From: Sent:

28 June 2018 09:56:09

To:

mairi.gougeon.msp@parliament.scot, Scottish Ministers

Subject:

Meeting request

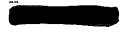
Dear Mairi

Congratulations on your new appointment.

I work on a consultancy basis for the and was hoping to arrange for myself and to meet with you.

I understand the decision on fox hunting following the Bonomy review is now to be taken after summer recess so we would be keen to meet at your earliest convenience to discuss this.





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10 January 2019 09:20:55

Sent: To:

Public Engagement Unit

Cc:

Minister for Rural Affairs and the Natural Environment

MSP

FW: Note from Subject:

to your Facebook Page Mairi Gougeon

PEU

For MACCS please

Thanks

Minister for Rural Affairs and the Natural Environment 2N.08 St Andrew?s House | Regent Road | Edinburgh | EH1 3DG

0131 244 5596 MinisterRANE@gov.scot

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----Original Message----

From: Gougeon M (Mairi), MSP < Mairi. Gougeon.msp@parliament.scot>

Sent: 09 January 2019 18:04

To: Minister for Rural Affairs and the Natural Environment

<MinisterRANE@gov.scot>

Subject: FW: Note from Claire Bellamy to your Facebook Page Mairi Gougeon MSP

----Original Message----

From

Sent: 09 January 2019 17:59

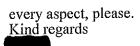
To: Gougeon M (Mairi), MSP < Mairi. Gougeon.msp@parliament.scot>

o your Facebook Page Mairi Gougeon MSP Subject: Note from

Your name:

Phone number:

Your question: I would like to meet you and for you to come to my home see the foxhounds that I work with and look after and see what I do on a daily basis. For you to add something to a bill you need to look at every aspect and understand



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/ScotParl
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_

Minister for Rural Affairs and the Natural Environment

Sent: To: 26 March 2019 19:48:44 Public Engagement Unit

Cc:

Minister for Rural Affairs and the Natural Environment

Subject:

Fw: Meeting Today

For MACCs diary please

Thanks



the Minister for Rural Affairs and the Natural Environment

0131 244 4426 07896281679

MinisterRANE@gov.scot

From: The Onslows <theonslows@btinternet.com>

Sent: Tuesday, 26 March 2019 19:46

To: mairi.gougeon@msp.parliament.scot; Minister for Rural Affairs and the Natural

Environment

Subject: Meeting Today

Dear Mairi

I am so grateful for you sparing your time to see me today. I know how busy you must be. Thank you.

You asked me to email your office to try to get a date in the diary for you to visit the kennels at the second. We will, of course, work around you, so perhaps you could let me have a couple of dates that would suit you.

As I mentioned, this would be a private visit. It would not be publicised in any way. I would envisage that around 5 people would be there to talk to you and they would be the only ones aware of your visit. I trust them and can assure you they will be extremely polite and courteous. I give you my word.

I look forward to hearing from your office. Meanwhile, please do use my mobile or email if you need to contact me.

With best wishes.

Yours sincerely



Sent from Mailhttps://go.microsoft.com/fwlink/?LinkId=550986 for Windows 10

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Minister for Rural Affairs and the Natural Environment

Sent: To:

01 May 2019 16:40:23 Public Engagement Unit

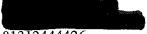
Cc:

Minister for Rural Affairs and the Natural Environment

Subject:

Fw: The Importance of Foxhounds

For MACCs



Minister for Rural Affairs and the Natural Environment

01312444426 07896281679

MinisterRANE@gov.scot

From: Mr Neil Ewart <noreply@country-side-alliance.org>

Sent: Wednesday, 1 May 2019 16:36

To: Minister for Rural Affairs and the Natural Environment

Reply To: Mr Neil Ewart

Subject: The Importance of Foxhounds

For the attention of Mairi Gougeon Rural Affair and Natural Environment Minister

St Andrew's House Regent Road Edinburgh EH1 3DG MinisterRANE@gov.scot

Protection of Wild Mammals (Scotland) Act 2002

I was pleased that the Scottish Governments review of the protection of Wild Mammals (Scotland) Act 2002 recognised the importance of foxhound packs for wild mammal control and rejected unjustified calls for further restrictions.

Since the introduction of the Protection of Wild Mammals (Scotland) Act 2002 the use of a pack of dogs to flush to guns has taken place on thousands of days. This is an activity which takes place in public and open to scrutiny. Foxhound packs have cooperated closely with Police Scotland and have amended their practices in the light of the changes in the law. There has been little, if any, suggestion that the law was not working.

In particular, I was pleased that Lord Bonomy made so clear the important role that foxhound packs play in managing the fox population and that any restriction on their activity could \"seriously compromise effective pest control in the country\".

Given the recognition in Lord Bonomy's report to the importance of the use of foxhound packs it is vitally important that any changes to the legislation should not undermine their operation.



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25 April 2019 13:50:34 Sent:

To:

Public Engagement Unit

Cc:

Minister for Rural Affairs and the Natural Environment

Subject:

FW: Equitrac Scan-to-Me

Attachments:

25-04-2019 13-41-51.pdf

PEU

For MACCS - AO

Thanks

Minister for Rural Affairs and the Natural Environment 2N.08 St Andrew's House | Regent Road | Edinburgh | EH1 3DG

* 0131 244 5596

MinisterRANE@gov.scot<mailto:MinisterRANE@gov.scot>

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[https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/0/01/Scottish_Government Logo.svg/220px-Scottish Government Logo.svg.png]

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> On Behalf Of Cabinet

From:

Secretary for the Rural Economy

Sent: 25 April 2019 13:45 To: Minister for Rural Affairs and the Natural Environment

<MinisterRANE@gov.scot>

Cc: Cabinet Secretary for the Rural Economy < CabSecRE@gov.scot>

Subject: FW: Equitrac Scan-to-Me

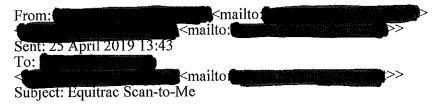
Cabinet Secretary for Rural Economy CabsecRE@gov.scot<mailto:CabsecRE@gov.scot> 0131 244 8415

Please view our Ministerial Preferenceshttp://saltire/my-workplace/ministerial-

preferences-and-support/Environment-and-Rural-Economy/Pages/Fergus-Ewing.aspx >

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Mairi Gougeon (Minister for Rural Affairs and the Natural Environment)
The Scottish Parliament
The Royal Mile
Edinburgh
EH99 1SP

Dear Mairi,

I live and farm in the Scottish Borders, I have a hunting livery business and I am an equine business owner. Our livelihood depends on a livery business associated to hunting. No hunting — loss of a rural business! (Hitler banned hunting).

It is my understanding that in the coming weeks the Scottish Government seek to bring forward legislation that directly contradicts its own independent review. Therefore, I am writing to express my view as a farmer.

The Scottish Borders has more sheep than any other region in Scotland. The financial health of the sheep industry will have both a direct and an indirect impact on a great deal of your constituents.

Scottish Government figures show almost half of Scotland's farmers are surviving on minimum wage and without financial support (subsidy) they would be making losses. The ever-present impact on my farm income from lamb losses due to fox predation is real and significant. My lambs would be much more likely to die due to fox predation if we are unable to control fox numbers by using a pack of dogs to flush to guns.

The impact of such losses is already recognised by the Scottish Government in their significant annual payment to the hill packs operating in the Highlands and to the island crofters. The service we receive in South Scotland from the foxhound packs is free.

The problems caused by foxes did not lessen with the introduction of the Protection of Wild Mammals (Scotland) Act 2002. Foxes still kill many lambs. The welcome adaptation of the mounted packs to flush the foxes from cover such as gorse banks and forestry plantations, in order they are shot offers protection at key times of the year to both keep down localised populations and to react to particular lamb killing activity.

The local hunt performs a vital role in sheep farming areas and has always been responsive to 'call-outs' to deal with foxes causing predation problems at lambing time.

From my conversations with my English and Welsh farming colleagues, thoughts are that the exemptions allowed under the 2004 Hunting Act are ineffectual in reducing losses; two hounds cannot possibly be as effective at flushing foxes to guns from parcels of land which may be many hundreds of acres in area – something confirmed through research commissioned by the Federation of Welsh Farmers Packs, which you will be aware of. Such problems, which were specifically addressed by Lord Bonomy in his 2016 report to the Scottish Government.

"The use of packs of hounds to flush out foxes to be shot remains a significant pest control measure, both to control the general level of foxes in an area as well as to address particular problems affecting a farm or estate."

"Searching and flushing by two dogs would not be as effective as that done by a full pack of hounds, imposing restrictions could seriously compromise effective pest control in the country"

The Scottish Government has set ambitious targets for a doubling of Scotland's food and drinks sector by 2030. The contribution from the sheep livestock sector is unlikely to achieve any meaningful contribution unless we are able to continue with the use of a pack of foxhounds to flush foxes from cover.

Yours sincerely

on behalf of Cabinet Secretary for the Environment, Climate Change

and Land Reform

Sent:

24 April 2019 15:40

To:

Public Engagement Unit

Cc:

Cabinet Secretary for the Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform

Subject:

- Hunting Bill

Attachments:

u440198_24-04-2019_15-27-40.pdf

Categories:

Ali, Blue

One for MACCS please, as an OR

Land Reform

to Roseanna Cunningham MSP, Cabinet Secretary for Environment, Climate Change, and

St. Andrews House

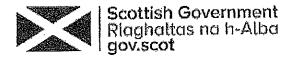
EDINBURGH EH1 3DG

0131 244 3443

cabsececcir@gov.scot

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23rd April, 2019

Roseannah Cunningham MSP Scottish Parliament Scottish Parliament Building Edinburgh EH99 1SP

RE: PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE HUNTING BILL

Dear Mr Curryhon

For the majority of my life, horses and farming have been my livelihood. As a young man! hunted and I got into racing as a result of hunting. Point to Pointing and Hunter Chasing were all a knock on from Hunting, which is why I owed a lot of my livelihood to hunting through racing. In the racing world, young jockeys, horses and general experience is all essentially found on the hunting field, all of which will be sadly lost if you alter this law.

I was a mixed farmer also before I retired. I saw the benefits of hunting from a farming point of view, the control of foxes that hunting enabled was crucial.

Being a country man I understand the balance of pest control with hounds, and as a farmer I have seen the devastation that foxes can cause if they are not controlled. Please bare in mind that country people and farmers are best to decide on how the way of life works here in rural areas.

Please consider this before you act.

Sincerely



on behalf of Cabinet Secretary for the Environment, Climate Change

and Land Reform

Sent:

24 April 2019 15:38

To:

Public Engagement Unit

Cc:

Cabinet Secretary for the Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform

Subject:

- Hunting Bill

Attachments:

-04-2019_15-25-20.pdf

Categories:

Ali, Blue

One for MACCS please, as an OR

Thanks

Land Poterm

to Roseanna Cunningham MSP, Cabinet Secretary for Environment, Climate Change,and

Land Reform

St. Andrews House EDINBURGH EH1 3DG 0131 244 3443 cabsecectr@gov.scot

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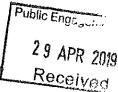
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23rd April, 2019

Mairi Gougeon Scottish Parliament Scottish Parliament Bullding Edinburgh EH99 1SP 2 6 APR 2019
PRIVATE OF



Dear Mairi,

RE: PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE HUNTING BILL

Lord Bonomy's report.

I can't see the point of the Government having spent thousands of pounds on the Bonomy report, which they are now ignoring.

I have hunted all my life and I have observed that hunting with a pack of hounds is more humane and better for the fox than shooting or lamping. On such occasions the fox is too often wounded and dies in agony. Whereas when hounds catch a fox it dies immediately. Reducing fox control to 2 hounds would not be so efficient.

Regards



09 April 2019 11:16:21

Sent: To:

Public Engagement Unit

Cc:

Minister for Rural Affairs and the Natural Environment

Subject:

RE: Fox Hunting

PEU

For MACCS please, AO?

Thanks

Minister for Rural Affairs and the Natural Environment 2N.08 St Andrew?s House | Regent Road | Edinburgh | EH1 3DG

? 0131 244 5596

MinisterRANE@gov.scot<mailto:MinisterRANE@gov.scot>

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From:

<mailto

Date: 8 April 2019 at 19:55:31 BST

"Mairi.Gougeon.msp@parliament.scot<mailto:Mairi.Gougeon.msp@parliament.scot

<Mairi.Gougeon.msp@parliament.scot<mailto:Mairi.Gougeon.msp@parliament.scot</p>

Subject: Fox Hunting

Dear Ms Gougeon,

I am contacting you regarding fox hunting in Scotland.

I had thought that fox hunting was banned here but have discovered that this horrendous cruelty still continues because of loop holes in the The Protection of Wild Mammals (Scotland) Act 2002.

I believe a review of the Act was carried out by Lord Bonomy . He said that the exception in the Act that allowed foxes to be flushed from cover for ?pest? control was used by hunts to continue their barbaric practice. Lord Bonomy?s review into fox hunting estimates that 20% of foxes disturbed by Scottish hunts are killed by packs of hounds. This is fox hunting in Scotland.

I was very pleased that in 2018 the Minister for Rural Affairs and the Natural Environment, Mairi Gougeon MSP confirmed that the Scottish Government intended to implement most of the recommendations made by Lord Bonomy in his review.

However, I am alarmed that, apparently, the Scottish Government has plans to explore a new licensing scheme to permit the use of more than two dogs in upland areas ?where necessary for legitimate predator control.?

Surely this is a return to whole scale fox hunting in Scotland?

In 2017, First Minister Nicola Sturgeon said, ?I have always been an opponent of fox hunting and remain an opponent of fox hunting?Be under no doubt at all this government opposes fox hunting and that?s the position we have long taken and the position we continue to take.?

It would appear that the First Minister is about to go back on her word and do a u turn on her values.

The majority of people in Scotland want an end to fox hunting. 98% of the people who responded to the Scottish Government?s consultation on improving the welfare of wild mammals in relation to fox hunting in 2017 supported a real and effective ban.

Fox hunting is cruel, and barbaric. A post mortem of a fox carcass which had been recovered from a hunt showed that the animal?s death was ?due to a combination of respiratory failure, blood loss and shock? and the vet who did the post mortem concluded that this would have ?caused significant unnecessary suffering to the fox.?

I, like most people in Scotland, do not want this kind of cruel persecution of our wildlife in our country.

I really hope that you, and the Scottish Government ,will support Green MSP Alison Johnstone plans to introduce a Bill on a full fox hunting ban.

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on behalf of Cabinet Secretary for the Environment, Climate Change

and Land Reform

Sent:

01 May 2019 09:52

To:

Public Engagement Unit Cabinet Secretary for the Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform

Cc: Subject:

Letter for MACCS

Attachments:

01-05-2019_09-49-09.pdf

Categories:

Ali, Blue

Hi

Please add to MACCS as an OR

Thanks

to Roseanna Cunningham MSP, Cabinet Secretary for Environment, Climate Change, and

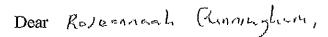
Land Reform

St, Andrews House **EDINBURGH** EH1 3DG 0131 244 3443 cabsececcir@gov.scot

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I am writing to register my concern and disappointment with the recent announcement concerning fox control with dogs.

The Scottish Government spent a great deal of time and presumably money commissioning a report by Lord Bonomy. While some of his recommendations have been supported, it would seem the most important one has been dismissed. It has been proposed that the number of hounds should be limited to 2 for mounted packs, in contradiction to Bonomy's recommendations and is a contradiction of the only published science by Naylor and Knott who say that reducing the pack of hounds to 2 comprises the fox's welfare.

Even worse, the proposal for packs of hounds to carry out fox control will attract licenses in the Uplands, but no where else. Prejudice seems to play a big part in the government's approach — what is the difference between carrying out fox control in the Lowlands and the Uplands/Highlands? The need for fox control is as important in the south of Scotland as every where else. Farmer Mr Edgar gave evidence under oath in the 'Buccleuch Case' that he loses upwards of 100 lambs per year, which is not acceptable.

As I understand it there were nearly 19,000 responses to the consultation of which 18,497 (98%) were from 5 online campaigns where the respondents could not be identified, and possibly did not live in Scotland.

Horses are an important for the Borders, the New Year Meet in Hawick last year had 1,000 members of the public attending. The equestrian culture with racing, eventing, common riding and riding clubs is so important to the Borders. The hunting community is an important part of this including nurses, teachers, business men and women, pensioners, farmers, undertakers, plumbers, builders and electricians being among those that follow the Buccleuch Hunt. There are also farriers, feed merchants, vets and fox control staff who are in danger of losing their jobs.

It seems to me that banning fox control with a pack of hounds in the south of Scotland and allowing it in the Uplands is strange. It is totally illogical. I would urge you to support us.

Yours sincerely,



Sent: 28 March 2019 11:40:01

To:

Public Engagement Unit

Cc:

Cabinet Secretary for Health and Sport

Subject:

FW: SNP Fox Control Bill

AO -

PEU

Please could you scan this on to MACCS as an OR.

Thanks

Ministerial Private Office (Health) St Andrew?s House

Edinburgh

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On Behalf Of

----Original Message----

From:

Freeman J (Jeane), MSP Sent: 28 March 2019 11:22

To: Cabinet Secretary for Health and Sport < CabSecHS@gov.scot>

Cc:

Subject: FW: SNP Fox Control Bill

Hi

Please see email below for response.

Thanks,

Jeane Freeman MSP

46-48 Glaisnock Street, Cumnock, East Ayrshire, KA18 1BY Constituency Office: 01290 425876 Parliamentary Office: 0131 348 6745 jeanefreeman.scot

@JeaneF1MSP | FB: Jeane Freeman MSP

----Original Message----

From: Sent: 28 March 2019 10:27

To: Freeman J (Jeane), MSP < Jeane. Freeman.msp@parliament.scot>

Subject: SNP Fox Control Bill

Dear Ms Freeman

I am writing to express my concern and shock over the recent announcement concerning fox control with dogs in Scotland.

The Scottish Government spent a great deal of time and undoubtedly money commissioning a report by Lord Bonomy which seems to have been kicked into touch. The proposal of going out on fox control with only two hounds is ludicrous and would prolong the time of searching and flushing considerably. The idea of allowing packs of hounds only in the ?Uplands?, seems prejudice against any horse riders. We lose countless lambs here in the Borders too and need the efficiency of the whole pack of hounds.

Horses and hunting is a vital part of Border life. There is a huge range of people from all walks of life it would effect if we weren?t able to meet, enjoy our horses, educate young horses over rough terrain and encourage children in their riding skills, keeping them off the streets and off their phones and iPads. Proper exercise in fresh air and integrating with older generations.

Those of us who understand and enjoy country life, feel angry and let down by the prejudice against us. The Government are not listening to our side of the argument. I have retired from riding but I still enjoy following and hope my grandchildren will be able to continue to benefit from all aspects of hunting life.

All of us who ride or have ridden horses in the Borders following Hounds admiring the skills of huntsmen and efficiency of the hounds are angry, disillusioned and feel disenfranchised. PLEASE support us.

Yours Sincerely,



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From: Minister for Rural Affairs and the Natural Environment

Sent: 01 May 2019 16:40:03 To: Public Engagement Unit

Cc: Minister for Rural Affairs and the Natural Environment

Subject: Fw: The Importance of Foxhounds

Form MACCs

to the Minister for Rural Affairs and the Natural Environment

01312444426 07896281679 MinisterRANE@gov.scot

From:

Sent: Wednesday, 1 May 2019 16:36

To: Minister for Rural Affairs and the Natural Environment

Reply To:
Subject: The Importance of Foxhounds

For the attention of Mairi Gougeon Rural Affair and Natural Environment Minister

St Andrew's House Regent Road Edinburgh EH1 3DG MinisterRANE@gov.scot

Protection of Wild Mammals (Scotland) Act 2002

I was pleased that the Scottish Governments review of the protection of Wild Mammals (Scotland) Act 2002 recognised the importance of foxhound packs for wild mammal control and rejected unjustified calls for further restrictions.

Since the introduction of the Protection of Wild Mammals (Scotland) Act 2002 the use of a pack of dogs to flush to guns has taken place on thousands of days. This is an activity which takes place in public and open to scrutiny. Foxhound packs have cooperated closely with Police Scotland and have amended their practices in the light of the changes in the law. There has been little, if any, suggestion that the law was not working.

In particular, I was pleased that Lord Bonomy made so clear the important role that foxhound packs play in managing the fox population and that any restriction on their activity could \"seriously compromise effective pest control in the country\".

Given the recognition in Lord Bonomy's report to the importance of the use of foxhound packs it is vitally important that any changes to the legislation should not undermine their operation.



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Minister for Rural Affairs and the Natural Environment

Sent:

01 May 2019 16:39:30

To:

Public Engagement Unit

Cc:

Minister for Rural Affairs and the Natural Environment

Subject:

Fw: Proposed new legislation on foxhunting

Attachments: New legislation on foxhunting in defense of gun packs 300419.docx

01312444426

Minister for Rural Affairs and the Natural Environment

07896281679

MinisterRANE@gov.scot

From: Gougeon M (Mairi), MSP <Mairi.Gougeon.msp@parliament.scot>

Sent: Wednesday, 1 May 2019 16:35

To: Minister for Rural Affairs and the Natural Environment Subject: FW: Proposed new legislation on foxhunting

From:

Sent: 01 May 2019 16:06

To: Gougeon M (Mairi), MSP < Mairi. Gougeon.msp@parliament.scot>

Subject: Proposed new legislation on foxhunting

Dear Ms Gougeon,

I attach a paper which describes my experience with foxes and gun packs. I would welcome your comments.

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

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Protection of Wild Mammals (Scotland) Act 2002.

New legislation on foxhunting – announcement by MSP Mairi Gougeon on 9th Jan 2019.

A note in defence of gun packs.

I have not been involved in hunting professionally but have been involved with fox control for 55
years. Before retirement I was an environmental regulator with the
and latterly the for the
a retired Chartered Chemist and used my professional scientific skill set to study and control foxes.

It is widely accepted within Government and agencies that foxes require to be controlled as they are a top predator that can exert serious damage on ground nesting birds, wildlife in general and farm livestock. The trouble as I see it is the debate is hugely influenced by groups intent on banning hunting, most of them do not appear to understand or appreciate the full picture. This note will I hope explain the situation factually as I see it.

