hunting.

Fox hunting passed into my portfolio as part of my animal health and welfare brief following my appointment as Minister for Rural Affairs and the Natural Environment in June. This is a complex subject and it is necessary for me to take the time to consider the full extent of the issues before announcing any new proposals.

Following the publication of the independent analysis of the 20,000 or so responses to our consultation on Lord Bonyon's review, I hope to be in a position to outline the Scottish Government's response very soon.

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Mr Mark McDonald MSP
The Scottish Parliament
EDINBURGH
EH99 1SP

Your ref: MM2265
Our ref: 2018/0038094
27th November 2018

Dear Mark,

Thank you for your letter of 31 October addressed to the Cabinet Secretary for Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform on behalf of your constituents regarding fox hunting.

Fox hunting passed into my portfolio as part of my animal health and welfare brief following my appointment as Minister for Rural Affairs and the Natural Environment in July. This is a complex subject and it is necessary for me to take the time to consider the full extent of the issues before announcing any new proposals.

Following the publication of the independent analysis of the 20,000 or so responses to our consultation on Lord Bonomy's review, I hope to be in a position to outline the Scottish Government's response very soon.

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[Redacted]

By email [Redacted]

Our ref: 2018/0019737

26 September 2018

Thank you for your letter of 1 June to the Cabinet Secretary for Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform in which you outline the [Redacted] thoughts on fox hunting. Please accept my apologies for the overdue response.

I was pleased to meet with you [Redacted] on 30 July to hear your views in person and I have noted the information you provided with interest, and hope to be in a position to outline the Government's response to Lord Bonyon's review and our ensuing consultation soon.

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Ms Mary Glendon MP
House Of Commons
LONDON
SW1A 0AA

Our ref: 2018/0037224
28th November 2018

Dear Mary,

Thank you for your letter of 23 October sent to the First Minister on behalf of your constituent regarding fox hunting.

Fox hunting passed into my portfolio as part of my animal health and welfare brief following my appointment as Minister for Rural Affairs and the Natural Environment in June. This is a complex subject and it is necessary for me to take the time to consider the full extent of the issues before announcing any new proposals.

Following the publication of the independent analysis of the 20,000 or so responses to our consultation on Lord Bonyon's review, I hope to be in a position to outline the Scottish Government's response very soon.

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Mr Alex Neil MSP
The Scottish Parliament
EDINBURGH
EH99 1SP

Our ref: 2018/0036251
13 November 2018

Dear Alex,

Thank you for your letter of 18 October addressed to the Cabinet Secretary for Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform on behalf of your constituent Mr Catterson regarding fox hunting.

Fox hunting passed into my portfolio as part of my animal health and welfare brief following my appointment as Minister for Rural Affairs and the Natural Environment in June. This is a complex subject and it is necessary for me to take the time to consider the full extent of the issues before announcing any new proposals.

Following the publication of the independent analysis of the 20,000 or so responses to our consultation on Lord Bonyon's review, I hope to be in a position to outline the Scottish Government's response very soon.

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Ms Shona Robison MSP
The Scottish Parliament
EDINBURGH
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Our ref: 2018/0035682
4 November 2018

Dear Shona,

Thank you for your letter of 15 October addressed to the Cabinet Secretary for Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform on behalf of your constituents regarding fox hunting. I am replying as policy on the use of dogs for the control of foxes is included in my portfolio.

Following Lord Bonomy's review of the operation of the Protection of Wild Mammals (Scotland) Act 2002, we consulted on his recommendations and in June published the independent analysis of the 20,000 or so responses received. Your constituents may be interested in the analysis report and other information on progress to date which is available via the following web link: <https://www.gov.scot/About/Review/protection-wild-mammals>.

I hope to be in a position to outline the Scottish Government's response to Lord Bonomy's review and our ensuing consultation on his recommendations soon.

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Ms Aileen Campbell MSP
The Scottish Parliament
EDINBURGH
EH99 1SP

Our ref: 2018/0022495
6 September 2018

Dear Aileen,

Thank you for your letter of 25 June 2018 addressed to the Cabinet Secretary for the Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform enclosing a letter sent to you by Mr R G Swan (Master of Fox Hounds) of Eyemouth on the value of foxhounds for fox control in Scotland and offering to meet with you to discuss the points he makes. I am replying because this policy area is in my portfolio.

Following Lord Bonomy's review of the operation of the Protection of Wild Mammals (Scotland) Act 2002, we consulted on his recommendations and recently published the analysis of some 20,000 responses. Mr Swan may be interested in this and other information on progress to date which is available via the following web link : <https://www.gov.scot/About/Review/protection-wild-mammals>; I hope that he took the opportunity to make his views known in the consultation.

I hope to be in a position to outline the Government's response to Lord Bonomy's review and our ensuing consultation soon.

Mairi Gougeon

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



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Ms Ruth Maguire MSP
The Scottish Parliament
EDINBURGH
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Our ref 2017/0034275
11 October 2017

Dear Ruth,

Thank you for your letter of 11 September on the subject of fox hunting.