The debate leading to the current announcement has been dominated by arguments about the welfare of the fox. The Environment Minister, Mairi Gougeon in her announcement stated "The welfare of animals in Scotland, whether domestic, farmed, or wild, is one of this governments highest priorities and so, when it became apparent that legislation introduced in 2002 to protect foxes from unnecessary hunting wasn't having the desired effect, we wantedto take firm action." And later "However, not only do we hope to implement the vast majority of those (Lord Bonomy's) recommendations, we will be going further, we are going to strengthen our current legislation and plan to introduce measures that go beyond the rest of the UK in terms of protecting the welfare of our wild animals."

So far so good, but nowhere in the ongoing debate have I seen any reference to the very considerable animal welfare inflicted by foxes on farm animals, and yet as stated by Ms Gougeon the welfare of farmed, domestic and wild animals is one of the government's highest priorities! The two have to be weighed if a balanced debate is to be considered and the correct outcome reached otherwise we risk replacing one bit of bad legislation with another. Hopefully you will understand this well when you read on.

Out of many examples of farm animal welfare inflicted by the fox that I have personally witnessed at first hand over many years I have chosen these three.

1) Out walking on the hill near Galashiels I came across 3 foxes attacking a Suffolk tup that was lying on its back in a shallow hollow, it was unable to roll back onto its feet to escape. The foxes ran off when I arrived but they had chewed its ears, nose and tongue and ripped off one of its testicles and were in the process of attacking the other. It was bleeding badly and no doubt was in very considerable pain and distress. I phoned the farmer and he arranged for the tup to be put out of its misery. The tup was located next to a large block of forestry and whilst I don't know the precise detail I do know that within a few days a pack of hounds was used to flush the foxes to waiting guns and 6 were accounted for. Due to the size of the

- forestry block 2 hounds would simply have been unable to force the foxes into the open to be shot.
- 2) In another example 4 years ago several heavily pregnant ewes became stuck in a ditch during an overnight blizzard. Foxes had attacked 5 of them chewing ears and tongues and ripping of the swollen udders of the sheep. At daybreak all were still alive but bleeding heavily and the farmer arranged for them to be put out of their misery. The surrounding terrain was too rough for lamping and snaring was out of the question due to the risk of catching sheep. Within a few days a team of 5 guns and a small pack of 2 beagles, 2 beagle/patterdale crosses and 3 foxhounds were used to flush foxes from areas of nearby gorse. Much to the farmer's relief five foxes were accountedfor, one escaped. No further loses of sheep or lambs occurred [the farmer was losing 100+ lambs annually to foxes, a potential economic loss of around £7000 to £8000.] Had the number of hounds been restricted to 2 they would not have been enough to flush the foxes from the gorse into the open to be shot.
- 3) My third example involved the disappearance of new born lambs. A neighbouring farmer who knew I was involved in fox control approached me to tell me that he was losing new born lambs at a rate of 2 per night. He had scanned his ewes and knew each one in this particular field would be having twins yet when he checked in the morning at least 2 ewes would have only 1 lamb at foot, no carcases were recovered. I sat out after dark watching over this flock using a powerful torch. All was quiet but after a couple of hours I noticed a ewe in labour. After a short time a dog fox appeared on the scene clearly interested. As the ewe delivered the head and shoulders the fox grabbed the lamb by the head and trailed it off into nearby gorse. I was upset having watched events unfold especially when the ewe got to its feet to find its new-born missing, it was clearly distressed, and to my surprise it followed the trail of scent its lamb left as the fox dragged it towards the gorse. It was not safe for me to shoot this fox in amongst the flock of ewes but when I explained what I had witnessed the farmer clearly understood why he was only getting 1 lamb instead of 2 from some of his ewes. A few nights later and 6 more lambs lost, I eventually got a safe shot and the fox was dispatched but plan B was to get a few hounds to flush the fox to guns. Here again limiting flushing to 2 hounds would not have been sufficient, due to the size of the area of gorse, to force the fox into the open to be shot.

These are just a few examples that demonstrate that the fox can inflict very serious animal welfare on farmed animals.

As a retired environmental regulator I have overseen the prosecution of many high profile cases within the catchment, indeed none of the cases that I been involved with the presentation of to the Procurator Fiscal have failed to achieve a successful prosecution. As a result of my experience as an environmental regulator over 40+ years I can recognise at a glance what is within the law and what lies out with the law. I can categorically say that in 12 years of being a gun in the activities of a gun packs that I have never witnessed anything that could be remotely regarded as an animal welfare issue for the fox.

There is no scientific basis for restricting the number of hounds used to 2; matching the legislation south of the border has no practical justification. A good number of hounds are required in most situations otherwise the fox will simply not flush from cover. For example in large forestry blocks a group of hounds may be giving tongue on one fox but this sound reverberates through the forest and

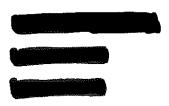
gets other foxes on the move which gives the opportunity to shoot them without any stress or animal welfare issues for the fox involved. Another example is when scenting conditions are poor 2 hounds won't be sufficient, more hounds are required as they work as a team and each one has its role to play in difficult scenting conditions.

A certain and unintended consequence of limiting the number of hounds to 2 will be a dramatic increase in farm animal welfare issues inflicted by foxes. This is very clearly contrary to one of the government's stated highest priorities. Practitioners should be allowed to decide the number of hounds required depending on the prevailing circumstances, and that decision should not be predetermined in legislation. That is essential for timely and effective fox management in gorse, areas of windblown timber and large forestry blocks.

Government policy is to greatly increase the area covered by forestry in Scotland. The fox population will increase with this planting particularly in the early years. More foxes equals more pressure on farm livestock and ground nesting birds and it is essential that flushing with hounds to guns is retained as a practical and effective tool for control. There is no other way of effectively managing foxes in these areas.

There is a suggestion that a licence should be obtained where more than 2 hounds are required. Fox problems have to be dealt with timeously to limit damage to livestock and wildlife, adding this extra layer of bureaucracy will inevitably slow things down whilst meantime the damage and animal welfare will continue unabated. In examples 1 and 2 above prompt action was taken to bring a rapid end to the problem much to the relief of the farmers concerned.

Gun packs provide an efficient, practical, utilitarian function and land managers pay for the service as part of their business. This is not sport in any sense of the word and there operation can never be viewed as sport. Fox control is a serious business and is carried out in a highly professional manner. It has to be effective as individual livelihoods depend on a successful outcome. It is absolutely essential this method of fox control is retained in any upcoming review of the current legislation in Scotland otherwise one of this government's highest priorities; the welfare of domestic and farmed animals will not be achieved.



on behalf of Cabinet Secretary for Health and Sport

Sent:

25 April 2019 11:53

To:

Public Engagement Unit

Cc:

Cabinet Secretary for Health and Sport

Subject:

FW: Letters

Attachments:

Fox Hunting Campaign x7.pdf

Categories:

Ali, Blue

PEU

Please could you scan this on to MACCS as an OR.

Thanks

Ministerial Private Office (Health) St Andrew's House

Edinburgh

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From: Sent: 25 April 2019 11:20

To: Cabinet Secretary for Health and Sport <CabSecHS@gov.scot>

Cc:

@parliament.scot>

Subject: Letters

Hi

Please find attached 7 letters regarding the Fox Hunting Legislation to be actioned.

Kind Regards

Jeane Freeman MSP

46-48 Glaisnock Street, Cumnock, East Ayrshire, KA18 1BY

Constituency Office: 01290 425876 Email: <u>Jayde.wylle@parliament.scot</u>

jeanefreeman.scot | @JeaneF1MSP | FB: Jeane Freeman MSP

Hours of Work are Monday - Friday 9.00am - 3.00pm



23rd April, 2019

Jeane Freeman MSP Scottish Parliament Scottish Parliament Building Edinburgh EH99 1SP

RE: PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE HUNTING BILL

Dear he Freehon

I have been working as a horse physio in for the past 30 years. My business stems mostly from horses of all kinds especially hunters. My business will be seriously affected if hunting becomes unviable.

Regarding welfare - I am concerned that if the number of hounds used to flush foxes is reduced to 2 it will severely limited fox control possibilities.

We live in a remote, rural area where the dumping or rural foxes, captured and then released from local cities - notably Edinburgh - is becoming increasingly problematic. Recently a lorry driver whose tachograph had expired, was showing the contents of his lorry to another driver within the same layby. The lorry was packed with crates of foxes heading for the Cheviots to be released every 10 miles.

To me this is cruelty. Such foxes only understand urban living and are unable to survive in the wild & in this situation fox control is going to become even more vital in the future. Shooting as a main control is not the solution because guns are often inexperienced and foxes are wounded and left to die. I have noted on more than one occasion injured foxes with 3 legs where they have been snared and eaten their leg off to escape and shot and struggling with a broken leg.

I hope you will see sense and allow people who understand how the law & the countryside works to continue their work.

Yours sincerely



25 April 2019 09:38:26

Sent: To:

Public Engagement Unit

Cc:

Minister for Rural Affairs and the Natural Environment

Subject:

FW: Proposed changes to Fox Control

For MACCs please

AO

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

0131 244 4426

07896281679

MinisterRANE@gov.scot<mailto:MinisterRANE@gov.scot>

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From: Gougeon M (Mairi), MSP <Mairi.Gougeon.msp@parliament.scot>

Sent: 24 April 2019 18:06

To: Minister for Rural Affairs and the Natural Environment

<MinisterRANE@gov.scot>

Subject: Fwd: Proposed changes to Fox Control

Begin forwarded message:

From:

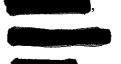
→<mailto

Date: 24 April 2019 at 16:43:04 BST

To:

Mairi.Gougeon.msp@parliament.scot<mailto:Mairi.Gougeon.msp@parliament.scot>

Subject: Proposed changes to Fox Control



Dear Mairi and Lady Minister,

I live in the Scottish Borders and although retired now, continue to take an interest in national affairs. For 30 years I plied my trade as a saddler supplying goods for the comfort of both horses and riders. I have bred some 25 horses and with my wife competed nation wide. There was nothing better for the education of a young horse, destined for eventing, than following hounds across Scotland.

I have been disturbed to hear that the Scottish Government, seems determined to go against the findings of the review, of the eminent Lord Bonomy, which clearly stated, that to reduce the number of hounds used in fox control to two only, would severely restrain the effectiveness of the procedure. This contradiction of your own independent investigation is quite wrong, and the country will not stand for it. This is further intrusion and interference by an urban majority, ignorant of country affairs.

I was a member of a small group of business people from the Borders who in 2000-2001 made representations to MSPs to oppose the Hunting Act given to law in 2002. This had the effect of taking ?16 million pounds out of the economy, to the detriment of a wide variety of small businesses. These consisted of horse breeders, producers, livery yards, hiring establishments, hunt kennels, hotels and those B & Bs who kept open in winter for hunting holidays. This is not to mention farriers, feed merchants, saddlers and rug manufacturers, and those many employees of those firms.

A call to arms has come from a local hunt and thus I write to ask you to cease from the proposed course of action, as it will continue the negative effect caused by the 2002 Act. 3 Hunts have wound up completely, Dumfriesshire, Wigtownshire and Eglinton being sad losses, the rest coping lawfully with the Act with reduced fields.

Hunt staff carry out a local collection service for farmers fallen livestock, and as a farmer's son, know that I would appreciate it. Lame and aged horses are put down at home humanely.

Social events related to fund raising give cohesion and solace, to an increasingly reducing country side population, some of which feel isolated from the mainstream of society by distance and poverty.

I would be pleased to hear your views on this issue. I feel that I am well placed to identify individuals that could inform you, better than I, on your deliberations prior to any decisions being made.

I would be happy to attend your office if need be,

Yours Sincerely,

15 April 2019 08:22:10 Sent:

To:

Public Engagement Unit

Cc:

Minister for Rural Affairs and the Natural Environment

Subject:

FW: Fox Control Bill

For MACCs

Please allocate to



Minister for Rural Affairs and the Natural Environment

0131 244 4426 07896281679

MinisterRANE@gov.scot<mailto:MinisterRANE@gov.scot>

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From: Cunningham R (Roseanna), MSP

<Roseanna.Cunningham.msp@parliament.scot>

Sent: 13 April 2019 14:34

To: Minister for Rural Affairs and the Natural Environment

<MinisterRANE@gov.scot> Subject: Fwd: Fox Control Bill

Sent from my iPad

Begin forwarded message:

~/mailto

Date: 12 April 2019 at 15:29:15 BST

Roseanna.Cunningham.msp@parliament.scot<mailto:Roseanna.Cunningham.msp@p

arliament.scot>

Subject: Fox Control Bill

Dear Roseanna,

I am writing to you about my worries concerning the fox control proposals.

It seems that after the Lord Bonomy report was commissioned by the Scottish government the findings have been totally ignored. The report must have cost a considerable amount and seems criminal in a time of cutbacks to ignore it. He had recommended that the number of dogs used to search and flush should not be limited to two as it would take 5 times longer and would cause more distress to the fox. It would also seem to contradict the scientific report from Naylor & Knot which is of the same opinion.

The proposal to issue licences to ?Uplands" only packs seems to be very prejudiced towards the ?Lowlands?. What is the difference in controlling foxes in these areas? Both parts of Scotland have huge problems with fox control and particularly at this time of year with lambing. We regularly loose lambs to foxes and they are not always the young ones. The only animals large and quick enough to take an older lamb is a fox or a dog.

The Borders are home to 6 of the 9 packs of foxhounds. If the fox control were to stop in this area it could have a profound impact on the rural community and businesses. There is a huge cross section of people who partake in the fox control and many who do not ride but support from their cars or on foot. It is a time when the community including all manner of tradesmen, nurses, farmers, pensioners, business?s, undertakers come together to support each other with functions surrounding the Hunts as the common thread.

This idea of banning fox control with a pack of hounds in the Border area but allowing it elsewhere is totally illogical - I am feeling totally let down by the Scottish Government and would urge you to look hard at this proposal. Please do support us for the sake of the fox welfare and the rural community.

Kind regards



*

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

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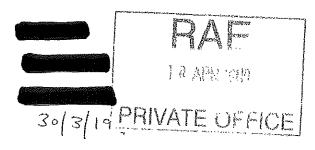
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Dear Mr Ewing

We are very concerned about discussions in Parliament regarding fox control. We were sheep farmers for over 30 years and my husband worked with sheep for 20 years before this. There were always losses of lambs from foxes both in our lowland ground and on the hill. In flushing foxes to guns with a pack of hounds the fox is flushed out quickly and dispatched by shooting. With only two hounds in cover the chase is much longer and more stressful to the fox.

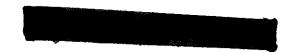
Foxes do as much damage to livestock in lowland ground as in the hills and we see this discussion as some sort of vendetta against an imagined elite group of people when it is not the case. People from all walks of life follow the hounds, not a privileged few.

In the Scottish Borders there is an enormous horse culture across the population with people of all ages and from all walks of life riding at the Common Riding festivals, horse trials and shows, in racing and following hounds in winter. Our Olympic eventers often train their young horses in the hunting field. Everyone mixes with a common interest. Young people are out following hounds in the fresh air, away from screens and taking excercise which is what the government is advocating. They also need to look after their ponies which in the winter includes mucking out stables and watering and feeding them.

It seems surprising that the Government spent so much time and money on expert research, which hunts fully accommodated the researchers to do, and then rejected the findings because they were not what they wanted to hear. What a waste of resources which can ill be afforded and much better spent on health ,education and welfare. It concerns us about the wisdom of a government that rejects Lord Bonamy's findings when most of the members of that government are townees and have no first hand knowledge of what goes on in the countryside. It makes me wonder what else they reject out of hand.

We hope that the Scottish Government will stop time wasting on this issue and concentrate on the important things like Health, Education and poverty.

Yours sincerely





23rd April, 2019

Roseannah Cunningham Scottish Parliament Scottish Parliament Building Edinburgh EH99 1SP

Dear Ms. Curningham

RE: PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE HUNTING BILL

I am concerned about the proposed changes to the Hunting Act and in particular the proposed reduction in the number of hounds used to flush to guns.

I would like hunting to go back to what it was. I feel the hunting community is up against prejudice and ignorance.

Foxes would be much better off if hunting went back to how it was. From what I've seen shooting is much crueller; with hounds the fox is either caught and killed instantly or it escapes unburt.

Reducing the number of hounds to 2 won't benefit foxes at all - and it goes against Lord Bonomy's recommendations - this Government sponsored review now appears to be totally disrespected.

Sincerely

09 April 2019 16:49:35

Sent:

Public Engagement Unit

To:

Cabinet Secretary for Health and Sport

Cc: Subject:

FW: Fox control

Attachments: Scotgov Bonomy proposals letterJF.docx

AO -

PEU

Please could you scan this on to MACCS as an OR.

Thanks

Ministerial Private Office (Health) St Andrew's House Edinburgh

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From: @parliament scot<mailto

@parliament.scot<mailto@parliament.scot>> On

Behalf Of Freeman J (Jeane), MSP

Sent: 09 April 2019 16:43

To: Cabinet Secretary for Health and Sport

<CabSecHS@gov.scot<mailto:CabSecHS@gov.scot>>

Cc:

@parliament.scot<mailto

Subject: FW: Fox control

Hi Hi

Please see email below for response.

Thanks,

Jeane Freeman MSP

46-48 Glaisnock Street, Cumnock, East Ayrshire, KA18 1BY

Constituency Office: 01290 425876 Parliamentary Office: 0131 348 6745

jeanefreeman.scot | @JeaneF1MSP | FB: Jeane Freeman MSP

From Sent: 09 April 2019 13:13 To: Freeman J (Jeane), MSP <jeane.freeman.msp@parliament.scot<mailto:jeane.freeman.msp@parliament.scot> Subject: Fox control</jeane.freeman.msp@parliament.scot<mailto:jeane.freeman.msp@parliament.scot>
Dear Ms Freeman
Please see my letter attached

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Dear Ms Freeman,

The Scottish Government has announced proposed changes in the legislation covering fox control following the review by Lord Bonomy. I am writing to you about two aspects: 1) shortcomings in the Government's process and 2) fox control.

1. The Government statement raises grave questions about the democratic process in Scotland. Given a contentious topic, albeit of minority interest, the Government initially chose to do exactly the right thing in setting up a judge-led inquiry. This is the gold-standard in collecting and examining evidence and making recommendations. Lord Bonomy is one of Scotland's most senior and respected judges, giving confidence in the impartiality of the process to all sectors of Scotlish society.

The correct course to be taken by the Government, in accord with the democratice process, is to implement the proposals made in the report. Indeed, the Ministerial statement (attached) purports to be adopting Lord Bonomy's report, but then immediately contradicts itself by proposing to limit to two the number of dogs that may be used to flush a fox, and to curtail the activities of hunts on insufficient evidence. Lord Bonomy made it clear that neither is justified by the evidence. To override the inquiry findings, whilst pretending to abide by them, is wholly improper.

The Minister links her proposals to the results of a consultation that are, statistically, entirely unreliable – 98% of the 18,787 responses came from only five email addresses representing organised campaigns. Responses could not be identified as coming from different individuals, or even real people, whether resident in Scotland or not. However about half (9,063) are *known* to be from outwith Scotland. The degree of multiple submission is unknown. A mere 290 substantive responses (so termed, about 2% of the total) were received from identifiable individuals (265) or organisations (25) supplying a name and address, presenting views roughly balanced between those seeking or opposing change. The consultation may be useful purely for the range of views expressed, but it hardly provides a democratic mandate. To use it as such is an abuse of our democracy.

Scotland is not well-served by this abuse of the political process. Having started out with the gold standard, the Government must maintain that standard, and be seen to do so, lest its actions call into question the integrity of the entire process.

2. I am writing about fox control from the perspective of a sheep farmer with an academic background in animal ecology and farm animal welfare and who manages land for environmental benefits and biodiversity.

Conservation organisations, gamekeepers and farmers acknowledge that predator control is necessary to protect ground-nesting birds and newborn lambs, however distasteful some people find it. Birds such as curlew are in serious decline in Scotland – when did you last hear one?

Afforestation (a Government priority) is an increasing cause of habitat loss in the Borders, reducing safe nesting grounds and providing a haven for foxes and crows. Clearly, the Government needs a policy on effective predator control, not least to address its biodiversity obligations.

Fox control using packs of hounds is subsidised by the Scottish Government over a wide area in the Highlands and Islands, primarily to support the economic viability of vulnerable sheep-farming

communities, but also with great benefits for ground-nesting birds. In southern Scotland, that work is done in part by the mounted foxhound packs providing a free pest control service using hounds to flush foxes to be shot. This is a recognised and effective method provided for by the Protection of Wild Mammals (Scotland) Act 2002, or as Lord Bonomy put it: "The use of packs of hounds to flush out foxes to be shot remains a significant pest control measure, both to control the general level of foxes in an area as well as to address particular problems affecting a farm or estate" (3.9). He also concludes, importantly, that restricting the number of dogs "could seriously compromise effective pest control in the country, particularly on rough and hilly ground and in extensive areas of dense cover such as conifer woodlands" (7.26).

When one of Scotland's most senior and respected judges makes recommendations after a great deal of careful and thorough investigation, the Government is bound to take his findings seriously. His recommendations will provide an answer to whether the 2002 Act is providing a sufficient level of protection for wild mammals, while at the same time allowing effective and humane control of wild mammals. Until this has been properly carried out, the Scottish Government should avoid using a sledgehammer to crack an imaginary nut.

Yours sincerely



Government statement published 9 Jan 2019:

New legislation on fox hunting

Limitations on dog numbers to be introduced.

Legislation will be introduced in this Parliament to close potential loopholes in the law protecting foxes and other wild mammals.

Delivering a statement to Parliament on improving animal welfare, Minister for Rural Affairs Mairi Gougeon announced her intention to bring forward a bill that will implement changes proposed by the Right Honourable Lord Bonomy's review on the subject.

These changes will limit to two the number of dogs that can be used to flush or find a fox.

The Minister also announced an intention to explore the option of a licensing scheme to permit the use of more than two dogs, if it were deemed necessary for pest control.

Additionally, the bill will include pre-emptive measures to address the likelihood of 'trail-hunting' becoming established in Scotland.

Ms Gougeon said:

"The welfare of animals in Scotland, whether domestic, farmed, or wild, is one of this government's highest priorities and so, when it became apparent that legislation introduced in 2002 to protect foxes from unnecessary hunting wasn't having the desired effect, we wanted to take firm action.

"We asked Lord Bonomy to undertake a review into how we can provide a sufficient level of protection for foxes and other wild mammals, whilst allowing for the effective and humane control of them when absolutely necessary, and published a consultation which attracted nearly 19,000 responses.

"After careful consideration of those responses, I'm pleased to say that we will be taking forward many of the recommendations in Lord Bonomy's report to clarify and strengthen the Protection of Wild Mammals Act.

"However, not only do we hope to implement the vast majority of those recommendations, we will be going further. We're going to strengthen our current legislation and plan to introduce measures that go beyond the rest of the UK in terms of protecting the welfare of our wild mammals."



29th March 2019



Ms M Gougeon, Minister for Rural Affairs The Scottish Parliament Edinburgh EH99 1SP

Dear Ms Gougeon

* "L2, 12,1

Fox Control with hounds

It seems that there is a willingness within parliament to revisit this issue, with a view to 'tightening' the legislation. I understand that this is an issue that receives a large mailbag from the public who think we are doing something illegal.

Since the law was brought in about 16 years ago, there has been just one prosecution. That, to me, suggests that the law is being applied effectively and that there is no intention to break it. 'Evidence' that is provided by people and bodies that seek to discredit our operations has proved to be inadmissible - in other words trying to 'create' criminal intent where none exists.

Given that the law must actually have worked very well, why does it need to be 'tightened up'? It is very difficult for the hunting fraternity to prove that they were not doing anything illegal - very difficult to prove a negative. Rather, we would prefer you to tell us what steps within the current legislation we should be taking to satisfy the public and politicians that we are doing it legally.

You have already set up the framework within which we operate legally. If there is any interpretation of the legislation that the hunting fraternity has misunderstood, please let us know. We do find it mysterious that we appear to be guilty until proven innocent, rather than the customary way we do things.

The Government commissioned a review by Lord Bonomy, no doubt at considerable expense (can you tell me how much please?), and it seems that many choose to ignore the findings that are 'inconvenient'. He specifically discounted the use of just two hounds as an effective means of flushing foxes.

Welfare is also more likely to be compromised by shooting than being caught by hounds. Foxes caught by hounds (this can happen during the flushing process or if foxes are injured by shooting) are never injured; they either get away or they are killed. This also has the side benefit of ensuring that the foxes which do get away are healthy and fit. Shooting offers none of these attributes.

4-1-6

Out there in the real world, hunting is actually not that easy. Foxes are not necessarily predictable; they are not stupid and will avoid the unusual (i.e. marksmen wearing dayglow jackets); the weather - wind or rain or both - can reduce the ability of hounds to flush foxes, certainly to a pre-determined point. It is far from an exact science. Shooting also has to be done safely - we have on occasion had disruptors who have got in the way and prevented anyone from shooting, You also need to be aware that shooting has to be done with a shotgun (maximum range to kill a fox cleanly is about 30 metres); you cannot realistically and safely use a rifle on a moving target.

There are, therefore, contradictions in the way we are expected to conduct fox control when it comes to the 'protection' of wild mammals. Some people allege that as a result, hunting is not a very effective means of fox control. If that means we do not catch many foxes, then what is everyone exercised about?

I essence, we need to hear from you what it is you think we should do differently or better within the present legislation. Would this not be a better thing to do than to go through all the parliamentary time just to make a change that is premature; to eradicate bad behaviour that remains unproven and before you have taken real evidence of what is going on?

I think legislators should look more closely at their 'ethical/cruelty/risk of injury' balance. How many have actually ever been hunting? Without having experienced it, how is anyone properly qualified to push through legislation or even to have an opinion? Why do you not look at the who learned the truth from experience on the ground. Take a look!

You must not omit to consider the local community and society benefits - the cohesive elements - that hunting lends to people and employment. To support the hunt we run the following:

- Cross country events for riders of all ages and abilities
- * Cross country rides
- * Horse races
- * Fund raising events dinners; raffles; talks and presentations
- * Outside catering for these events
- * Employment for people who work in horse related industries farriers; feed merchants; vets and physios; transporters; horse livery and hire; saddlers etc. The income for these could reduce substantially.

These events will simply drop off the calendar without hunting as there is no rationale for running them; country life will, as a result, be adversely affected. This may not matter to the majority urban dwellers, but it is those who live and work in the countryside who both maintain it and nurture it so that others can enjoy it. We live with animals and understand them - you cannot be a profitable farmer if you are gratuitously negligent. We seek to maintain a sensible balance in all areas, which includes pest control.

Yours sincerely

(Lin Chan

Sent:

01 April 2019 09:33:55

To:

Public Engagement Unit

Cc:

Cabinet Secretary for Health and Sport

Subject:

FW: Fox Control

AO - (

PEU

Please could you scan this on to MACCS as an OR.

Thanks

Ministerial Private Office (Health)

St Andrew's House Edinburgh

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From: (a)parliament.scot<mailto

@parliament.scot>> On

Behalf Of Freeman J (Jeane), MSP

Sent: 01 April 2019 09:11

To: Cabinet Secretary for Health and Sport

<CabSecHS@gov.scot<mailto:CabSecHS@gov.scot>>

Cc: l a@parliament.scot<mailto:

@parliament.scot>>

Subject: FW: Fox Control

Hi .

Please see email below for response.

Thanks,

Jeane Freeman MSP 46-48 Glaisnock Street, Cumnock, East Ayrshire, KA18 1BY

Constituency Office: 01290 425876 Parliamentary Office: 0131 348 6745

jeanefreeman.scot | @JeaneF1MSP | FB: Jeane Freeman MSP

<mailto!</p>



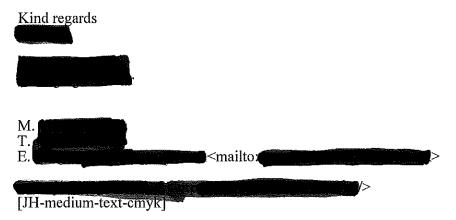
I wish to register my concern and observations regarding the recent announcement proposing to reduce the number of dogs for fox control to two.

The Scottish Governments commissioned report by Lord Bonomy specifically identifies the obvious, that two dogs are insufficient to practice effective fox control. There has been one contravention of the act in recent years. Given the covert surveillance, hunt monitoring and policing that fox control attracts, this is quite remarkable and actually enforces the fact, that the current act is working and fit for purpose. Any contrary allegations are pure conjecture and wishful thinking from parties with personal agendas.

The equestrian community that support fox control is made up from all walks of life. They are hardworking, law abiding citizens, who have a common love of the countryside and its pursuits. Mounted support of fox control is the vehicle that allows us access to cross country that would otherwise be prohibited. The loss of this privilege would lead to a dramatic reduction in local horse numbers and will damage the business of farriers, country stores, feed merchants etc.

I urge you to look at the Bonomy report, consider the lack of evidence to suggest a need for change and factor in the negative social and economic impact to our rural society.

Please act responsibly, jobs and livelihoods are at stake.



Registration no 18340 (Sc)

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Minister for Rural Affairs and the Natural Environment From:

30 March 2019 13:24:55 Sent: Public Engagement Unit To:

Minister for Rural Affairs and the Natural Environment Cc:

Fw: Fox Control Subject:



For MACCs please

Minister for Rural Affairs and the Natural Environment

0131 244 4426 07896281679

MinisterRANE@gov.scot<mailto:MinisterRANE@gov.scot>

From: Gougeon M (Mairi), MSP

<Mairi.Gougeon.msp@parliament.scot<mailto:Mairi.Gougeon.msp@parliament.scot</p>

Sent: Saturday, 30 March 2019 08:15

To: Minister for Rural Affairs and the Natural Environment

Subject: Fwd: Fox Control

Begin forwarded message:

From: ≺mailto:

Date: 29 March 2019 at 21:18:03 GMT

<fergus.ewing.msp@parliament.scot<mailto:fergus.ewing.msp@parliament.scot>>, <mairi.gougeon.msp@parliament.scot<mailto:mairi.gougeon.msp@parliament.scot>

<claudia.beamish.msp@parliament.scot<mailto:claudia.beamish.msp@parliament.sco</p>

<joan.mcalpine.msp@parliament.scot<mailto:joan.mcalpine.msp@parliament.scot>>, <bri>brian.whittle.msp@parliament.scot<mailto:brian.whittle.msp@parliament.scot>>>,

<emma.harper.msp@parliament.scot<mailto:emma.harper.msp@parliament.scot>>,

<colin.smyth.msp@parliament.scot<mailto:colin.smyth.msp@parliament.scot>>, <paul.wheelhouse.msp@parliament.scot<mailto:paul.wheelhouse.msp@parliament.sc</p>

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ent.scot>>,

<rachael.hamilton.msp@parliament.scot<mailto:rachael.hamilton.msp@parliament.sc</p>

iver.mundell.msp@parliament.scot<mailto:oliver.mundell.msp@parliament.scot

<finlay.carson.msp@parliament.scot<mailto:finlay.carson.msp@parliament.scot>>>, <jeane.freeman.msp@parliament.scot<mailto:jeane.freeman.msp@parliament.scot>>,

<john.scott.msp@parliament.scot<mailto:john.scott.msp@parliament.scot>>,

<willie.coffey.msp@parliament.scot<mailto:willie.coffey.msp@parliament.scot>>, <aileen.campbell.msp@parliament.scot<mailto:aileen.campbell.msp@parliament.scot

<christine.grahame.msp@parliament.scot<mailto:christine.grahame.msp@parliament.</p>

scot>>, <iain.gray.msp@parliament.scot<mailto:iain.gray.msp@parliament.scot>> Subject: Fox Control

Fox control with dogs,

In recent times fox control with a pack of hounds flushing to guns has been working well. Foxes are being found and many are despatched by the guns. To reduce the number of hounds to two would make this process totally ineffective no matter whether operating in the Borders or in the Highlands.

I find it difficult to understand how the Scottish Government can discriminate between the Highlands and the Lowlands when it comes to fox control, after all much of the land in the Borders is quite steep and extremely rough. It is in these areas where a pack of hounds can effectively find a fox and flush to the guns.

There are other methods of controlling foxes none of which are exactly pleasant. Lamping at night can work but only if the fox decides to put in an appearance. Snaring and trapping does work but are totally indiscriminate species to species and require very regular inspection of the snares and traps which is where the practise usually fails.

I do not like the practise of using snares and traps.

Without doubt, using a pack of hounds is the most effective way of locating a fox in deep covert. A fox fas to be found, they do not just appear because you would like to see one. They are not easy to find.

There is a real necessity to control fox numbers in the countryside, the lambing season is now well underway and once a fox has found a lambing field, they will never give up the chance of an easy meal of a newborn lamb. Sheep farmers and others, such as the keepers of game birds and poultry, just can not tolerate a raiding fox. What's more a fox has an unfortunate habit of mass killing, they do not just 'take one for the pot'.

The fox is a top predator that in the UK has very few, if any, natural enemies capable of killing it. A very hungry Golden Eagle would be a possibility. Other than Man and road traffic the fox has has no enemies.

Flushing to guns, using hounds, may not be super efficient but it is effective as a management tool, yet it is not so effective as to eradicate the fox from the countryside.

The issue of discriminating between foot packs or packs with mounted followers is a complete red-herring. The fox control process is carried out totally separately from the mounted followers who are there to enjoy a day out riding in the countryside and, it has to be said, pay for the upkeep of the hounds. The industry surrounding horse ownership is very heavily supported by these mounted followers.

I am dismayed that the work carried out by Lord Bonomy appears to have been totally overlooked by certain sectors of the Scottish Government and that the most unpleasant prejudice has been allowed to rear it's ugly face again. This I cannot, and never will, accept. Our activity does not contain any of these prejudices against others who may not agree with us and I would urge those in positions of power to accept how wrong they are.



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Sent: 28 March 2019 17:29:38

To:

Public Engagement Unit

Cc:

Minister for Rural Affairs and the Natural Environment

Subject:

FW: Improving Animal Welfare

Attachments: SACS - RANE Minister letter 08 03 2019.pdf

PEU? see attached letter for MACCS, grateful if this could be fast-tracked please.

Thanks

Minister for Rural Affairs and the Natural Environment 2N.08 St Andrew?s House | Regent Road | Edinburgh | EH1 3DG

? 0131 244 5596

MinisterRANE@gov.scot<mailto:MinisterRANE@gov.scot>

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From:

Sent: 28 March 2019 16:27

To: Minister for Rural Affairs and the Natural Environment

<MinisterRANE@gov.scot>

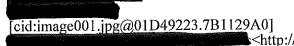
Subject: RE: Improving Animal Welfare

Hi

Thank you for your email, and I would welcome the opportunity to meet with the Minister on the basis you describe; perhaps you could suggest some suitable dates?

Might you be able to tell me if Ms Gougeon received my letter dated 8 March, sent by email (attached)? I have not yet received an acknowledgement, but do understand that the Minister receives a considerable volume of correspondence.

With many thanks,



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From: @gov.scot<mailto@gov.scot> @gov.scot On Behalf Of

MinisterRANE@gov.scot<mailto:MinisterRANE@gov.scot>

Sent: 28 March 2019 16:04

To: MinisterRANE@gov.scot<mailto:MinisterRANE@gov.scot>

Subject: Improving Animal Welfare

Good afternoon

As you will be aware, the Minister recently outlined the government?s plans around fox hunting to Parliament and, as part of this process, has indicated that she is keen to meet stakeholders involved to discuss further. Should you be interested in meeting Ms Gougeon in this capacity, then please let me know and I will endeavour to set this up as soon as practicable.

Kind regards

Minister for Rural Affairs and the Natural Environment 2N.08 St Andrew?s House | Regent Road | Edinburgh | EH1 3DG

? 0131 244 5596 MinisterRANE@gov.scot<mailto:MinisterRANE@gov.scot>

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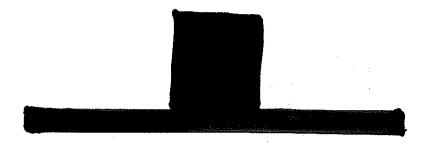
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Mairi Gougeon MSP Minister for Rural Affairs and Natural Environment The Scottish Government Edinburgh EH1 3DG

08 March 2019

Dear Ms Gougeon



Further to our meeting last October, I write to thank you for including in your recent animal welfare statement a proposed licensing scheme for the use of multiple dogs in fox control in Scotland. Our members are grateful that, on this single issue, their voices were heard; they have asked me to impress on you the importance of the licensing proposal surviving the forthcoming Bill passage.

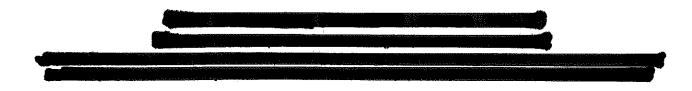
While it was upsetting to hear your decision to bring in wider restrictions on the control of foxes, I understand the influence of party politics on your statement to the Parliament; it is difficult for our community to accept that evidence no longer takes precedence, but we acknowledge the direction of travel for legislative change and can only hope that the most extreme and unjustified views become marginalised by a common-sense majority.

On the subject of extreme views and facts vs opinion, as well as the apparent modern impotence of minority communities such as mine, I thought that you might find this article of interest.

I write also to express my understanding of the growing frustration of younger advocates of rural land-based interests. I have canvassed peers in the rural sector, who feel strongly that the establishment dominance of our older, privileged industry colleagues increasingly compromises our own advocacy efforts. As dynamic individuals who wish to lead change for the greater good, it concerns us that so many senior-level decision-making processes appear closed to our voices; without our representation, the public's prejudices against our communities remain effectively unchallenged. I would welcome your thoughts on this, whether by return letter or in a personal discussion.

With kind regards,





Public Engagement Unit

1 4 MAY 2019

Received

FRIVATE OFFICE

Ms Gougeon MSP Scottish Parliament Scottish Parliament Building Edinburgh EH99 1SP

RE: PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE HUNTING BILL

Dear MS(π

I write as the proprietor owner of

and subscriber to

Hunt. The history of

this

My business is based on the busy A68 road from England to Edinburgh therefore drawing people from out with my area who come to the borders on business and for sport to fish, hunt and shoot but also an enormous amount of locals who are involved in all sports and businesses creating a close community spirit. My business would be severely disrupted should you change the law.

If the number of hounds is reduced and we were only allowed to take 2 hounds out, pest control would not be sustainable as the sustainable as the sustainable as the sustainable is primarily a hill pack. It would be inefficient; because 2 hounds can't cover the ground and if we are out there to do pest control we need to do the job the farmers want done. Since the law came in 18 years ago, I have seen that dispatching of a fox using hounds is more effective and humane than other methods.

In Lord Bonomy's report commissioned by the government it said a pack of hounds is far more efficient than two hounds and I look to you to prevent any change in the current law as it works extremely well. A change in law would simply disregard the policy, ignoring the recommendations of the report and show contempt on the effort, time and expense taken to carry this out.

Yours Sincerely









Sent: 28 March 2019 16:55:50

To:

Public Engagement Unit

Cc:

Cabinet Secretary for Health and Sport

Subject:

FW: Fox Control

Attachments:

foxhunting mar19.pdf

AO -

PEU

Please could you scan this on to MACCS as OR.

Thanks

Ministerial Private Office (Health)
St Andrew's House

Edinburgh

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From: @parliament.scot<mailto:

@parliament.scot>> On

Behalf Of Freeman J (Jeane), MSP

Sent: 28 March 2019 16:47

To: Cabinet Secretary for Health and Sport

<CabSecHS@gov.scot<mailto:CabSecHS@gov.scot>>

Cc:

<Tracy.Hamilton@parliament.scot<mailto:Tracy.Hamilton@parliament.scot>>

Subject: FW: Fox Control

Hi

Please see email below for response.

Thanks,

46-48 Glaisnock Street, Cumnock, East Ayrshire, KA18 1BY

Constituency Office: 01290 425876 Parliamentary Office: 0131 348 6745

jeanefreeman.scot | @JeaneF1MSP | FB: Jeane Freeman MSP

From: Sent: 28 March 2019 16:00 To:
Subject: Fox Control
Please see attached letter
Kind regards ***********************************
The Scottish Parliament: Making a positive difference to the lives of the people of
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I write to you with deep concerns about the Scottish Government's recent announcement concerning fox control with two hounds. I am a working farmer with 50 years' experience producing 1200 lambs and 150 young calves born each year. Fox control has been successfully conducted under the Bonomy recommendations. The idea that two hounds could take on flushing out in large areas of woodland is fantasy. We lose new born lambs and calves to foxes so acceptable control with a pack of hounds is essential.

The hunt is financially supported by people of all walks of life with many following on horses. This is a privilege they enjoy, crossing the country on the land we farm and elsewhere.

Yorm Sicen G

Please revert to email address



Roseannah Cunningham Cabinet Secretary for Environment & Land Reform The Scottish Parliament Edinburgh EH99 1SP

19th March 2019

Dear Ms Cunningham

Scottish Government reaction to the Bonomy Report

If we want to make Scotland independent, we are not creating much of a welcoming atmosphere.

Come to Scotland, where sentiment and prejudice takes precedence over logic and reason when making new laws.

The Scottish Government's response to the Bonomy Report is a further example of this attitude.

Sentiment and prejudice, not logic or reason

In her press release, Mairi Gougeon refers to "unnecessary hunting" and considers "a licencing scheme". Bonomy made no reference to either of these. These references reflect pure sentiment, not logic nor reason.

Foxes need to be controlled.

This is not in doubt. Farmers are on record as requiring it. The question is - how to do it.

There are three main ways - shooting with rifle, hill packs, and mounted hunts.

Most foxes are shot with rifle – not a guaranteed quick death. You will have see the SWT 22^{nd} Feb report about the beaver shot but not killed. To quote the SWT Chief Executive "Sadly, this beaver is likely to have suffered a slow and painful death, and the loss of the resident female". How many foxes die the same way? No-one knows – there is no monitoring of this control method.

Hill packs are efficient, but designed for specific terrain. Bonomy has no problem with them.

Mounted hunts operate mainly in areas not suitable for either of the above, where the use of a rifle is restricted for safety reasons. Bullets can be lethal a mile away. Bonomy refers to hounds "stalking, chasing or killing" foxes. Hounds don't stalk – people or lions do that. Foxhounds seldom chase – they are bred to follow the scent of a fox from one covert to another, not by sight. Greyhounds or deerhounds are bred to chase by sight. When foxhounds do get close enough to chase by sight, the fox is either overtaken and killed almost instantly, or gets away. This is more humane than dying from an infected wound.

Referring to Mairi Gougeon's press release:

Bonomy did not recommend introducing a licencing scheme. She intends to do this.

Bonomy did not recommend restricting hunts to using only two dogs. She intends to do this.

She intends to restrict the sport of "trail-hunting". Bonomy never mentioned this. If the landowners involved do not object to this sport, why should the Scottish Government?

She intends to "protect foxes from unnecessary hunting". Bonomy makes no reference to any hunting being "unnecessary".

Mairi Gougeon notes that there were nearly 19,000 responses to the consultation. Nearly 9,000 of these came from England. What business is it of theirs, and why should the Scottish Government pay any attention to them?

She intends to "take forward many of the recommendations in Lord Bonomy's report ..." Bonomy only made two recommendations – to put the onus of proof onto the defendant rather than the accuser in a hunting prosecution, and to extend the time limit for bringing a prosecution. All other items were purely listed for "consideration".

People and wild creatures have to co-exist

Mairi Gougeon intends, in addition, to go further than the points raised in Bonomy's report, to "protect the welfare of our wild mammals".

We use the same spaces as our wildlife, and therefore we have to manage rather than just protect our wildlife.

She should look at the effectiveness of the management and control operated in Glen Ogle 2003-13 by John Dodd, who bought this poorly performing grouse moor and instituted comprehensive management of its wildlife. When he sold it (fed up with adverse publicity), the German buyer had the wildlife reviewed, and those involved were amazed at the high (around 140) number of species, including raptors, found. This management and control encouraged much enhanced diversity in numbers and species than they had expected or was normal in our uplands.

Impact on Scottish Border traditions

Restricting the mounted hunts in the Borders may very well hurt the local traditions. The Borders is famed for its Common Ridings, where up to 400 riders can 'ride the marches'. Many of these horses are hired. But keeping horses is an all-year-round cost, and the widespread use of hired horses through the winter within hunts plays a significant role in providing work for the hiring stables, blacksmiths, and other trades linked to horse maintenance.