You may already be aware that on Friday 6 October, we launched a consultation on Lord Bonython's recommended reforms to the Protection of Wild Mammals (Scotland) Act and I would encourage you and your constituents to participate.

The consultation will run until 31 January 2018 and can be accessed via the following web link <https://consult.scotland.gov.uk/wildlife-management-and-protected-areas/improving-protection-for-wild-mammals/>

Yours

Roseanna Cunningham

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



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Ms Jo Swinson MP
House Of Commons
LONDON
SW1A 0AA

Our ref: 2017/0019411
27 June 2017

Dear Jo,

Thank you for your letter of 25 May regarding fox hunting.

You may be interested to note that on 3 January, I announced the Scottish Government's response to the recent review by the Rt Hon. Lord Bonomy on the operation of the Protection of Wild Mammals (Scotland) Act 2002. Lord Bonomy's report is available via the following web link <http://gov.scot/Publications/2016/11/9965> and contains a number of recommendations to improve the operation of the Protection of Wild Mammals (Scotland) Act 2002, all of which we are exploring further.

Further to this, we recently announced the appointment of retired Deputy Chief Constable Ruaraidh Nicolson to lead a stakeholder group tasked with developing a new code of practice on hunting, and to explore the feasibility of a monitoring scheme. We also plan to consult in the near future on all of Lord Bonomy's proposed changes to the existing legislation which include the removal of inconsistencies and the improvement of definitions in the Act to aid enforcement as well as considering the introduction of new vicarious liability and "reverse burden of proof" provisions along with extending the time limit for bringing prosecutions.

Whilst it would not be appropriate to pre-empt the outcome of the forthcoming consultation, we currently regard the possibility of legislative reform in the current parliamentary session to be a viable prospect.

Yours

Roseanna

Roseanna Cunningham

Minister for Rural Affairs and the Natural Environment
Mairi Gougeon MSP



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Mr Bob Doris MSP
The Scottish Parliament
EDINBURGH
EH99 1SP

Your ref: BD6284
Our ref: 2018/0039260
6th December 2018

Thank you for your letter of 8 November 2018 on behalf of your constituents, regarding fox hunting.

Fox hunting passed into my portfolio as part of my animal health and welfare brief following my appointment as Minister for Rural Affairs and the Natural Environment in June. This is a complex subject and it is necessary for me to take the time to consider the full extent of the issues before announcing any new proposals.

The independent analysis of the 20,000 plus responses to our consultation on Lord Bonython's review was published in June this year, and can be viewed via the following web link: www.gov.scot/publications/consultation-improving-protection-wild-mammals-analysis-responses/.

The specific concerns you highlight in your letter (e.g. exemptions with in the 2002 Act) are being considered as part of this work and I hope to be in a position to outline the Scottish Government's response very soon.

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[Redacted]

By email [Redacted]

Our ref: 2018/0032151
26th September 2018

Dear [Redacted]

Thank you for your letters of 7 August and 20 September (further to our meeting on 30 July) in which you enclosed a copy of Naylor and Knott's recently published study on the efficacy of packs vs pairs of dogs for flushing red foxes from cover, Sheriff Patterson's judgement on the Jedforest case, Q&A [Redacted] relating to the Protection of Wild Mammals (Scotland) Act 2002, a copy of your letter of 14 September to Colin Smyth MSP and observations on responses received to our consultation on Lord Bonomy's recommendations. I am grateful to you for providing this information which I have noted with interest.

I hope to be in a position to outline the Government's response to Lord Bonomy's review and our ensuing consultation soon.

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Mr Ken Macintosh MSP
The Scottish Parliament
EDINBURGH
EH99 1SP

Our ref: 2018/0035778
13 November 2018

Dear Ken,

Thank you for your letter of 15 October on behalf of your constituents regarding fox hunting.

Fox hunting passed into my portfolio as part of my animal health and welfare brief following my appointment as Minister for Rural Affairs and the Natural Environment in June. This is a complex subject and it is necessary for me to take the time to consider the full extent of the issues before announcing any new proposals.

Following the publication of the independent analysis of the 20,000 or so responses to our consultation on Lord Bonyon's review, I hope to be in a position to outline the Scottish Government's response very soon.

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Mr John Scott MSP
The Scottish Parliament
EDINBURGH
EH99 1SP

Our ref: 2018/0036783
6 November 2018

Dear John,

Thank you for your letter of 15 October on behalf of your constituents regarding fox hunting.

Following Lord Bonomy's review of the operation of the Protection of Wild Mammals (Scotland) Act 2002, we consulted on his recommendations and in June published the independent analysis of the 20,000 or so responses received. Your constituents may be interested in the analysis report and other information on progress to date which is available via the following web link: <https://www.gov.scot/About/Review/protection-wild-mammals>

I hope to be in a position to outline the Scottish Government's response to Lord Bonomy's review and our ensuing consultation on his recommendations soon.

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