Again, the local Point-to-Point horse races are another tradition, which again is closely linked to these trades. Stopping these "unnecessary(?)" hunts would end the point-to-points, as they are organised and run by the local hunts as fundraisers.

We live in difficult economic times. So why should a sentimental and prejudiced approach to a method of controlling foxes, an activity which some people happen not to like, and which is by no means yet proven to be cruel, provide yet another difficulty for these traditions and back-up businesses? Government should be conducted on a balanced basis to support communities and traditions, and in all such decisions we need to be able to work with all parties and compromise as necessary for the greater good.

But – to be positive

It is always best to end on a positive or helpful note, offering a solution rather than just criticism.

The Hunts have already agreed to accept monitors. Bonomy offered this as something to be considered, and this could be set up.

And, as the hunts have already agreed a Code of Practice to determine how they operate, you could require that all members of each hunt and all who follow it on a horse have signed up to this Code, as this would then provide a further confirmation that this form of pest control is being carried out properly.

Yours faithfully

Note – I do not hunt, do not own a horse, nor am I a member of the Countryside Alliance, and am copying local MSPs and those on relevant Committees with this letter.

Public Engagement Unit 23 October 2018 08:54:04

Sent: To:

Public Engagement Unit

Subject:

FW: Request for Transfer - Due: 25th October, Ref:

POČON2018/22015



From: no-reply@defra.ecase.co.uk<mailto:no-reply@defra.ecase.co.uk> on behalf of OGD Transfers

<ogd.transfers@DEFRA.GSI.GOV.UK<mailto:ogd.transfers@DEFRA.GSI.GOV.U</p> K>>

Sent: 19 October 2018 17:13 To: Public Engagement Unit

<CorrespondenceUnit@gov.scot<mailto:CorrespondenceUnit@gov.scot>>

POCON2018/22015/CON1@defra.ecase.co.uk<mailto:POCON2018/22015/CON1@ defra.ecase.co.uk>

Subject: Request for Transfer - Due: 25th October, Ref: POCON2018/22015

Dear Colleagues,

Please find attached a letter about hunting in Scotland which has been received by Defra but for which we don't have policy responsibility. According to the list of departmental responsibilities which is maintained by the Prime Minister's Direct Communications Unit, the attached case is the responsibility of your department. Can you confirm you accept on behalf of your department or provide a reason why you cannot? If not you should arrange for your No 10 liaison to contact No 10 to update its list.

Please see note below:

PLEASE NOTE THAT NO REPLY NEEDS TO BE ISSUED FROM GEORGE EUSTICE. Some lines have been sent to GE's constituency office for them to send from there (the lines explained that this is a devolved matter so he cannot answer their enquiry, and that we have passed the email on to the Scottish Government).

I would be grateful if you would RESPOND TO ALL within 3 working days.

With regards

OGD Transfers

Defra? MCU

----Original Message----From: Correspondence Section (MCU) Sent: 17 October 2018 10:27 (Defra)

@DEFRA.GSI.GOV.UK<mailto:

GOV.UK>>

Subject: FW: The future of fox hunting in Scotland

----Original Message----

From: EUSTICE, George [mailto:george.eustice.mp@parliament.uk]

Sent: 16 October 2018 18:44

To: Correspondence Section (MCU)

<Correspondence.Section@defra.gsi.gov.uk<mailto:Correspondence.Section@defra.g</p>

si.gov.uk>>

Subject: FW: The future of fox hunting in Scotland

THIS IS A CONSTITUENT

Office of George Eustice MP House of Commons London SW1A 0AA

0207 219 7032

----Original Message----

k<mailto:1

[mailto:ficrookes@yahoo.co.uk] Sent: 13 October 2018 07:16

To: EUSTICE, George

<george.eustice.mp@parliament.uk<mailto:george.eustice.mp@parliament.uk>> Subject: The future of fox hunting in Scotland

Dear Mr Eustice,

At the end of 2017 I was one of almost 20,000 people who took part in a Scottish Government consultation on improving the welfare of wild mammals in relation to fox hunting. Of those who responded, 98% agree with me that the Protection of Wild Mammals (Scotland) Act 2002 needs to be strengthened to really ban hunting in Scotland.

I am disappointed that over eight months after the consultation closed, the Scottish Government has failed to reach a decision on what it plans to do to improve the law. In just a couple of weeks the full hunting season will get underway. This is the fourth season since Lord Bonomy was commissioned to report on the workings of the law and nothing has changed. I think the time has come for the Scottish Government to be accountable to everyone who gave their views through the consultation and act to improve the law.

As my MSP, please can you write to the Scottish Government, asking for clarification on what it intends to do to improve the law and why it has taken so long to reach a decision. I believe the Scottish Government should make public its intentions before the hunting season gets underway next month.

As someone who opposes animal cruelty I am saddened that once again hunts will be out in Scotland chasing and killing foxes for sport. I look forward to hearing back from you about the Scottish Government?s position, and I hope I can rely on your support to help stop animals suffering as a result of this outdated tradition.

Yours sincerely



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Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) This email and any attachments is intended for the named recipient only. If you have received it in error you have no authority to use, disclose, store or copy any of its contents and you should destroy it and inform the sender. Whilst this email and associated attachments will have been checked for known viruses whilst within Defra systems we can accept no responsibility once it has left our systems. Communications on Defra's computer systems may be monitored and/or recorded to secure the effective operation of the system and for other lawful purposes.

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

From: Sent:

17 March 2018 12:24:02

To:

scottish.ministers@gov.scot

Subject:

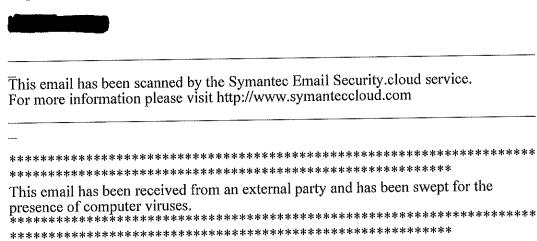
Fox Hunting Legislation Question

Hello there,

My name is a student journalist currently working on a project about fox hunting in Scotland. During my time investigating the issue I have seen illegal fox hunting take place, and spoke to the relevant authorities about it. I was concerned when I was told that the current legislation is ?open to interpretation?, too wide and difficult to police.

I was hoping you could comment on the current legislation, and how effective it is, and if you hope to change it in the future given the current circumstances?

Hope to hear back from you soon!



12 November 2018 09:34:43

Sent: To:

Public Engagement Unit

Cc:

Cabinet Secretary for the Environment, Climate Change and Land

Reform

Subject:

FW: The future of fox hunting in Scotland

Hi,

One for MACCS please.

Kind regards,



----Original Message----

From:

Sent: 10 November 2018 09:14

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

<CabSecECCLR@gov.scot>

Subject: The future of fox hunting in Scotland

Dear Cabinet Secretary,

At the end of 2017 I was one of almost 20,000 people who took part in a Scottish Government consultation on improving the welfare of wild mammals in relation to fox hunting. Of those who responded, 98% agree with me that the Protection of Wild Mammals (Scotland) Act 2002 needs to be strengthened to really ban hunting in Scotland.

I am disappointed that over eight months after the consultation closed, the Scottish Government has failed to reach a decision on what it plans to do to improve the law. In just a couple of weeks the full hunting season will get underway. This is the fourth season since Lord Bonomy was commissioned to report on the workings of the law and nothing has changed. I think the time has come for the Scottish Government to be accountable to everyone who gave their views through the consultation and act to improve the law.

As the Minister with responsibility for this issue please can you let me know what is going to be done to improve the law and why it has taken so long to reach a decision. I believe the Scottish Government should make public its intentions before the hunting season gets underway next month.

As someone who opposes animal cruelty I am saddened that once again hunts will be out in Scotland chasing and killing foxes for sport.

Yours sincerely



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26 October 2018 10:20:58

Sent:

Public Engagement Unit

To:

Cc:

Cabinet Secretary for the Environment, Climate Change and Land

Reform

Subject:

FW: The future of fox hunting in Scotland

One for MACCS please as an OR

Thanks

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

St. Andrews House EDINBURGH

EHI 3DG

T:?! E: (

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

----Original Message----

From:

Sent: 26 October 2018 10:20

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

<CabSecECCLR@gov.scot>

Subject: The future of fox hunting in Scotland

Dear Cabinet Secretary,

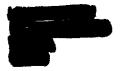
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Yours sincerely



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26 October 2018 13:36:04

Sent: To:

Public Engagement Unit

Cc:

Cabinet Secretary for the Environment, Climate Change and Land

Reform

Subject:

FW: The future of fox hunting in Scotland

One for MACCS please as OR

Regards

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

St. Andrews House EDINBURGH

EH1 3DG T:?

E: 1

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----Original Message----

From:

Sent: 26 October 2018 13:34

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

<CabSecECCLR@gov.scot>

Subject: The future of fox hunting in Scotland

Dear Cabinet Secretary,

At the end of 2017 I was one of almost 20,000 people who took part in a Scottish Government consultation on improving the welfare of wild mammals in relation to fox hunting. Of those who responded, 98% agree with me that the Protection of Wild Mammals (Scotland) Act 2002 needs to be strengthened to really ban hunting in Scotland.

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Yours sincerely



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Sent:

02 November 2018 08:49:41 Public Engagement Unit

To: Cc:

Cabinet Secretary for the Environment, Climate Change and Land

Reform

Subject:

FW: The future of fox hunting in Scotland

AO -

Hi

One for MACCS as an OR

Regards

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

St. Andrews House EDINBURGH EH1 3DG T:? 0131-244-3443 E: ian.bowie2@gov.scot

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----Original Message----

From:

Sent: 02 November 2018 07:12

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

<CabSecECCLR@gov.scot>

Subject: The future of fox hunting in Scotland

Dear Cabinet Secretary,

At the end of 2017 I was one of almost 20,000 people who took part in a Scottish Government consultation on improving the welfare of wild mammals in relation to fox hunting. Of those who responded, 98% agree with me that the Protection of Wild Mammals (Scotland) Act 2002 needs to be strengthened to really ban hunting in Scotland.

I am disappointed that over eight months after the consultation closed, the Scottish

Government has failed to reach a decision on what it plans to do to improve the law. In just a couple of weeks the full hunting season will get underway. This is the fourth season since Lord Bonomy was commissioned to report on the workings of the law and nothing has changed. I think the time has come for the Scottish Government to be accountable to everyone who gave their views through the consultation and act to improve the law.

As the Minister with responsibility for this issue please can you let me know what is going to be done to improve the law and why it has taken so long to reach a decision. I believe the Scottish Government should make public its intentions before the hunting season gets underway next month.

As someone who opposes animal cruelty I am saddened that once again hunts will be out in Scotland chasing and killing foxes for sport.

Yours sincerely



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WW.For.

Sent:

10 January 2019 13:32:28

To:

Scottish Ministers

Subject:

Hunting foxes with dogs

AO?

OR

For the Attention of:

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

? Mairi Gougeon, Minister for Rural Affairs and Natural Environment

I am writing to say thank you and to commend the Government for its recent proposal to limit the number of dogs that can be used in fox hunting to two. This is a huge step in the right direction and will hopefully bring us closer to an outright ban on using dogs to bring terror to our wild animals.

The objections of the Gamekeepers Association are ridiculous and you would do well to ignore them. These objections are that not killing foxes will have a harmful effect on both wildlife and forestry.

Firstly, foxes are wildlife and have as much right to live unharried by violence as any other species, and they also have far more right to be classed as ?wildlife? than do those introduced species such as pheasants and red-legged partridges that the Gamekeepers fill our countryside with. Secondly, foxes help forestry by preying on those animals that damage young trees, such as voles, mice, rabbits and maybe even young roe deer. (Of course, the reintroduction of the lynx will really do the job of protecting forestry as they will reduce the numbers of roe deer of all ages.)

Keep up the good work.

Regards



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From: Sent:

10 January 2019 12:52:30

To: Subject: Scottish Ministers Hunting with dogs

AO ? ■

Dear Mairi Gougeon,

Whilst your proposal to further limit the activities of mounted fox hunts is welcome, any potential for hunts to increase the number of hounds beyond two for 'pest control' simply adds a loophole which hunts will exploit.

I am constantly mystified that any Government seems reluctant to simply ban something as anachronistic as fox hunting. The fox has never been classified as a pest by any of the agricultural departments of the UK - ever. And you surely cannot be bothered about a loss of votes since the majority of the voting public is opposed to hunting with dogs and those who do support hunting are more likely to vote for the Conservative opposition.

The legislation you propose may be based on Lord Bonomy's review but taking the more simplistic action of a simple ban is less complicated and more effective given that there are other methods available to deal with individual problem foxes.

It is not possible to please everyone so please the majority and do the decent and logical thing to avoid the exploitation of loopholes and simply ban hunting with hounds. As Barbara Castle said in relation to seat belt legislation 'you know it makes sense'.

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11 January 2019 19:11:31

Sent: To:

Scottish Ministers

Subject:

A Great Step Forward, But Not Enough

AO ?

Dear Minister,

It is welcoming news that the Scottish government will be introducing CCTV in abattoirs, strengthening the fox hunting ban, and increasing the maximum sentences for cruelty to animals. But at the same time I am disappointed to the fact that Fox hunting is to be allowed notwithstanding the brutality.

I am quoting OneKind?s Director Bob Elliot:

?At first sight we welcome the reduction of the number of dogs permitted for flushing to two, but obviously we remain concerned at the proposal to license greater numbers in some cases. There will be no gain for animal welfare if this provides a new loophole for fox hunts to exploit, although we entirely accept the Minister?s intention is to prevent this happening.

?The changes will make the legislation more effective and enforceable, but ultimately we support a full ban on all use of dogs to chase and kill sentient wild mammals. We continue look forward to the proposed Member?s Bill expected from Scottish Green MSP, Alison Johnstone, and very much welcome the Minister?s acknowledgment of those proposals.?

I am kindly urging you and the government to continue with your work for the protection of ALL Animals.

We?ll be looking for an outright ban on fox hunting and a full ban on the use of snares. We?ll also calling for regulating on the use of animals in displays, like reindeer at Christmas, and for a ban on mountain hare culling and for the welfare issues concerning the intensive farming of salmon.

Thank you for your attention.

Sincerely,

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25 March 2019 12:47:01

Sent: To:

Public Engagement Unit

Cc:

Minister for Rural Affairs and the Natural Environment

Subject:

FW:

Attachments: Mairi Gougeon.pdf

For MACCS MR, please allocate to Rebecca Greenan



Minister for Rural Affairs and the Natural Environment

0131 244 4426 07896281679

MinisterRANE@gov.scot<mailto:MinisterRANE@gov.scot>

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From: Gougeon M (Mairi), MSP

<Mairi.Gougeon.msp@parliament.scot<mailto:Mairi.Gougeon.msp@parliament.scot

Sent: 23 March 2019 00:46

To: Minister for Rural Affairs and the Natural Environment <MinisterRANE@gov.scot<mailto:MinisterRANE@gov.scot>>

Subject: Fwd:

Begin forwarded message:

From:

<mailto:

Date: 22 March 2019 at 22:53:18 GMT

Mairi.Gougeon.msp@parliament.scot<mailto:Mairi.Gougeon.msp@parliament.scot> ******************

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22nd March 2019

Ms Mairi Gougeon, MSP The Scottish Parliament Holyrood Road Edinburgh EH99 ISP

Dear Ms Gougeon,

I am writing to you regarding the announcement you made on the 9th January regarding the review of the Protection of Wild Mammals (Scotland) 2002. I have emailed and written and got an email response from someone in your office but have had a problem with my computer and have lost it so would appreciate a further copy being sent please.

I have added a further paragraph at the end because I was so shocked and saddened by the incredibly aggressive attitude of the saboteurs on the last day of the season.

I, like I believe many country people, were delighted to hear of your appointment as Head of Rural Affairs and the Environment.

I am most heartened to read your priorities in *The Scottish Farmer* regarding the fact that, and I quote from the article "you need to take everyone's point of view, which at times will mean you are making decisions which prove unpopular in parliament, but has to be evidence based"

I was bought up in North Wales in a farming community and as you will know the primary farming activity is sheep. I cannot begin to tell you the devastation which foxes caused during the lambing season and as you know foxes have no natural predators ie if the population is left unchecked they will in the future cause potentially lethal damage to the sheep population (mainly during lambing) in Scotland and to wildlife in general.

I like you, am passionate about animal welfare and welcomed the Lord Bonomy review. Lord Bonomy is very well respected and fair and I wonder if you know that since the review the SMFHA packs have adopted voluntarily the sharing of information with Police Scotland to aid with any investigation. Everything we do is transparent and we welcome anyone at any point to see how we organise a day with the farmers, huntsman, hounds and guns.

What concerns me most is that Lord Bonomy clearly recognises the value of foxhounds. To quote:

"The use of packs of hounds to flush out foxes to be shot remains a significant control measure, both to control the general level of foxes in an area as well as to address particular problems affecting a farm or estate" Lord Bonomy's report to the Scottish Government 2016

He also clearly states that "searching and flushing by two dogs would not be as effective as that done by a full pack of foxhounds, imposing restrictions could seriously compromise effective pest control in the country"

As you will see above we are based in and I have already spoken to a number of local sheep farmers who have all said that they are very concerned about the review and would be delighted to meet you and tell you face to face the effects that lack of fox-control would have on their sheep farming business.

I also wonder if you are aware of the only scientific review (Naylor and Knot) on the control of foxes with hounds the conclusion of which is clear. Flushing out foxes with a pack of hounds is far quicker and less stressful to the fox that just two hounds. It is the only very clear **scientific evidence** which says that hunting foxes with a pack of hounds is more humane than hunting with two hounds.

I am passionate about nature, about conservation and animal welfare and I strongly feel that Pest Control operating strictly within the law is they kindest way to cull the fox population. I do not think that the Hunt saboteurs care about animal welfare at all. If they did they wouldn't spray the hounds and our horses (and last week humans) in the eyes with citronella. They also hold the belief that the control of fox numbers is unnecessary which we in the farming community know is not the reality in our man made landscapes. In addition, they cut and paste videos to change the facts and constantly tell blatant lies. I feel they are militants not in any way animal lovers

I much look forward to hearing from you and I hope meeting you.

Kind regards

Cunningham R (Roseanna), MSP

Sent:

22 March 2019 13:31:51

To:

Minister for Rural Affairs and the Natural Environment

Subject:

Fwd: Fox Hunting



Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From:

Date: 22 March 2019 at 13:22:36 GMT

Tο·

roseanna.cunningham.msp@parliament.scot<mailto:roseanna.cunningham.msp@parliament.scot>

==\<mailto:d

Subject: Fox Hunting

Reply-To:

<mailto.

Dear Roseannah

I am writing to register my concern and disappointment with the recent announcement concerning fox control with dogs.

The Scottish Government spent a great deal of time and presumably money commissioning a report by Lord Bonomy. While some of his recommendations have been supported, it would seem that his most important one has been dismissed. It has been proposed that the number of hounds should be limited to 2 for mounted packs, in contradiction of Bonomy?s recommendations and indeed in contradiction of the only published science by ?Naylor and Knott? who conclude that reducing the pack to two hounds compromises the fox?s welfare by increasing the time of the search and flush by as much as five times as long as a full pack.

Even worse, the proposal is that packs of hounds to carry out fox control will attract licences in the ?Uplands?, but no-where else. Prejudice seems to play a big part in the government?s approach. What is the difference between carrying out fox control with a pack of hounds in the Lowlands and carrying out the same fox control activities in the Uplands / Highlands? The need for fox control is as important in the south of Scotland as it is anywhere else. This approach is totally illogical. Farmer Mr Edgar gave evidence under oath in the "Buccleuch case" that he loses upwards of one hundred lambs per year. Is this acceptable? Fox control by packs of hounds is effective and this is evidenced by the support of landowners and farmers in requesting / permitting our services.

As I understand it, there were nearly 19,000 responses to the consultation, of which 18,497 (98%) were from 5 online campaigns where the respondents could not be identified, and who probably did not even live in Scotland. 290 (2%) were substantive replies and 298 and 25 organisation?s had the courage and decency to supply their names and addresses. Is this really democracy at work?

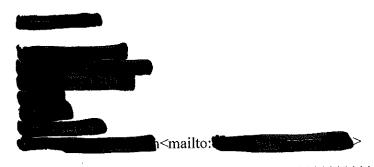
In addition, stakeholders including the mounted packs, the League against Cruel Sports, the SSPCA and others worked together for a year to produce a mutually agreed code of practice. It would seem this work has been dismissed out of hand.

Horses are an important focus for the Border community, as could be seen at the New Year Meet in Hawick in 2019, which over 1,000 members of the public attended. The equestrian culture, which includes racing, eventing, common riding and

riding clubs, is deeply embedded in Borders culture. The hunting community is an integral part of this. By way of example, nurses, teachers, business men and women, pensioners, farmers, undertakers, plumbers, builders and electricians are among those that follow the Hunt. These are wide ranging, hardworking folk who enjoy being with friends who have similar horsey interests and who enjoy the social interaction. As importantly, the Borders has fragile employment opportunities: amongst others, farriers, feed merchants, vets, and fox control staff will suffer, with many likely to lose their jobs.

It seems to me that banning fox control with a pack of hounds in the south of Scotland and allowing it in the ?Uplands? smacks wholly of prejudice. It is totally illogical. Those of us who ride horses in the Borders are angry, disillusioned and feel disenfranchised. I would urge you to support us.

Yours sincerely



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Sent: 03 December 2018 10:11:54

To:

Public Engagement Unit

Cc:

Minister for Rural Affairs and the Natural Environment, Dora S

(Steven)

Subject:

FW: MPO - Fox Hunting Ban -

- OR AO -

For MACCs please

to the Minister for Rural Affairs and the Natural Environment

MinisterRANE@gov.scot<mailto:MinisterRANE@gov.scot>

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Sent: 30 November 2018 10:40

To: Central Enquiry Unit <CEU@gov.scot<mailto:CEU@gov.scot>>

Subject: Fox Hunting Ban

Mairi Gougeon MSP

Minister for Rural Affairs and the Natural Environment

Dear Ms Gougeon,

Another hunting season has started when Scottish Hunts will still be getting away with killing our wildlife despite it supposedly being banned.

It is a disgrace that it is four years since your government commissioned the report into hunting by Lord Bonomy and it was stated that your government would make a decision in the Spring on what you intended to do to improve the law.

The Spring has long past and we are now in winter and still not heard what you intend

The law needs to be amended to ensure that the chasing, hunting and killing any animal is outlawed and that there are no loopholes or exemptions that can be exploited as at present.

This needs to be done now so that no more animals are allowed to suffer as the vast majority of Scottish people want.

Can you please tell us when you will be making a decision as this has been dragging on for to long and we are very angry as are many others that nothing has been done.

Sent from Mailhttps://go.microsoft.com/fwlink/?LinkId=550986 for Windows 10

.

. P

3.4

Matheson M (Mariella) 26 March 2019 12:32:26

Sent: To:

Public Engagement Unit

Cc:

Minister for Rural Affairs and the Natural Environment

Subject:

FW: Pest Control with dogs

Attachments: Pest Control Letter.docx

AO -

For MACCS please

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

0131 244 4426 07896281679

MinisterRANE@gov.scot<mailto:MinisterRANE@gov.scot>

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From: Cunningham R (Roseanna), MSP

<Roseanna.Cunningham.msp@parliament.scot<mailto:Roseanna.Cunningham.msp@</p>

parliament.scot>>

Sent: 26 March 2019 12:20

To: Minister for Rural Affairs and the Natural Environment <MinisterRANE@gov.scot</pre>

Subject: Fwd: Pest Control with dogs

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From:

Mailto Date: 26 March 2019 at 12:16:39 GMT

To:

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

Subject: Pest Control with dogs

Dear Madam

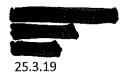
Please find my letter of plea attached.

Yours Sincerely

*

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Roseannah Cunningham Secretary for Environment & Land Reform Scottish Parliament Edinburgh

Dear Madam

I am writing to you to register my concern with the recent announcement concerning fox control with dogs.

I cannot believe that our Rural Affairs Minister Mairi Gougeon wants to bring legislation forward that directly contradicts the Governments own independent review done in 2016.

Lord Bonomy reported his findings to the Scottish Government where he stated, "The use of packs of hounds to flush out foxes to be shot remains a SIGNIFICANT PEST CONTROL MEASURE, both to control the general level of foxes in an area as well as to address particular problems affecting a farm or estate.

"Searching and flushing by two dogs would NOT be as effective as done by a full pack of hounds, imposing restrictions could seriously compromise effective pest control in the country."

It has now been proposed that the number of hounds be limited to 2 for mounted packs which as I have said above totally contradicts Lord Bonomy and also contradicts the only published science by "Naylor and Knott" who conclude that reducing it to two hounds compromises the fox's welfare increasing the time of search and flush up to five times as long compared to using a full pack.

I am a farmer's wife and have experienced the cruel and harsh ways of the fox as a predator and scavenger. Yes they are a wild mammals but their natural instinct is to kill............ can remember as a child going out to the lambing field and finding over 30 lambs killed or maimed. It has been a memory I will never forget.

I attended the "Buccleuch Case" in January and listened to farmer Mr Edgar gave evidence under oath that he loses upwards of a hundred lambs per year.

If there was not the Pest Controlling Service the death toll would dramatically increase.

Fox control by a pack of hounds is effective and this is evidenced by the support of landowners and farmers in requesting and permitting our services.

This is the harsh reality for the farmer, a huge emotional and frustrating situation but also financially damaging. Obviously the fox does not limit himself to just sheep and lambs but also poultry and game-birds.

Gamekeepers in both lowlands and uplands work to limit predation on game-birds by killing foxes throughout the year. Gamebird production is an important part of Scotland's rural heritage and economy. Shooting is worth £200 million per annum to the economy of Scotland, supports the equivalent of 8,800 full time jobs.

Reducing the number of dogs allowed to flush foxes from cover would only have a negative impact on gamebirds and other Scottish wildlife. Without a rethink on the suggested action, the future looks bleak for the rural economy and several of our most celebrated and iconic species.

Also I cannot begin to understand the proposal that packs in the Uplands would require a licence? I ask myself what is the difference between Pest Control in the Lowlands and the Uplands are foxes different dependant where they are in the country?

Here in the Scottish Borders the hunting community is an integral part of the Equestrian Community. We have hardworking people by the way of farmers, nurses, teachers, business men and women, pensioners, undertakers, builders, plumbers, electricians to name just a few.

As importantly, the Borders Equestrian Community depends on farriers, feed merchants, vets, fox control staff with many likely to lose their lively hood if Pest Control of the fox ceased.

In conclusion I would urge you to support us as we feel disillusioned and angry that banning fox control with a pack of hounds in the south of Scotland and allowing it in the "Uplands" is wholly prejudice and illogical.

Yours Sincerely



From:
Sent: 27 March 2019 10:09:24
To: Public Engagement Unit

Cc: Minister for Rural Affairs and the Natural Environment

Subject: FW: Hunting

Attachments:

PEU

For MACCS - please allocate to

Thanks

Assessment of the black of the selection of the selection

Minister for Rural Affairs and the Natural Environment 2N.08 St Andrew's House | Regent Road | Edinburgh | EH1 3DG

* 0131 244 5596

MinisterRANE@gov.scot<mailto:MinisterRANE@gov.scot>

Please check our updated Ministerial preferences!

[https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/0/01/Scottish_Government Logo.svg/220px-Scottish Government Logo.svg.png]

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From: <mailto:

Date: 27 March 2019 at 09:31:19 GMT

To:

<Roseanna.Cunningham.msp@parliament.scot<mailto:Roseanna.Cunningham.msp@</p>

parliament.scot>> Subject: Hunting

Please see attached

Thank you!

*

Dear MS Cunningham

Proposed changes to the 'Protection of wild mammals(Scotland) Act'

I write in regard to the announcement that the Scottish Government intends to bring forward legislation to limit the number of hounds that can be used to flush foxes to guns to two and to register my opposition to such prejudicial action.

The Scottish Government's own independent review, by Lord Bonomy, found that' The use of packs of hounds to flush out foxes to be shot remains a significant pest control measure, both to control the general level of foxes in an area as well as to address particular problems affecting a farm or estate.' Additionally, the only published science in relation to flushing with hounds (Naylor and Knot) was, unsurprisingly, rejected by the Scottish Government. The only research of its kind concluded that reducing the pack to two hounds compromises the fox's welfare by increasing the time of the search and flush by as much as five times as long as a full pack.

The suggestion that they would look at issuing licences 'in the uplands' to increase the number of hounds and not do so ' in the Lowlands' proves that the welfare of the fox is not the real concern but simply prejudice given the concentration of packs in the lowlands. What is the difference between carrying out fox control with a pack of hounds in the lowlands and carrying out the same fox control activities in the Upland/Highlands? The honest answer—none!

Lord Bonomy also recognised that horses are an important focus for the Border Community. The equestrian culture, which includes Racing, Eventing, Common Riding and Riding Clubs, is deeply embedded in the Borders and the hunting community is an integral part of this. The hunting community comprises of people from all walks of life – Nurses, business Men & Women, Pensioners, Farmers, Plumbers, Builders and Electricians etc etc – These are hardworking people who enjoy spending time with friends who have similar interests and enjoy the social interaction. The Borders has fragile employment opportunities; amongst others, farriers, feed merchants Vets and of course the Fox control staff will suffer and many will stand to lose their jobs.

The Scottish Government's declared intention goes against all logical argument or real evidence and I trust that the matter will be given re-consideration.

Yours faithfully.



29 March 2019 10:22:03

Sent: To:

Public Engagement Unit

Cc: Subject:

Cabinet Secretary for Health and Sport FW: Fox control in the Scottish Borders

Attachments: Hunt letter March 2019.pdf

AO - I

PEU

Please could you scan this on to MACCS as an OR.

Thanks

Ministerial Private Office (Health) St Andrew's House Edinburgh

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From:

t<mailto:

Behalf Of Freeman J (Jeane), MSP

Sent: 29 March 2019 09:43

To: Cabinet Secretary for Health and Sport

<CabSecHS@gov.scot<mailto:CabSecHS@gov.scot>>

Cc: I

<mailto:

Subject: FW: Fox control in the Scottish Borders

Hi

Please see email below for response.

Thanks,

Jeane Freeman MSP 46-48 Glaisnock Street, Cumnock, East Ayrshire, KA18 1BY

Constituency Office: 01290 425876 Parliamentary Office: 0131 348 6745

jeanefreeman.scot | @JeaneF1MSP | FB: Jeane Freeman MSP

From: k<mailto: White Sent: 28 March 2019 20:49

To: Freeman J (Jeane), MSP

<Jeane,Freeman.msp@parliament.scot<mailto:Jeane.Freeman.msp@parliament.scot>

Subject: Fox control in the Scottish Borders

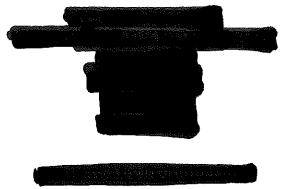
Please see my attached letter about fox control.



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Dear Jeane Freeman,

I understand that there are proposals to alter the legislation on fox control using dogs, in particular packs of fox hounds. I live in the Scottish Borders and I can not see the logic of this plan.

Living in the rural area between the state of in extensive sheep rearing country I know that fox control is vital to limit the impact of attacks on sheep. I am lucky enough to have a hardy pony and to be able to ride over our local farm. In doing so, I see the damage that can be done by foxes, particularly during the lambing season when ewes and their young can be attacked. It is essential that foxes are controlled. They have no predators.

If the local hunt meets locally I sometimes ride to join them. I see from first hand that if the pack was reduced to just two hounds it would be extremely difficult to flush the fox. I simply don't understand the logic in considering reducing the pack to just two hounds? It would certainly limit the control of the fox and also mean that less people would be able to follow on horses.

In the winter, following the hut on horses and on foot is a traditional rural activity and the number of people who do so give good employment to many (grooms, vets, farriers, transport companies and local hotels from visitors), much income to local businesses (feed, equipment, etc) and creates a social hub with a wonderful mix of people who love being out in the countryside.

I urge you to reconsider the considered reduction to two dogs. And, what would happen to the remaining dogs – they are not suitable as pets?

With best wishes,

01 April 2019 10:37:20

Sent: To:

Public Engagement Unit

Cc:

Minister for Rural Affairs and the Natural Environment

Subject:

FW: Fox Control

PEU

For MACCS please? AO

T'. - .- 1--

Thanks

Minister for Rural Affairs and the Natural Environment 2N.08 St Andrew?s House | Regent Road | Edinburgh | EH1 3DG

? 0131 244 5596

MinisterRANE@gov.scot<mailto:MinisterRANE@gov.scot>

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[https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/0/01/Scottish_Government_Logo.svg/220px-Scottish_Government_Logo.svg.png]

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From:

<

Date: 29 March 2019 at 18:24:46 GMT

To:

Mairi.Gougeon.msp@parliament.scot<mailto:Mairi.Gougeon.msp@parliament.scot>

Subject: Fox Control

Dear Ms Gougeon

You will have received letters with the facts below opposing the proposal to change fox control with dogs. I would also like to highlight that surely there are more pressing things for this government to address in this current political climate. As well as the huge concerns with the state of NHS and Scottish education and the challenges facing us with climate change. The fox is vermin and will always be culled. Keeping the law as it is is maintains many peoples? joy of country pursuits, giving a strong sense of community and furthermore provides crucial rural livelihoods as well as the livelihood of thousands of hounds and horses!

The Scottish Government spent a great deal of time and presumably money

commissioning a report by Lord Bonomy. While some of his recommendations have been supported, it would seem that his most important one has been dismissed. It has been proposed that the number of hounds should be limited to 2 for mounted packs, in contradiction of Bonomy?s recommendations and indeed in contradiction of the only published science by ?Naylor and Knott? who conclude that reducing the pack to two hounds compromises the fox?s welfare by increasing the time of the search and flush

by as much as five times as long as a full pack.

Even worse, the proposal<x-apple-data-detectors://11> is that packs of hounds to carry out fox control will attract licences in the ?Uplands?, but no-where else. Prejudice seems to play a big part in the government?s approach. What is the difference between carrying out fox control with a pack of hounds in the Lowlands and carrying out the same fox control activities in the Uplands / Highlands? The need for fox control is as important in the south of Scotland as it is anywhere else. This approach is totally illogical. Farmer Mr Edgar gave evidence under oath in the "Buccleuch case" that he loses upwards of one hundred lambs per year. Is this acceptable? Fox control by packs of hounds is effective and this is evidenced by the support of landowners and farmers in requesting / permitting our services. As I understand it, there were nearly 19,000 responses to the consultation, of which 18,497 (98%) were from 5 online campaigns where the respondents could not be

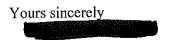
identified, and who probably did not even live in Scotland. 290 (2%) were substantive replies and 298 and 25 organisation?s had the courage and decency to

supply their names and addresses. Is this really democracy at work?

In addition, stakeholders including the mounted packs, the League against Cruel Sports, the SSPCA and others worked together for a year to produce a mutually agreed code of practice. It would seem this work has been dismissed out of hand. Horses are an important focus for the Border community, as could be seen at the New Year Meet in Hawick in 2019, which over 1,000 members of the public attended. The equestrian culture, which includes racing, eventing, common riding and riding clubs, is deeply embedded in Borders culture. The hunting community is an integral part of this. By way of example, nurses, teachers, business men and women, pensioners, farmers, undertakers, plumbers, builders and electricians are among those that follow the Buccleuch Hunt. These are wide ranging, hardworking folk who enjoy being with friends who have similar horsey interests and who enjoy the social interaction. As importantly, the Borders has fragile employment opportunities: amongst others, farriers, feed merchants, vets, and fox control staff will suffer, with many likely to lose their jobs.

It seems to me that banning fox control with a pack of hounds in the south of Scotland and allowing it in the ?Uplands? smacks wholly of prejudice. It is totally illogical. Those of us who ride horses in the Borders are angry, disillusioned and feel

disenfranchised. I would urge you to support us.



Sent from my iPhone

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02 April 2019 12:43:52 Scottish Ministers

Sent: To:

Subject:

F.A.O Mairi Gougeon - Minister for Rural Affairs and Natural

Environment

Attachments: hunting letter.pdf

AO ?

Good afternoon-please find my letter attached.

Kind regards



2 April 2019



Dear Ms. Gougeon,

I am writing to put forward my thoughts on the proposed changes on the hunting ban.

My name is the proviously worked in practice for almost 22 years-safe to say I am an animal lover.

We have a small holding at home and keep poultry and livestock. The pest control that the provide is invaluable in keeping my animals safe.

My 11 year old daughter follows the hounds regularly with the Fife. In a world of couch potato, i-pad playing children she relishes the opportunity to get out in the fresh air and access land and jumps on her pony that isn't normally available to her.

However, the presence and behaviour of many hunt saboteurs gives me great cause for concern and I would very much welcome a proper monitoring scheme be put in place for the forthcoming season that would allow truthful, accurate information to be gathered and recorded without confrontation.

With regard to my cattery I have recently become more fearful of the tactics often displayed by saboteurs and the impact that these could have on my animal related business. I appreciate that everybody is entitled to their opinion and the right to peaceful protest but leaving false, malicious reviews online could be very damaging.

Lord Bonomy reported in 2016 that "searching and flushing by 2 hounds would not be as effective as that done by a full pack of hounds."

I feel the repercussions on this proposal would have very detrimental effects on the farming community and thus the environment.

Yours sincerely

01 April 2019 11:25:33

Sent: To:

Public Engagement Unit

Cc:

Cabinet Secretary for Health and Sport

Subject:

FW: Fox Control

AO ?

PEU

Please could you scan this on to MACCS as an OR.

Thanks

Ministerial Private Office (Health)

St Andrew?s House Edinburgh

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From:

<mailto:

@parliament.scot>> On

Behalf Of Freeman J (Jeane), MSP

Sent: 01 April 2019 10:23

To: Cabinet Secretary for Health and Sport

<CabSecHS@gov.scot<mailto:CabSecHS@gov.scot>>

Cc:

mailto: @parliament.scot>>

Subject: FW: Fox Control

Hi

Please see email below for response.

Thanks,

Jeane Freeman MSP

46-48 Glaisnock Street, Cumnock, East Ayrshire, KA18 1BY

Constituency Office: 01290 425876 Parliamentary Office: 0131 348 6745

jeanefreeman.scot | @JeaneF1MSP. | FB: Jeane Freeman MSP

From:

smailtor

Sent: 29 March 2019 21:08

To: Cunningham R (Roseanna), MSP

<Roseanna.Cunningham.msp@parliament.scot<mailto:Roseanna.Cunningham.msp@parliament.scot>>; Ewing F (Fergus), MSP

<Fergus.Ewing.msp@parliament.scot<mailto:Fergus.Ewing.msp@parliament.scot>>;

Gougeon M (Mairi), MSP

<Mairi.Gougeon.msp@parliament.scot<mailto:Mairi.Gougeon.msp@parliament.scot</p>
>>: Beamish C (Claudia), MSP

<Claudia.Beamish.msp@parliament.scot<mailto:Claudia.Beamish.msp@parliament.scot>>; McAlpine J (Joan), MSP

<Joan.McAlpine.msp@parliament.scot<mailto:Joan.McAlpine.msp@parliament.scot
>>; Whittle B (Brian), MSP

<Brian.Whittle.msp@parliament.scot<mailto:Brian.Whittle.msp@parliament.scot>>;
Harper E (Emma), MSP

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; Smyth C (Colin), MSP

<Colin.Smyth.msp@parliament.scot<mailto:Colin.Smyth.msp@parliament.scot>>; Wheelhouse P (Paul), MSP

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.scot>>; Mundell O (Oliver), MSP

<Oliver.Mundell.msp@parliament.scot<mailto:Oliver.Mundell.msp@parliament.scot
>>; Carson F (Finlay), MSP

<Finlay.Carson.msp@parliament.scot<mailto:Finlay.Carson.msp@parliament.scot>>
; Freeman J (Jeane), MSP

<Jeane.Freeman.msp@parliament.scot<mailto:Jeane.Freeman.msp@parliament.scot>
>; Scott J (John), MSP

<John.Scott.msp@parliament.scot<mailto:John.Scott.msp@parliament.scot>>;

Coffey W (Willie), MSP

<Willie.Coffey.msp@parliament.scot<mailto:Willie.Coffey.msp@parliament.scot>>; Campbell AE (Aileen), MSP

<a href="mailto:Aileen.c

<Christine.Grahame.msp@parliament.scot<mailto:Christine.Grahame.msp@parliament.scot>>; Gray I (Iain), MSP

<Iain.Gray.msp@parliament.scot<mailto:Iain.Gray.msp@parliament.scot>>
Subject: Fox Control

Dear Cabinet Secretaries, Minister and Members of the Scottish Parliament, I refer to the recent Scottish Government announcement concerning the above.

I am writing to register my disapproval of the Scottish Government to be considering changing the laws on Fox control with Dogs again.

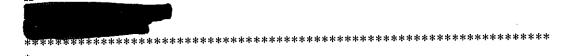
I was brought up on a mixed sheep & beef hill farm in the Borders. As a child and young adult I was heavily involved in the work on the farm and until the age of 25 when I started my own equestrian business I never missed a lambing time. The hill sheep were very much lambed outside either on the hill or in large hill enclosures. Never do I remember not losing lambs to a fox. I also remember very clearly the farm Ducks & Hens in constant danger. Once my Mother came home one evening to find a dozen Ducks lined up behind a dyke minus their heads and seeing the fox trotting off up the field with one in its mouth.

There is no question that foxes are a pest to the farming community. There is also no question that the Scottish Government commissioned Lord Bonomy to undertake a review of the Hunting Bill which it appears now is to be totally disregarded? why?

Sadly it is very obvious that some people in the Scottish Government have little regard for real animal welfare. The fox which is flushed and killed by a pack of hounds dies instantly or escapes with nothing worse than being a bit out of breath!

The fox which is shot cleanly dies instantly. The fox which is wounded and allowed to be pursued by a pack of hounds is dispatched as soon as possible. If only two hounds are allowed to be used this may be a much longer and more difficult process. At present I am Secretary for the Duke of Buccleuch Foxhounds and can assure you we have a very diverse group of followers from all walks of life but what they have in common is a love of the countryside and its traditions and they are all hard working tax payers and voters. It is an enormous commitment to follow hounds on horseback, not only the financial cost, which funds the Kennels to carry out fox control but the time and effort put into keeping the horses. The mounted side of Fox Control also puts a vast amount of money into local businesses from Farriers to Feed Merchants. I would urge you very strongly to consider carefully how Fox Control in Scotland is dealt with and that the Highlands and Borders are treated the same. Consider the Borders Valleys and Cheviot Hills, are they not the Highlands of the South of Scotland.

I look forward to your reply With Regards



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08 April 2019 13:58:25

Sent: To:

Public Engagement Unit

Cc:

Minister for Rural Affairs and the Natural Environment

Subject:

FW: Protection of Wild Mammals (Scotland) Act 2002

AO ?

PEU

For MACCS? please allocate to

Thanks

Minister for Rural Affairs and the Natural Environment 2N.08 St Andrew?s House | Regent Road | Edinburgh | EH1 3DG

? 0131 244 5596

MinisterRANE@gov.scot<mailto:MinisterRANE@gov.scot>

Please check our updated Ministerial preferences!

[https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/0/01/Scottish Government Logo.svg/220px-Scottish Government Logo.svg.png]

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From:

≰mailto.

Date: 8 April 2019 at 12:20:52 BST

Mairi.Gougeon.msp@parliament.scot<mailto:Mairi.Gougeon.msp@parliament.scot> Subject: Protection of Wild Mammals (Scotland) Act 2002 Dear Ms Gougeon,

RE: Lord Bonomy?s review of the Protection of Wild Mammals (Scotland) Act 2002.

I am writing as I understand that there are plans afoot to alter the above piece of legislation to restrict the number of hounds used in fox control activities to two. I strongly believe that the fox control activities that I participate in in the Lowlands would be much less effective if only two hounds were used. I have seen no scientific evidence that demonstrates a better outcome in terms of fox control in the case of two foxes being used rather than a greater number.

In his report to the Scottish Government 2016, Lord Bonomy stated, ?Searching and flushing by two dogs would not be as effective as that done by a full pack of hounds, imposing restrictions could seriously compromise effective pest control in the country.? Over a year of research and negotiation with all interested parties produced the present compromise which functions and achieves its stated aim of helping to maintain a healthy, controlled fox population in the Borders.

Participation in fox control is a vital part of the culture of Lowland Scotland and of the fragile rural economy. Of course, if fox control were demonstrably ?wrong? than it would not be worth considering this argument but this is not the case.

I urge you to please consider the facts and not to vote or campaign for a change in this piece of legislation.

I am looking forward to hearing your views on this matter.

Yours sincerely,



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facebook.com/scottishparliamenthttp://facebook.com/scottishparliament> :
twitter.com/scotparlhttp://twitter.com/ScotParl>

10 April 2019 13:10:24

Sent: To:

Public Engagement Unit

Cc:

Minister for Rural Affairs and the Natural Environment

Subject:

FW: Hunting Bill

Attachments: Hunting bill-1.pdf

PEU

For MACCS, AO -

Thanks

Minister for Rural Affairs and the Natural Environment 2N.08 St Andrew's House | Regent Road | Edinburgh | EH1 3DG

* 0131 244 5596

MinisterRANE@gov.scot<mailto:MinisterRANE@gov.scot>

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[https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/0/01/Scottish Government Logo.svg/220px-Scottish Government Logo.svg.png]

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From: Cunningham R (Roseanna), MSP

<Roseanna.Cunningham.msp@parliament.scot> Sent: 10 April 2019 12:49

To: Minister for Rural Affairs and the Natural Environment

<MinisterRANE@gov.scot> Subject: Fwd: Hunting Bill

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

Date: 10 April 2019 at 12:30:05 BST

Roseanna.Cunningham.msp@parliament.scot<mailto:Roseanna.Cunningham.msp@p arliament.scot>

<mailto:

Subject: Hunting Bill



Dear Roseanna,

It is my understanding that the Scottish parliament are due to review legislation following the Lord Bonomy review for the Protection of Wild Mammals Act 2002. This took an enormous amount of time and expense in providing this review which you may propose to ignore?

I've grown up and been part of the borders all my life and enjoyed my equine activities but the core was always hunting with the who served a vermin control service free to farmers. This is the most efficient and humane way to control foxes having seen many gamekeepers lamp foxes, fire a shot, miss and leave a fox to die an agonising death & also the horror of snares. This would never happen with a pack of hounds. Horses are an important focus for the Border community, as could be seen at the New Year Meet in Hawick in 2019, which over 1,000 members of the public attended. The equestrian culture, which includes racing, eventing, common riding and riding clubs, is deeply embedded in Borders culture. The hunting community is an integral part of this. By way of example, nurses, teachers, business men and women, pensioners, farmers, undertakers, plumbers, builders and electricians are among those that follow the Buccleuch Hunt, some on horses, some on foot, bicycles and in cars. These are wide ranging, hardworking folk who enjoy being with friends who have similar horsey interests and who enjoy the social interaction. As importantly, the Borders has fragile employment opportunities: amongst others, farriers, feed merchants, vets, and fox control staff will suffer, with many likely to lose their jobs.

I urge you to review the proposal and come to a sensible decision and leave the law as is bearing in mind this has already been passed as a humane way to dispatch. We are within 30 minutes from the English border where a different law exists and would be perfectly entitled to continue fox control there eliminating any further wages or employment on the Scottish side with a loss of further jobs.

Yours sincerely



From: Sent:

15 April 2019 15:03:09

To:

Public Engagement Unit

Cc:

Minister for Rural Affairs and the Natural Environment

Subject:

FW: Hunting



For MACCs



Minister for Rural Affairs and the Natural Environment

0131 244 4426 07896281679

MinisterRANE@gov.scot<mailto:MinisterRANE@gov.scot>

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From: Gougeon M (Mairi), MSP

<Mairi.Gougeon.msp@parliament.scot<mailto:Mairi.Gougeon.msp@parliament.scot

>>

Sent: 15 April 2019 14:58

To: Minister for Rural Affairs and the Natural Environment <MinisterRANE@gov.scot<>>

Subject: Fwd: Hunting

Begin forwarded message:

From:

Committee Commit

To:

"Mairi.Gougeon.msp@parliament.scot<mailto:Mairi.Gougeon.msp@parliament.scot

<Mairi.Gougeon.msp@parliament.scot<mailto:Mairi.Gougeon.msp@parliament.scot</p>

Subject: Hunting

Good Afternoon Mairi,

I am female farmer from a mixed farm the Scottish Borders. I am writing to you as I am aware the Scottish Government are aiming to make legislative changes due to the results of the Lord Bonomy review of the Protection of Wild Mammals (Scotland) Act 2002.

The sheep sector across Scotland is in decline, with the biggest flocks situated here in the Scottish Borders. It's widely known that nearly half of Scotland?s farmers are surviving on minimum wage and without subsidies they would be making losses. Many of the adversities which contribute to such low incomes fall outside your remit, while others are beyond all our control. As you will remember back to the beast from the East was taking its toll, we were in the middle of lambing, with a devastating effect not only financially but emotionally too.

However, the constant pressures from fox predation has a huge effect on lamb losses in turn affecting farming income.

I am grateful of the service offered by the packs who operate across the Scottish Borders, without their help, I would surely loss more lambs to foxes than those that would survive.

The impact of such losses is already recognised by the Scottish Government in their annual ?50,000 payment to the hill packs operating in the highlands and to the island crofters. Ironically, the service we receive in South Scotland from the foxhound packs is free.

Speaking to fellow farming friends south of the border, thoughts are that the exemptions allowed under the 2004 Hunting Act are ineffectual in reducing losses; two hounds cannot possibly be as effective at flushing foxes to guns from parcels of land which may be many hundreds of acres in area? something confirmed through research commissioned by the Federation of Welsh Farmers Packs, which you will be aware of.

Such problems, which were specifically addressed by Lord Bonomy in his report to the Scottish Government.

?The use of packs of hounds to flush out foxes to be shot remains a significant pest control measure, both to control the general level of foxes in an area as well as to address particular problems affecting a farm or estate.? Lord Bonomy report to the Scottish Government 2016.

?Searching and flushing by two dogs would not be as effective as that done by a full pack of hounds, imposing restrictions could seriously compromise effective pest control in the country? Lord Bonomy report to the Scottish Government 2016.

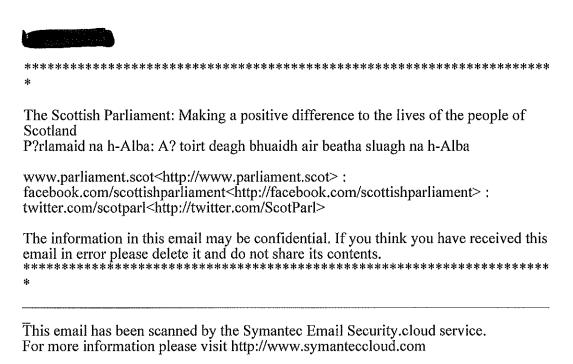
The Scottish Government has set ambitious targets for a doubling of Scotland?s food and drinks sector by 2030, which am I very proud to be a part of as I take pride in my produce. However, the contribution from the sheep sector is unlikely to achieve any meaningful contribution unless we are able to continue with the use of a pack of foxhounds to flush foxes from cover.

Hunting doesn't just offer a service to us farmers for fox control, it is also lifting deadstock, recycling it to feed the hounds. Within the organisation, there is job creation, fundraising for local charities, countryside code and education, event organisation such as balls and racing for all of the rural communities to enjoy.

The sis at the heart of rural life here in the Scottish Borders and without it would not only have devastating affects to my livelihood but the whole of the rural sector.

I look forward in hearing your comments.

Kind Regards,



on behalf of Cabinet Secretary for the Environment, Climate Change

and Land Reform

Sent:

24 April 2019 15:39

To:

Public Engagement Unit

Cc:

Cabinet Secretary for the Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform

Subject:

- Hunting Bill

Attachments:

4-04-2019_15-26-25.pdf

Categories:

Ali, Blue

One for MACCS please, as an OR



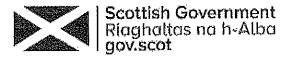
Roseanna Cunningham MSP, Cabinet Secretary for Environment, Climate Change, and

Land Reform

St. Andrews House **EDINBURGH** EH1 3DG 0131 244 3443 cabsececclr@gov.scot

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23rd April, 2019

Roseannah Cunningham Scottish Parliament Scottish Parliament Building Edinburgh EH99 1SP

Dear Rosenman

RE: PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE HUNTING BILL

Lord Bonomy's report.

I can't see the point of the Government having spent thousands of pounds on the Bonomy report, which they are now ignoring.

I have hunted all my life and I have observed that hunting with a pack of hounds is more humane and better for the fox than shooting or lamping. On such occasions the fox is too often wounded and dies in agony. Whereas when hounds catch a fox it dies immediately. Reducing fox control to 2 hounds would not be so efficient.

Regards



[Redacted] on behalf of Minister for Rural Affairs and the Natural Environment

Sent: To:

03 December 2018 10:12 **Public Engagement Unit**

Cc:

Minister for Rural Affairs and the Natural Environment; [Redacted]

Subject:

FW: MPO - Fox Hunting Ban - [Redacted]

For MACCs please

['Redacted] Private Secretary to the Minister for Rural Affairs and the Natural Environment

[Redacted] MinisterRANE@gov.scot

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From: [Redacted]

Sent: 30 November 2018 10:40

To: Central Enquiry Unit < CEU@gov.scot>

Subject: Fox Hunting Ban

Mairi Gougeon MSP

Minister for Rural Affairs and the Natural Environment

Dear Ms Gougeon,

Another hunting season has started when Scottish Hunts will still be getting away with killing our wildlife despite it supposedly being banned.

It is a disgrace that it is four years since your government commissioned the report into hunting by Lord Bonomy and it was stated that your government would make a decision in the Spring on what you intended to do to improve the law.

The Spring has long past and we are now in winter and still not heard what you intend to do.

The law needs to be amended to ensure that the chasing, hunting and killing any animal is outlawed and that there are no loopholes or exemptions that can be exploited as at present.

This needs to be done now so that no more animals are allowed to suffer as the vast majority of Scottish people want. Can you please tell us when you will be making a decision as this has been dragging on for to long and we are very angry as are many others that nothing has been done.

[Redacted]

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[Redacted] on behalf of Minister for Rural Affairs and the Natural

Environment

Sent:

20 March 2019 18:54

To:

[Redacted]

Cc:

Minister for Rural Affairs and the Natural Environment; [Redacted]

Subject:

FW: Protection of Wild Mammals (Scotland) Act 2002

[Redacted]

To note the below.

Thanks

[Redacted]

Assistant Private Secretary Minister for Rural Affairs and the Natural Environment 2N.08 St Andrew's House | Regent Road | Edinburgh | EH1 3DG

窗 [Redacted] MinisterRANE@gov.scot

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From: Gougeon M (Mairi), MSP < Mairi, Gougeon.msp@parliament.scot>

Sent: 18 March 2019 09:19

To: Minister for Rural Affairs and the Natural Environment < MinisterRANE@gov.scot >

Subject: FW: Protection of Wild Mammals (Scotland) Act 2002

From: [Redacted]

Sent: 18 March 2019 08:06

To: Gougeon M (Mairi), MSP < Mairi.Gougeon.msp@parliament.scot > Subject: FW: Protection of Wild Mammals (Scotland) Act 2002

Dear Ms. Gougeon.

Thank you for your email of the 13th March in reply to mine of the 21st February.

I am pleased to hear that you are considering the use of more than two dogs for pest control, although I find it hard to understand how restricting the use to two dogs can be to the benefit of animal welfare. If anything I would have thought that the opposite would apply since farmers, if unable to call upon the services of their hunt in the usual way, are likely to resort to different ways of curbing foxes, which, as I

said in my previous letter, could result in considerably more suffering to the fox than being hunted by a pack of hounds.

While I will continue to require the services of our local Hunt to control the number of foxes in our area in order to protect our lambs as well as fragile birdlife, in particular ground nesting birds, I know that limiting the number of hounds to two simply will not work. Most foxes are found in woodland areas where they tend to lie up during the day, and trying to locate them let alone flush them out of a wood with only two hounds is simply not going to achieve the intended result. Even in the smallest of woods being worked by two hounds is likely to prove largely ineffective.

If more areas of Scotland are going to be covered in trees, which is a stated objective by the Scottish government, these will prove an expanding haven for predators especially foxes. The need for controlling them becomes an even greater issue then as the wooded area in this country increases. Any measures to reduce the ability to control foxes and other predators which are having such a negative effect on the country's wildlife and in particular ground nesting birds like curlew, lapwing and oyster catcher, can only lead to an even greater reduction in our wildlife, not to mention lambs.

Yours sincerely
[Redacted] ************************************
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28 March 2019 11:40:01

Sent: To:

Public Engagement Unit

Cc:

Cabinet Secretary for Health and Sport

Subject:

FW: SNP Fox Control Bill

A0 -

PEU

Please could you scan this on to MACCS as an OR.

Thanks

Ministerial Private Office (Health)
St Andrew?s House

Edinburgh

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----Original Message----

From: @parliament.scot> On Behalf Of

Freeman J (Jeane), MSP Sent: 28 March 2019 11:22

To: Cabinet Secretary for Health and Sport <CabSecHS@gov.scot>

Subject: FW: SNP Fox Control Bill

Hi

Please see email below for response.

Thanks,

to Jeane Freeman MSP
46-48 Glaisnock Street, Cumnock, East Ayrshire, KA18 1BY Constituency Office:
01290 425876 Parliamentary Office: 0131 348 6745 jeanefreeman.scot |

@JeaneF1MSP | FB: Jeane Freeman MSP

----Original Message----

From: Sent: 28 March 2019 10:27

To: Freeman J (Jeane), MSP < Jeane. Freeman.msp@parliament.scot>

Subject: SNP Fox Control Bill

Dear Ms Freeman

I am writing to express my concern and shock over the recent announcement concerning fox control with dogs in Scotland.

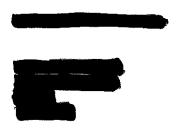
The Scottish Government spent a great deal of time and undoubtedly money commissioning a report by Lord Bonomy which seems to have been kicked into touch. The proposal of going out on fox control with only two hounds is ludicrous and would prolong the time of searching and flushing considerably. The idea of allowing packs of hounds only in the ?Uplands?, seems prejudice against any horse riders. We lose countless lambs here in the Borders too and need the efficiency of the whole pack of hounds.

Horses and hunting is a vital part of Border life. There is a huge range of people from all walks of life it would effect if we weren?t able to meet, enjoy our horses, educate young horses over rough terrain and encourage children in their riding skills, keeping them off the streets and off their phones and iPads. Proper exercise in fresh air and integrating with older generations.

Those of us who understand and enjoy country life, feel angry and let down by the prejudice against us. The Government are not listening to our side of the argument. I have retired from riding but I still enjoy following and hope my grandchildren will be able to continue to benefit from all aspects of hunting life.

All of us who ride or have ridden horses in the Borders following Hounds admiring the skills of huntsmen and efficiency of the hounds are angry, disillusioned and feel disenfranchised. PLEASE support us.

Yours Sincerely,



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Sent: 01 June 2018 16:26:02 To: Public Engagement Unit

Cc: Cabinet Secretary for the Environment, Climate Change and Land

Reform

Subject: FW: Fox hunting -

Hi,

One for MACCS please.

Many thanks,

- Roseanna Cunningham MSP, Cabinet Secretary for Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform - 2N.08, St Andrews House, Regent Road, Edinburgh, EH1 3DG - 0131 244 5337, CabsecECCLR@gov.scot<mailto:CabsecECCLR@gov.scot>

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[cid:image001.png@01D3F9C5.3B5005D0]http://home.scotland.gov.uk/home

From: [mailto:

Sent: 01 June 2018 15:51

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

Subject: Fox hunting -

Dear Cabinet Secretary,

I'm conscious that you will be shortly deciding how to move forward with the fox hunting situation and I'm hoping it will be helpful if I outline the

thoughts on the matter:

Fox hunting continues in Scotland

Lord Bonomy's observation that there is evidence to support the view that "flushing to guns" is used as a decoy for "traditional hunting" was backed up by the successful prosecution of the Jed Forest hunt last year.

We support Lord Bonomy's recommendations (as far as they go)

Tightening up the definition of hunting and reversing the onus of proof would increase the prospect of successful prosecutions but regardless of any monitoring, mounted hunts will still be able to go out with a full pack of hounds and exploit this exception unobserved.

The suggestion to include a "recklessness" clause in the definition is particularly important as it would stop the introduction of "trail hunting" in Scotland. Trail hunting involves the laying of a fox based scent in territory habituated by foxes and as

such is clearly "reckless". At the present time "Trail Hunting" only takes place in England and Wales.

We recommend two additional changes to the legislation

- * Remove the "flushing to guns" exception for mounted hunts
- * Reduce the number of dogs used in the remaining exceptions to two
 These changes would ensure that the flushing to guns exception could not be used as a
 decoy for traditional hunting and close the door to attempts to use any other exception
 in a similar manner.

Public opinion

We have polled Scottish public opinion for the past four years using IPSOS Mori and latterly ScotPulse. The results are consistently that over 80% are opposed to fox hunting continuing in Scotland. There is a negligible difference between this attitude in rural or urban areas and SNP supporters are particularly opposed to fox hunting. Other Political Parties

The Scottish Labour party have adopted a motion that supports Lord Bonomy's recommendations and the two additional changes mentioned above. (Bonomy +) The Conservatives manifesto supports Lord Bonomy's recommendations but they have reservations about the "vicarious liability" recommendation

The Scottish Green party supports Bonomy + and have offered to introduce a Member's Bill to that effect

The Liberal Democrats have informed us that they will decide their position after the Government announces its intent.

Voluntary Code of Conduct

This is yet to be completed. Whilst it may have limited aid in future prosecutions its major shortcoming is that adherence is voluntary. The tone of the Countryside Alliance, throughout the process leads us to believe that there would be little will to ensure that the code be followed at all times. The code makes it clear that it would need to be reviewed if the law is changed and it is our view it will only serve a limited purpose until that time.

Independent Monitoring

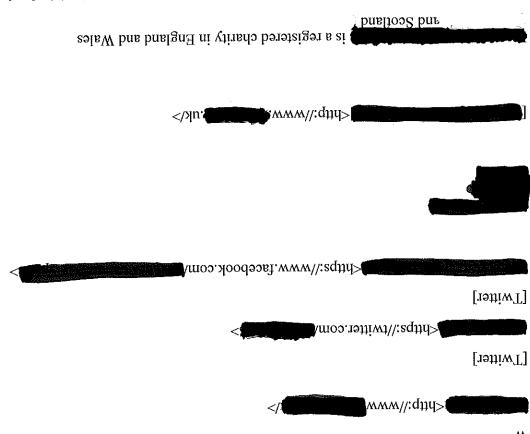
This has yet to be discussed by the Stakeholder's Group but unless it can guarantee monitoring of every hunt in Scotland it is our view that fox hunting would continue when monitors were not present.

We await your decision on the way forward and, of course, will engage positively and constructively with it.

Yours sincerely,







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From: Mark McDonald MSP Sent: 31 October 2018 16:22:03 Sent: scottish.ministers@gov.sco

To: scottish.ministers@gov.scot Subject: (Case Ref: MM2265)

Attachments: letter1733.pdf

Good afternoon,

Please see attached letter to Roseanna Cunningham from Mark McDonald MSP.

Kind regards,

Office of Mark McDonald MSP for Aberdeen Donside

To sign up to Mark's Online Newsletter click here To access Mark McDonald MSP's office privacy statement click here

As access Mark McDonald MSP & requo;s office privacy & chap; & chap;

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VBEKDEEN DONSIDE WYKK WCDONVFD WSL



The Scottish Parliament Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

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

31 October 2018

Our Ref: MM2265

Dear Roseanna,

I am writing on behalf of my constituents who have contacted me regarding the welfare of wild mammals in relation to fox hunting in Scotland.

I understand that at the end of 2017, 20,000 people took part in a Scotlish Government consultation on improving the welfare of wild mammals, of those 20,000 who responded, 98% stated that the Protection of Wild Mammals (Scotland) Act 2002 needs to be strengthened in order to effectively ban hunting in Scotland. It has been put to me that the 2002 Act needs to be revised and strengthened.

My constituents have expressed their disappointment that it is now more than eight months since the consultation has closed and the Scottish Government are yet to reach a decision on whether there are any plans to amend existing legislation. Although I welcome the published analysis of the consultation, I understand that hunting season will begin in the next couple of weeks, the fourth season since the consultation closed, with no changes being made. My constituents have expressed their concerns that the Scottish Government is not acting quickly enough in response to the consultation which they took part in.

I would appreciate if you would advise what steps the Scottish Government are taking, if any, to attengthen the Protection of Wild Mammals (Scotland) Act 2002 to better protect the welfare of the animals, in order to address the concerns of my constituents and the many others who responded to the consultation.

I look forward to your response, the contents of which I will share with my constituents and any other interested parties.

Yours sincerely,

Mark McDonald MSP

From:
Sent:
Soft:
Public Engagement Unit
To:
Public Engagement Unit

Public Engagement Unit
Minister for Rural Affairs and the Natural Environment, Greenan R

(Rebecca)
Subject: FW: Hunting Legislation

For MACCS please

Thanks

 $bE\Omega$

Cc:

Minister for Rural Affairs and the Natural Environment 2N.08 St Andrew?s House | Regent Road | Edinburgh | EH1 3DG

? 0131 244 5596 MinisterRANE@gov.scot<mailto:MinisterRANE@gov.scot>

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From: Olivia Strang Steel <0livia@strangsteel.com<mailto:olivia@strangsteel.com>>> Sent: 26 February 2019 16:48

To: Gougeon M (Mairi), MSP

Mairi. Gougeon.msp@parliament.scot<mailto:Mairi.Gougeon.msp@parliament.scot</p>

Subject: Hunting Legislation

Dear Ms. Gougoun,

The recent announcement by the Scottish Government to implement changes in Fox hunting in Scotland are an outrage to rural industry. The intended changes encourage less effective hunting of foxes with prolonged pursuit causing unnecessary exhaustion. A pack of hounds is vastly more effective at efficiently flushing out the fox within a shorter duration to minimise trauma. Fox hunting is an integral practice to limit predation on lambs and other livestock, restraining their cull will lead to extensive loss of livestock, affecting both agricultural economies and livestock extensive loss of livestock, affecting both agricultural economies and livestock

welfare,

contribute to local economies and provide for local communities. farmers not to be able to protect their flocks yet to be expected to continue to there is no logical justification for using only a pair of hounds. It is unacceptable for mountainous regions especially with huge regions of commercial hardwood forestry -The practice is the only reasonable method for limiting predation of lambs in

and in extensive areas of dense cover such as coniferous woodlands.? compromise effective pest control in the country, particularly on rough, hilly ground full pack of hounds, but also that imposing such a restriction could seriously only would searching and flushing by two dogs not be as effective as that done by a Lord Bonomy clearly stated in his review of hunting legislation in Scotland that ?not

into the coffin for important rural industries. tracks, disrupting 500 years of culture and subsequent pest control, hitting another nail limiting the legal number of hounds to two will effectively halt the practice in its by political prejudice. The use of hounds is firmly embedded in rural Scottish culture, The changes have not been implemented for animal welfare, they are entirely driven

pack of hounds for fox control. proposed legislation changes, quite the opposite - evidence supports the use a of larger so many further issues. There is absolutely no scientific evidence supporting the but because ignoring science and encouraging prejudice sets a terrible precedent for Scotland, not just because it is effectively banning an effective method of pest control, This legislation will put the Scottish Government seriously at odds with rural

reconsidered. and clear scientific evidence. This proposed legislation changes need to be with arguments built on illogical foundations, ignorant of the situation on the ground Those who oppose the use of hounds do so entirely based upon political prejudice,

Yours sincerely,

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Sent: To: 22 March 2019 17:41:39 Public Engagement Unit

Cc:

Minister for Rural Affairs and the Natural Environment

Subject:

FW: Fox Control

PEU

MR for Ms Gougeon please? AO

Thanks

Minister for Rural Affairs and the Natural Environment 2N.08 St Andrew?s House | Regent Road | Edinburgh | EH1 3DG

? 0131 244 5596

MinisterRANE@gov.scot<mailto:MinisterRANE@gov.scot>

Please check our updated Ministerial preferences!

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From: ◀

<mailto.

Date: 22 Maron 2019 at 17:26:51 GMT

 T_{Δ}

<Roseanna.Cunningham.msp@parliament.scot<mailto:Roseanna.Cunningham.msp@

parliament.scot>> Subject: Fox Control



22/03/18

Dear Ms Cunningham

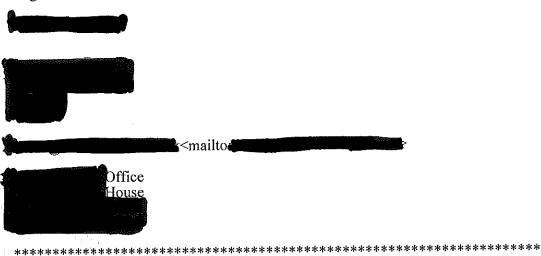
I write in regard to the announcement that the Scottish Government intends to bring forward legislation to limit the number of hounds that can be used to flush foxes to guns to two.

As part of the submissions to the Lord Bonomy report I will take an extract of my submission to Lord Bonomy which will explain why I am in complete opposition to this proposed legislation

?Two years ago I had a big problem with young lambs being taken from a certain field at night during lambing. It was the same pattern each night so I worked out what area the fox was likely to be in. Having established this I asked the gun pack to come in and help but with only 2 dogs and guns rather than a pack of dogs. With a flock size of 1500 ewes lambing I just wanted two dogs so as to minimise the disruption to the lambing flock and all the young lambs. We found the fox in the area I had hoped but were unable to flush him to the guns and the job failed. I continued with losses that lambing and hoped that the gun pack with a full pack of dogs would find the fox the next winter when I asked them back. They did dispatch a fox and the following year at lambing i did not have the any losses to foxes

Having seen first hand the damage that can be done by a fox, the taking of young lambs as well as the damage to ewes that have been cast on their backs overnight, the details of which I will refrain from writing about but the result is I have to humanly put them down. An upsetting task. (I have pictures to back up these claims) It is very evident that foxes need controlled and from my personal experience flushing them with two dogs is a complete waste of time and banning packs of dogs will be very detrimental to the countryside as well as the long term welfare of the fox?. I hope that you will make the Scottish government stop this illogical legislation that goes against their own commissioned report.

Regards



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*

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4.

Sent:

11 March 2019 13:30:10 Public Engagement Unit

To: Cc:

Cabinet Secretary for the Environment, Climate Change and Land

Reform

Subject:

FW: Hunt

AO ?

One for MACCS please as an MR

(NB? I note that the correspondent has sent this to her MSP, and copied it to the Cab Sec?s parliament email account.)

Regards



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

St. Andrews House
EDINBURGH
EH1 3DG
0131 244 3443
cabsececclr@gov.scot<mailto:cabsececclr@gov.scot>

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[SG master logo colour CMYK]

From: Cunningham R (Roseanna), MSP

<Roseanna.Cunningham.msp@parliament.scot<mailto:Roseanna.Cunningham.msp@</p>

<mailto:

parliament.scot>>

Sent: 09 March 2019 21:28

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

<CabSecECCLR@gov.scot<mailto:CabSecECCLR@gov.scot>>

Subject: Fwd: Fife Fox Hunt

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Date: 9 March 2019 at 19:56:13 GMT

To: "MacGregor F (Fulton), MSP"

<Fulton.MacGregor.msp@parliament.scot<mailto:Fulton.MacGregor.msp@parliame
nt.scot>>

Cc:

Christine.grahame.msp@parliament.scot<mailto:Christine.grahame.msp@parliament.scot>, colin.smyth.msp@parliament.scot>, roseanna.cunningham.msp@parliament.scot<mailto:roseanna.cunningham.msp@parliament.scot>

Subject: Fife Fox Hunt

Dear Fulton

Following the report by Lord Bonomy in his review of 2016, there was real hope that Scotland would finally see an end to fox-hunting with dogs.

Every week, however, I see another example of hunt groups blatantly flouting the law. The below video clip (source Facebook) is the latest from today. According to IFAW, since the introduction of the ban in Scotland more than 15 years ago, there has been only one traditional mounted hunt which has been successfully prosecuted. This simply cannot be allowed to continue. We can no longer turn a blind eye to these law-breakers.

As you are my local MSP and a member of the Justice Committee, and Justice Subcommittee on Policing, I am formally requesting your help to provide me with some guidance and information as to what can be done to ensure that these law-breakers are brought to justice.

I very much look forward to hearing from you. Your support is, as always, very much appreciated.

https://www.facebook.com/

Marie State of Security and

Yours sincerely

Sent from my Xperia by Sony smartphone

*

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: facebook.com/scottishparliament
: twitter.com/scottishparliament

*

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Sent: To: 12 March 2019 10:29:38 Public Engagement Unit

Cc:

Cabinet Secretary for Health and Sport

Subject:

FW: Fox Cotrol

AO -

PEU

Please could you scan this on to MACCS as an MR.

Thanks

Ministerial Private Office (Health) St Andrew?s House

Edinburgh

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----Original Message----

From Freeman I (Jeane) MSP

On Behalf Of

Freeman J (Jeane), MSP Sent: 12 March 2019 10:28

To: Cabinet Secretary for Health and Sport < CabSecHS@gov.scot>

Cc: Hamilton T (Tracy)

Subject: FW: Fox Cotrol



Please see email below for response.

Thanks,

Head of Office to Jeane Freeman MSP

46-48 Glaisnock Street, Cumnock, East Ayrshire, KA18 1BY Constituency Office: 01290 425876 Parliamentary Office: 0131 348 6745 jeanefreeman.scot | @JeaneF1MSP | FB: Jeane Freeman MSP

----Original Message----

From Sent: 12 March 2019 09:30

To: Freeman J (Jeane), MSP < Jeane. Freeman.msp@parliament.scot>

Subject: Fox Cotrol

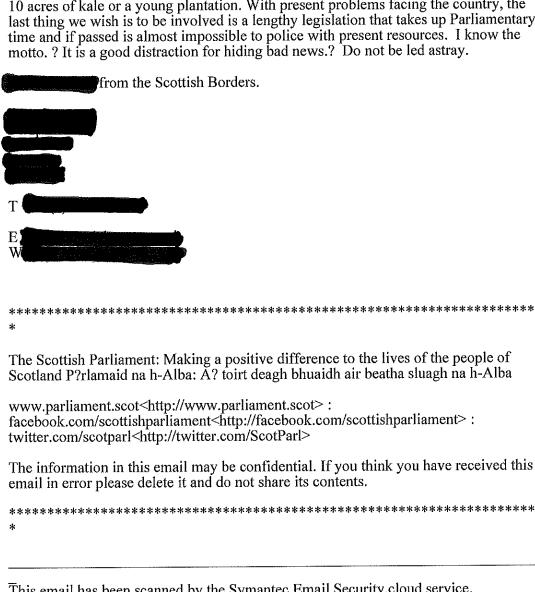
Dear Jeane,

Fox Control.

If ain?t broke- don?t fix it.

The present legal method of fox control flush and shoot whilst not perfect, in that it is not selective is better than none. The prospect of flushing foxes with two hounds or dogs is akin to eating a plate of soup with a pair of chop sticks, not much use on a 4000 acres hill farm or even

10 acres of kale or a young plantation. With present problems facing the country, the last thing we wish is to be involved is a lengthy legislation that takes up Parliamentary motto. ? It is a good distraction for hiding bad news.? Do not be led astray.



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20 March 2019 12:38:17

Sent: To:

Public Engagement Unit

Cc:

Minister for Rural Affairs and the Natural Environment

Subject:

RE: Fox Control Legislation

PEU

For MACCs, MR please ? grateful if this could be allocated to

Thanks

Minister for Rural Affairs and the Natural Environment 2N.08 St Andrew?s House | Regent Road | Edinburgh | EH1 3DG

? 0131 244 5596

MinisterRANE@gov.scot<mailto:MinisterRANE@gov.scot>

Please check our updated Ministerial preferences!

[https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/0/01/Scottish_Government Logo.svg/220px-Scottish Government Logo.svg.png]

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From Date: 20 March 2019 at 11:47:20 GMT

mairi.gougeon.msp@parliament.scot<mailto:mairi.gougeon.msp@parliament.scot>, roseanna.cunningham.msp@parliament.scot<mailto:roseanna.cunningham.msp@parli ament.scot>,

paul.wheelhouse.msp@parliament.scot<mailto:paul.wheelhouse.msp@parliament.sco t>, fergus.ewing.msp@parliament.scot<mailto:fergus.ewing.msp@parliament.scot>, claudia.beamish.msp@parliament.scot<mailto:claudia.beamish.msp@parliament.scot >, joan.mcalpine.msp@parliament.scot<mailto:joan.mcalpine.msp@parliament.scot>, emma.harper.msp@parliament.scot<mailto:emma.harper.msp@parliament.scot>, colin.smyth.msp@parliament.scot<mailto:colin.smyth.msp@parliament.scot>, brian.whittle.msp@parliament.scot<mailto:brian.whittle.msp@parliament.scot> michelle.ballantyne.msp@parliament.scot<mailto:michelle.ballantyne.msp@parliame nt.scot>,

rachael.hamilton.msp@parliament.scot<mailto:rachael.hamilton.msp@parliament.sco

Subject: Fox Control Legislation

Dear Ministers and Members of the Scottish Parliament,

I am very concerned that the Scottish Government is not considering the proposed legislation on hunting with dogs by using the best evidence as opposed to prejudice and perceived electoral advantage.

The recommendations in Lord Bonomy's report seem to be being ignored. These recommendations resulted in the production of a Code of Practice for Mounted Foxhounds by stakeholders including the League against Cruel Sports (LACS) and the SSPCA, as well as representatives from the Scottish foxhound packs. However, this work is being disregarded.

Fox control everywhere is important, especially to sheep farmers. Effective fox control depends on efficiently finding the fox. The quickest and best way of finding a fox and flushing it to be killed is to use a pack of hounds. To limit the important job of finding the fox to just two hounds is to apply an arbitrary restriction, which compromises both the effective control and the welfare of the fox by extending the time during which it is under stress. This is quite independent of the method of killing the fox, usually by shooting.

I live in the Scottish Borders near Hawick, where there is a very strong community interest in horses and equestrian culture. One of the ways this is expressed is through support for the mounted foxhound packs. This support goes right across the social strata and is definitely not confined to a red coated snobbish elite. This horse culture supports many jobs in an area not blessed with a strong economy.

I can think of no reason other than prejudiced, uninformed, cynical avoidance of the application of good evidence for the intention to limit the important pest control task of finding and flushing foxes to be controlled to two hounds. Traditional use of a full pack is much more effective and less cruel in protecting domestic animals such as lambs and chickens.

Yours sincerely,



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4

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Sent: 28 N

To:

28 March 2019 10:21:09 Public Engagement Unit

Čc:

Minister for Rural Affairs and the Natural Environment

Subject:

FW: SNP Fox Control Bill

AO ?

PEU

For MACCS please

Thanks

Minister for Rural Affairs and the Natural Environment 2N.08 St Andrew?s House | Regent Road | Edinburgh | EH1 3DG

? 0131 244 5596

MinisterRANE@gov.scot<mailto:MinisterRANE@gov.scot>

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From: Gougeon M (Mairi), MSP

<Mairi.Gougeon.msp@parliament.scot<mailto:Mairi.Gougeon.msp@parliament.scot

>>

Sent: 27 March 2019 19:05

To: Minister for Rural Affairs and the Natural Environment <MinisterRANE@gov.scot</pre>

Subject: FW: SNP Fox Control Bill

From <a href="mailto:ma

Sent: 27 March 2019 19:04 To: Gougeon M (Mairi), MSP

Mairi, Gougeon.msp@parliament.scot<mailto:Mairi.Gougeon.msp@parliament.scot</p>

>>

Subject: Fwd: SNP Fox Control Bill

Sent from my iPad

Begin forwarded message: <mailto From: Date: 27 March 2019 at 18:53:45 Subject: SNP Fox Control Bill Dear Maori.Gougeon. It is with great disappointment that I understand that the Scottish Government wish to change the fox control law in the Borders of Scotland, to limit the number of hounds to two, to flush out a fox to the guns. This would simply NOT work! A fox is a wily animal, and could easily evade two hounds. Which is exactly why a full pack of hounds is used to flush a fox so that fox control can be carried out within the law. Some representatives of your parliament, including Lord Bonday, paid a visit to a and witnessed what happened that day. meet of the Despite Lord Bonomy?s report, that events were operated within the law, your government wish to alter the rules yet again! This seems totally illogical, as farmers in this area loose many lambs, and other livestock every Spring, and efficient fox control is therefore essential. We need your support! Yours sincerely, 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> 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. *******************************

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15 October 2018 16:24:05

Sent: To:

Public Engagement Unit

Cc:

Cabinet Secretary for the Environment, Climate Change and Land

Reform

Subject:

FW: Fox Hunting Campaign

Attachments: FoxHuntingCampaign.pdf



For MACCS please? MR

Roseanna Cunningham MSP | Cabinet Secretary for Environment, Climate Change & Land Reform | Scottish Government | 2N:08, St Andrew's House, Regent Road, Edinburgh, EH1 3DG | Tel: +44(0)131 244 7327 |cabsececclr@gov.scot<mailto:%7Ccabsececclr@gov.scot>

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From:

<mailto:dundee@shona.robison.scot>>

Sent: 15 October 2018 16:10

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

<CabSecECCLR@gov.scot<mailto:CabSecECCLR@gov.scot>>

Subject: Fox Hunting Campaign

Dear Roseanna,

Please find attached a letter that I am sending on behalf of a number of constituents who have contacted me regarding this matter.

Best regards,

Shona

Shona Robison MSP (Dundee City East) a: 15 Balunie Drive, Dundee, DD4 8PS

e: dundee@shona.robison.scot <mailto:dundee@shona.robison.scot> | t: 01382 903219

Visit: www.shona.robison.scot http://www.shona.robison.scot

[cid:0.28869202780.8726677229964862404.1667846f87c inline img src]https://doi.org/10.28869202780.8726677229964862404.1667846f87c

//www.facebook.com/ShonaRobisonSNP/>
[cid:1.28869202780.5672931690754152449.1667846f87d inline img src]
https://twitter.com/ShonaRobison [cid:image002.png@01D46528.10626C90]
https://www.instagram.com/shonarobisonmsp/>

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The privacy statement can be viewed here: www.shona.robison.scot http://www.shona.robison.scot/

Shona Robison MSP

Dundee City East

Scottish National Party

RETURN ADDRESS: 15 Balunie Drive, Dundee, DD4 8PS
Roseanne Cunningham MSP
Cabinet Secretary for Environment, Climate Change
and Land Reform
The Scottish Government
St. Andrews House
Regent Road
Edinburgh
EH1 3DG

15th October 2018



15 Balunie Drive Dundee DD4 8PS t: 01382 903219

e: dundee@shona.robison.scot

w: www.shona.robison.scot

Dear Roseanna,

Re: The Future of Fox Hunting in Scotland

I am writing to you in regard to the emails – that I am of the understanding all MSPs have been receiving – enquiring about the future of fox hunting in Scotland.

As you will be aware, campaigners appear to be specifically asking when the Scottish Government will be releasing information about the findings of the consultation, which closed earlier this year, what its next steps are in terms of the future of fox hunting in Scotland, and when you think a decision is likely to be reached?

I would be grateful if you could look into this for my constituents and advise accordingly. I look forward to hearing from you in due course.

0/1/20 -

Yours sincerely,

Shona Robison MSP (Dundee City East)



25 March 2019 10:03:36

Sent: To:

Public Engagement Unit

Cc:

Cabinet Secretary for Health and Sport

Subject:

FW: Fox Control Legislation

AO :

PEU

Please could you scan this on to MACCS as an OR.

Thanks

Ministerial Private Office (H

Ministerial Private Office (Health) St Andrew?s House Edinburgh

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From

/mailto

> On

Behalf Of Freeman J (Jeane), MSP

Sent: 25 March 2019 09:47

To: Cabinet Secretary for Health and Sport

<CabSecHS@gov.scot<mailto:CabSecHS@gov.scot>>

Cc

<Tracy.Hamilton@parliament.scot<mailto:Tracy.Hamilton@parliament.scot>> Subject: FW: Fox Control Legislation

H

Please see email below for response.

Thanks,

to Jeane Freeman MSP

46-48 Glaisnock Street, Cumnock, East Ayrshire, KA18 1BY

Constituency Office: 01290 425876 Parliamentary Office: 0131 348 6745

jeanefreeman.scot | @JeaneF1MSP | FB: Jeane Freeman MSP

From:

<mail

Sent: 23 March 2019 11:56

To: Mundell O (Oliver), MSP

<Oliver.Mundell.msp@parliament.scot<mailto:Oliver.Mundell.msp@parliament.scot</p>

>>; Freeman J (Jeane), MSP

<Jeane.Freeman.msp@parliament.scot<mailto:Jeane.Freeman.msp@parliament.scot>
; Scott J (John), MSP

<John.Scott.msp@parliament.scot<mailto:John.Scott.msp@parliament.scot>>;

Coffey W (Willie), MSP

<Willie.Coffey.msp@parliament.scot<mailto:Willie.Coffey.msp@parliament.scot>>;
Campbell AE (Aileen), MSP

Aileen.Campbell.msp@parliament.scot<>>; Grahame C (Christine), MSP

Christine.Grahame.msp@parliament.scot<mailto:Christine.Grahame.msp@parliament.scot>>; Gray I (Iain), MSP

<a href="mailto:lain.gray.msp.gray.m

Subject: Fwd: Fox Control Legislation

Subject:

Fox Control Legislation

Date:

Wed, 20 Mar 2019 11:47:20 +0000

From:



To:

mairi.gougeon.msp@parliament.scot<mailto:mairi.gougeon.msp@parliament.scot>, roseanna.cunningham.msp@parliament.scot<mailto:roseanna.cunningham.msp@parliament.scot>, ament.scot>,

paul.wheelhouse.msp@parliament.scot<mailto:paul.wheelhouse.msp@parliament.scot
>, fergus.ewing.msp@parliament.scot<mailto:fergus.ewing.msp@parliament.scot>,
claudia.beamish.msp@parliament.scot<mailto:claudia.beamish.msp@parliament.scot
>, joan.mcalpine.msp@parliament.scot<mailto:joan.mcalpine.msp@parliament.scot>,
emma.harper.msp@parliament.scot<mailto:emma.harper.msp@parliament.scot>,
colin.smyth.msp@parliament.scot<mailto:colin.smyth.msp@parliament.scot>,
brian.whittle.msp@parliament.scot<mailto:brian.whittle.msp@parliament.scot>,
michelle.ballantyne.msp@parliament.scot<mailto:michelle.ballantyne.msp@parliament.scot>,

rachael.hamilton.msp@parliament.scot<mailto:rachael.hamilton.msp@parliament.sco

Dear Ministers and Members of the Scottish Parliament,

I am very concerned that the Scottish Government is not considering the proposed legislation on hunting with dogs by using the best evidence as opposed to prejudice and perceived electoral advantage.

The recommendations in Lord Bonomy's report seem to be being ignored. These recommendations resulted in the production of a Code of Practice for Mounted Foxhounds by stakeholders including the League against Cruel Sports (LACS) and

the SSPCA, as well as representatives from the Scottish foxhound packs. However, this work is being disregarded.

Fox control everywhere is important, especially to sheep farmers. Effective fox control depends on efficiently finding the fox. The quickest and best way of finding a fox and flushing it to be killed is to use a pack of hounds. To limit the important job of finding the fox to just two hounds is to apply an arbitrary restriction, which compromises both the effective control and the welfare of the fox by extending the time during which it is under stress. This is quite independent of the method of killing the fox, usually by shooting.

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I can think of no reason other than prejudiced, uninformed, cynical avoidance of the application of good evidence for the intention to limit the important pest control task of finding and flushing foxes to be controlled to two hounds. Traditional use of a full pack is much more effective and less cruel in protecting domestic animals such as lambs and chickens.

Yours sincerely,



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25 March 2019 13:09:03

Sent: To:

Public Engagement Unit

Cc:

Minister for Rural Affairs and the Natural Environment

Subject:

FW:

For MACCS MR, please allocate to

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

0131 244 4426 07896281679

MinisterRANE@gov.scot<mailto:MinisterRANE@gov.scot>

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From: Cunningham R (Roseanna), MSP

<Roseanna.Cunningham.msp@parliament.scot>

Sent: 25 March 2019 12:49

To: Minister for Rural Affairs and the Natural Environment

<MinisterRANE@gov.scot>

Subject: Fwd:

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From:

Date: 25 March 2019 at 12:43:16 GMT

То٠

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

I am writing to register my concern and disappointment with the recent announcement concerning fox control with dogs.

The Scottish Government spent a great deal of time and presumably money commissioning a report by Lord Bonomy. While some of his recommendations have been supported, it would seem that his most important one has been dismissed. It has been proposed that the number of hounds should be limited to 2 for mounted packs, in contradiction of Bonomy?s recommendations and indeed in contradiction of the only published science by ?Naylor and Knott? who conclude that reducing the pack to two hounds compromises the fox?s welfare by increasing the time of the search and flush by as much as five times as long as a full pack.

Even worse, the proposal < x-apple-data-detectors://11> is that packs of hounds to carry out fox control will attract licences in the ?Uplands?, but no-where else. Prejudice seems to play a big part in the government?s approach. What is the difference between carrying out fox control with a pack of hounds in the Lowlands and carrying

out the same fox control activities in the Uplands / Highlands? The need for fox control is as important in the south of Scotland as it is anywhere else. This approach is totally illogical. Farmer Mr Edgar gave evidence under oath in the "Buccleuch case" that he loses upwards of one hundred lambs per year. Is this acceptable? Fox control by packs of hounds is effective and this is evidenced by the support of landowners and farmers in requesting / permitting our services.

As I understand it, there were nearly 19,000 responses to the consultation, of which 18,497 (98%) were from 5 online campaigns where the respondents could not be identified, and who probably did not even live in Scotland. 290 (2%) were substantive replies and 298 and 25 organisation?s had the courage and decency to supply their names and addresses. Is this really democracy at work?

In addition, stakeholders including the mounted packs, the League against Cruel Sports, the SSPCA and others worked together for a year to produce a mutually agreed code of practice. It would seem this work has been dismissed out of hand. Horses are an important focus for the Border community, as could be seen at the New Year Meet in Hawick in 2019, which over 1,000 members of the public attended. The equestrian culture, which includes racing, eventing, common riding and riding clubs, is deeply embedded in Borders culture. The hunting community is an integral part of this. By way of example, nurses, teachers, business men and women, pensioners, farmers, undertakers, plumbers, builders and electricians are among those that follow the Buccleuch Hunt. These are wide ranging, hardworking folk who enjoy being with friends who have similar horsey interests and who enjoy the social interaction. As importantly, the Borders has fragile employment opportunities: amongst others, farriers, feed merchants, vets, and fox control staff will suffer, with many likely to lose their jobs.

It seems to me that banning fox control with a pack of hounds in the south of Scotland and allowing it in the ?Uplands? smacks wholly of prejudice. It is totally illogical. Those of us who ride horses in the Borders are angry, disillusioned and feel disenfranchised. I would urge you to support us.

Yours sincerely

Sent from my iPhone ************************************
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25 March 2019 12:46:01

Sent: To:

Public Engagement Unit

Cc:

Minister for Rural Affairs and the Natural Environment

Subject:

FW: Fox control

For MACCS MR, please allocate to Rebecca Greenan



Minister for Rural Affairs and the Natural Environment

0131 244 4426

MinisterRANE@gov.scot<mailto:MinisterRANE@gov.scot>

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From: Gougeon M (Mairi), MSP <Mairi.Gougeon.msp@parliament.scot>

Sent: 23 March 2019 00:36

To: Minister for Rural Affairs and the Natural Environment

<MinisterRANE@gov.scot>
Subject: Fwd: Fox control

Begin forwarded message:

From:

Date: 22 March 2019 at 17:34:33 GMT

To:

Mairi.Gougeon.msp@parliament.scot<mailto:Mairi.Gougeon.msp@parliament.scot</p>

>>

Subject: Fox control





Dear Mairi

I write in regard to the announcement that the Scottish Government intends to bring forward legislation to limit the number of hounds that can be used to flush foxes to guns to two.

As part of the submissions to the Lord Bonomy report I will take an extract of my submission to Lord Bonomy which will explain why I am in complete opposition to this proposed legislation

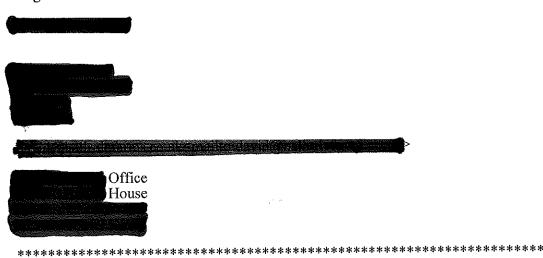
?Two years ago I had a big problem with young lambs being taken from a certain

field at night during lambing. It was the same pattern each night so I worked out what area the fox was likely to be in. Having established this I asked the gun pack to come in and help but with only 2 dogs and guns rather than a pack of dogs. With a flock size of 1500 ewes lambing I just wanted two dogs so as to minimise the disruption to the lambing flock and all the young lambs. We found the fox in the area I had hoped but were unable to flush him to the guns and the job failed. I continued with losses that lambing and hoped that the gun pack with a full pack of dogs would find the fox the next winter when I asked them back. They did dispatch a fox and the following year at lambing i did not have the any losses to foxes

Having seen first hand the damage that can be done by a fox, the taking of young lambs as well as the damage to ewes that have been cast on their backs overnight, the details of which I will refrain from writing about but the result is I have to humanly put them down. An upsetting task. (I have pictures to back up these claims)

It is very evident that foxes need controlled and from my personal experience flushing them with two dogs is a complete waste of time and banning packs of dogs will be very detrimental to the countryside as well as the long term welfare of the fox?. I hope that you will make the Scottish government stop this illogical legislation that goes against their own commissioned report.

Regards



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Matheson M (Mariella)

Sent: To:

25 March 2019 12:49:42 Public Engagement Unit

Cc:

Minister for Rural Affairs and the Natural Environment

Subject:

FW: Fox control with dogs

For MACCS MR please allocate to

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

0131 244 4426 07896281679

MinisterRANE@gov.scot<mailto:MinisterRANE@gov.scot>

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From: Gougeon M (Mairi), MSP <Mairi.Gougeon.msp@parliament.scot>

Sent: 23 March 2019 12:52

To: Minister for Rural Affairs and the Natural Environment

<MinisterRANE@gov.scot>

Subject: Fwd: Fox control with dogs

Begin forwarded message:

From

Date: 23 March 2019 at 11:50:54 GMT

To:

Mairi.Gougeon.msp@parliament.scot<mailto:Mairi.Gougeon.msp@parliament.scot>Subject: Fox control with dogs

Dear Mairi Gougeon,

I am writing to register my concern and disappointment with the recent announcement concerning fox control with dogs.

The Scottish Government spent a great deal of time and presumably money commissioning a report by Lord Bonomy. While some of his recommendations have been supported, it would seem that his most important one has been dismissed. It has been proposed that the number of hounds should be limited to 2 for mounted packs, in contradiction of Bonomy?s recommendations and indeed in contradiction of the only published science by ?Naylor and Knott? who conclude that reducing the pack to two

hounds compromises the fox?s welfare by increasing the time of the search and flush

by as much as five times as long as a full pack.

Even worse, the proposal is that packs of hounds to carry out fox control will attract licences in the ?Uplands?, but no-where else. Prejudice seems to play a big part in the government?s approach. What is the difference between carrying out fox control with a pack of hounds in the Lowlands and carrying out the same fox control activities in the Uplands / Highlands? The need for fox control is as important in the south of Scotland as it is anywhere else. This approach is totally illogical. Farmer Mr Edgar gave evidence under oath in the "Buccleuch case" that he loses upwards of one hundred lambs per year. Is this acceptable? Fox control by packs of hounds is effective and this is evidenced by the support of landowners and farmers in requesting / permitting our services.

As I understand it, there were nearly 19,000 responses to the consultation, of which 18,497 (98%) were from 5 online campaigns where the respondents could not be identified, and who probably did not even live in Scotland. 290 (2%) were substantive replies and 298 and 25 organisation?s had the courage and decency to

supply their names and addresses. Is this really democracy at work?

In addition, stakeholders including the mounted packs, the League against Cruel Sports, the SSPCA and others worked together for a year to produce a mutually agreed code of practice. It would seem this work has been dismissed out of hand. Horses are an important focus for the Border community, as could be seen at the New Year Meet in Hawick in 2019, which over 1,000 members of the public attended. The equestrian culture, which includes racing, eventing, common riding and riding clubs, is deeply embedded in Borders culture. The hunting community is an integral part of this. By way of example, nurses, teachers, business men and women, pensioners, farmers, undertakers, plumbers, builders and electricians are among those that follow the Buccleuch Hunt. These are wide ranging, hardworking folk who enjoy being with friends who have similar horsey interests and who enjoy the social interaction. As importantly, the Borders has fragile employment opportunities: amongst others, farriers, feed merchants, vets, and fox control staff will suffer, with many likely to lose their jobs.

It seems to me that banning fox control with a pack of hounds in the south of Scotland and allowing it in the ?Uplands? smacks wholly of prejudice. It is totally illogical. Those of us who ride horses in the Borders are angry, disillusioned and feel

disenfranchised. I would urge you to support us.

Yours sincerely

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Sent: 25 March 2019 12:49:33

To:

Public Engagement Unit

Cc:

Minister for Rural Affairs and the Natural Environment

Subject:

FW: Fox Control with Dogs

Attachments: Hunting letter to MSPs March 19.pdf

For MACCS MR please allocate to



Minister for Rural Affairs and the Natural Environment

0131 244 4426 07896281679

MinisterRANE@gov.scot<mailto:MinisterRANE@gov.scot>

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From: Gougeon M (Mairi), MSP < Mairi. Gougeon.msp@parliament.scot>

Sent: 23 March 2019 12:13

To: Minister for Rural Affairs and the Natural Environment

<MinisterRANE@gov.scot>

Subject: Fwd: Fox Control with Dogs

Begin forwarded message:

From:

Date: 23 March 2019 at 11:15:56 GMT

<mairi.gougeon.msp@parliament.scot<mailto:mairi.gougeon.msp@parliament.scot>>

Subject: Fox Control with Dogs

Please see attached letter.

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23rd March 2019

Dear Mrs Gougeon

I am writing to register my concern and disappointment with the recent announcement concerning fox control with dogs.

The Scottish Government spent a great deal of time and presumably money commissioning a report by Lord Bonomy. Whilst some of his recommendations have been supported, it would seem that his most important one has been dismissed. It has been proposed that the number of hounds should be limited to 2 for mounted packs, in contradiction of Bonomy's recommendations and indeed in contradiction of the only published science by 'Naylor and Knott', who conclude that reducing the pack to two hounds compromises the fox's welfare by increasing the time of the search and flush by as much as five times as long as a full pack.

Even worse, the proposal is that packs of hounds to carry out fox control will attract licences in the 'Uplands', but no-where else. Prejudice seems to play a big part in the government's approach. What is the difference between carrying out fox control with a pack of hounds in the Lowlands and carrying out the same fox control activities in the Uplands/Highlands? The need for fox control is as important in the south and central Scotland as it is anywhere else. This approach is totally illogical. Farmer Mr Edgar gave evidence under oath in the "Buccleuch case" that he loses upwards of one hundred lambs per year to foxes. Is this acceptable? Fox control by packs of hounds is effective and this is evidenced by the support of landowners and farmers requesting/permitting our services.

Horses are an important focus for both Fife, where we live and the Border community, where we spend a lot of our time in the winter months. The equestrian culture, which includes racing, eventing, common riding, pony clubs and riding clubs is deeply embedded in both Fife and Borders culture. The hunting community is an integral part of this. By way of example, nurses, teachers, business men and women, pensioners, farmers, undertakers, plumbers, builders, gardeners and electricians are among those that follow hunting in both Fife and the Borders. These are wide ranging, hardworking individuals who enjoy being with friends who have similar horsey interests and who enjoy the social interaction. As importantly, many small businesses are supported by the hunting community, amongst others, farriers, feed merchants, vets and fox control staff.

It seems to me that banning fox control with a pack of hounds in central and south of Scotland and allowing it in the 'Uplands' smacks wholly of prejudice. It is totally illogical. Those of us who ride horses in both Fife and the Borders are very angry, disillusioned and feel disenfranchised. I would urge you to support us.

Yours sincerely



Sent:

25 March 2019 12:48:59 Public Engagement Unit

To: Cc:

Minister for Rural Affairs and the Natural Environment

Subject:

FW: SNP Fox Control Bill

For MACCS MR please allocate to



Minister for Rural Affairs and the Natural Environment

0131 244 4426 07896281679

MinisterRANE@gov.scot<mailto:MinisterRANE@gov.scot>

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From: Cunningham R (Roseanna), MSP

<Roseanna.Cunningham.msp@parliament.scot>

Sent: 23 March 2019 15:20

To: Minister for Rural Affairs and the Natural Environment

<MinisterRANE@gov.scot>

Subject: Fwd: SNP Fox Control Bill

Sent from my iPad

Begin forwarded message:

From

Date: 23 March 2019 at 13:10:32 GMT

To:

"Roseanna.Cunningham.msp@parliament.scot<mailto:Roseanna.Cunningham.msp@ parliament.scot>"

<Roseanna.Cunningham.msp@parliament.scot<mailto:Roseanna.Cunningham.msp@</p>

parliament.scot>>

Subject: FW: SNP Fox Control Bill

Dear Ms. Cunningham,

I am writing to register my concern and disappointment with the recent announcement concerning fox control with dogs.

The Scottish Government spent a great deal of time and presumably money commissioning a report by Lord Bonomy. While some of his recommendations have been supported, it would seem that his most important one has been dismissed. It has been proposed that the number of hounds should be limited to 2 for mounted packs, in contradiction of Bonomy?s recommendations and indeed in contradiction of the only published science by ?Naylor and Knott? who conclude that reducing the pack to two hounds compromises the fox?s welfare by increasing the time of the search and flush

by as much as five times as long as a full pack.

Even worse, the proposal is that packs of hounds to carry out fox control will attract licences in the ?Uplands?, but no-where else. Prejudice seems to play a big part in the government?s approach. What is the difference between carrying out fox control with a pack of hounds in the Lowlands and carrying out the same fox control activities in the Uplands / Highlands? The need for fox control is as important in the south of Scotland as it is anywhere else. This approach is totally illogical. Farmer Mr Edgar gave evidence under oath in the "Buccleuch case" that he loses upwards of one hundred lambs per year. Is this acceptable? Fox control by packs of hounds is effective and this is evidenced by the support of landowners and farmers in requesting / permitting our services.

As I understand it, there were nearly 19,000 responses to the consultation, of which 18,497 (98%) were from 5 online campaigns where the respondents could not be identified, and who probably did not even live in Scotland. 290 (2%) were substantive replies and 298 and 25 organisation?s had the courage and decency to

supply their names and addresses. Is this really democracy at work?

In addition, stakeholders including the mounted packs, the League against Cruel Sports, the SSPCA and others worked together for a year to produce a mutually agreed code of practice. It would seem this work has been dismissed out of hand. Horses are an important focus for the Border community, as could be seen at the New Year Meet in Hawick in 2019, which over 1,000 members of the public attended. The equestrian culture, which includes racing, eventing, common riding and riding clubs, is deeply embedded in Borders culture. The hunting community is an integral part of this. By way of example, nurses, teachers, business men and women, pensioners, farmers, undertakers, plumbers, builders and electricians are among those that follow the Buccleuch Hunt. These are wide ranging, hardworking folk who enjoy being with friends who have similar horsey interests and who enjoy the social interaction. As importantly, the Borders has fragile employment opportunities: amongst others, farriers, feed merchants, vets, and fox control staff will suffer, with many likely to lose their jobs.

It seems to me that banning fox control with a pack of hounds in the south of Scotland and allowing it in the ?Uplands? smacks wholly of prejudice. It is totally illogical. Those of us who ride horses in the Borders are angry, disillusioned and feel

disenfranchised. I would urge you to support us.

Yours sincerely



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26 March 2019 08:30:35

Sent: To:

Public Engagement Unit

Cc:

Minister for Rural Affairs and the Natural Environment

Subject:

FW: Fox control bill

AO?

PEU

For MACCS please

Thanks

Minister for Rural Affairs and the Natural Environment 2N.08 St Andrew?s House | Regent Road | Edinburgh | EH1 3DG

? 0131 244 5596

MinisterRANE@gov.scot<mailto:MinisterRANE@gov.scot>

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From: Gougeon M (Mairi), MSP

<Mairi.Gougeon.msp@parliament.scot<mailto:Mairi.Gougeon.msp@parliament.scot

Kmail±å

From:

Sent: 25 March 2019 05:40

To: Minister for Rural Affairs and the Natural Environment <MinisterRANE@gov.scot<mailto:MinisterRANE@gov.scot>>

Subject: Fwd: Fox control bill

Begin forwarded message:

Date: 24 March 2019 at 23:40:59 GMT

To: Undisclosed recipients:; Subject: Fox control bill

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing as a primary healthcare practitioner who treats patients involved at all levels of fox control. I am quite clear that limiting the amount of hounds for mounted packs will destroy hunts in the Borders which employ a large number of people because hunting reaches people of all walks of life whether they are directly or indirectly involved.

My healthcare concern is directed at mental health. There is plenty of research that shows that both physical activity and socialising are important to mental health. If we stop people hunting(which will happen if this Fox Control Bill goes through) we would be stopping those connected with the hunt exercising and socialising within the Borders community. This would lead to an increased burden on the national health service as more time and money would need to be spent on improving their mental health through drugs and rehabilitation treatment. When you balance monetary costs of this implication it makes no sense, let alone the shame of letting people become mentally ill.

I am writing to register my concern and utter disappointment with the recent announcement concerning Fox Control with dogs.

Yours sincerely



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25 March 2019 12:48:43

Sent: To:

Public Engagement Unit

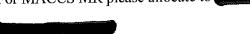
To:

Minister for Rural Affairs and the Natural Environment

Subject:

FW: SNP Fox Control Bill

For MACCS MR please allocate to



Minister for Rural Affairs and the Natural Environment

0131 244 4426 07896281679

MinisterRANE@gov.scot<mailto:MinisterRANE@gov.scot>

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From: Gougeon M (Mairi), MSP <Mairi.Gougeon.msp@parliament.scot>

Sent: 23 March 2019 13:47

To: Minister for Rural Affairs and the Natural Environment

<MinisterRANE@gov.scot>

Subject: Fwd: SNP Fox Control Bill

Begin forwarded message:

From:

Date: 23 March 2019 at 13:13:19 GMT

To

"Mairi.Gougeon.msp@parliament.scot<mailto:Mairi.Gougeon.msp@parliament.scot

Subject: FW: SNP Fox Control Bill

Dear Ms. Gougeon

I am writing to register my concern and disappointment with the recent announcement concerning fox control with dogs.

The Scottish Government spent a great deal of time and presumably money

commissioning a report by Lord Bonomy. While some of his recommendations have been supported, it would seem that his most important one has been dismissed. It has been proposed that the number of hounds should be limited to 2 for mounted packs, in contradiction of Bonomy?s recommendations and indeed in contradiction of the only published science by ?Naylor and Knott? who conclude that reducing the pack to two hounds compromises the fox?s welfare by increasing the time of the search and flush

by as much as five times as long as a full pack.

Even worse, the proposal is that packs of hounds to carry out fox control will attract licences in the ?Uplands?, but no-where else. Prejudice seems to play a big part in the government?s approach. What is the difference between carrying out fox control with a pack of hounds in the Lowlands and carrying out the same fox control activities in the Uplands / Highlands? The need for fox control is as important in the south of Scotland as it is anywhere else. This approach is totally illogical. Farmer Mr Edgar gave evidence under oath in the "Buccleuch case" that he loses upwards of one hundred lambs per year. Is this acceptable? Fox control by packs of hounds is effective and this is evidenced by the support of landowners and farmers in requesting / permitting our services.

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supply their names and addresses. Is this really democracy at work?

In addition, stakeholders including the mounted packs, the League against Cruel Sports, the SSPCA and others worked together for a year to produce a mutually agreed code of practice. It would seem this work has been dismissed out of hand. Horses are an important focus for the Border community, as could be seen at the New Year Meet in Hawick in 2019, which over 1,000 members of the public attended. The equestrian culture, which includes racing, eventing, common riding and riding clubs, is deeply embedded in Borders culture. The hunting community is an integral part of this. By way of example, nurses, teachers, business men and women, pensioners, farmers, undertakers, plumbers, builders and electricians are among those that follow the Buccleuch Hunt. These are wide ranging, hardworking folk who enjoy being with friends who have similar horsey interests and who enjoy the social interaction. As importantly, the Borders has fragile employment opportunities: amongst others, farriers, feed merchants, vets, and fox control staff will suffer, with many likely to lose their jobs.

It seems to me that banning fox control with a pack of hounds in the south of Scotland and allowing it in the ?Uplands? smacks wholly of prejudice. It is totally illogical. Those of us who ride horses in the Borders are angry, disillusioned and feel

disenfranchised. I would urge you to support us.

Yours sincerely

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Sent: To: 25 March 2019 12:48:18 Public Engagement Unit

Cc:

Minister for Rural Affairs and the Natural Environment

Subject:

FW: SNP Fox Control Bill

For MACCS MR please allocate to

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

0131 244 4426 07896281679

MinisterRANE@gov.scot<mailto:MinisterRANE@gov.scot>

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From: Cunningham R (Roseanna), MSP

<Roseanna.Cunningham.msp@parliament.scot>

Sent: 22 March 2019 18:15

To: Minister for Rural Affairs and the Natural Environment

<MinisterRANE@gov.scot>

Subject: Fwd: SNP Fox Control Bill

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From

Kmailte

Date: 22 March 2019 at 17:40:36 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: SNP Fox Control Bill

Dear Roseanna

I am writing to register my concern and disappointment with the recent announcement

concerning fox control with dogs.

The Scottish Government spent a great deal of time and presumably money commissioning a report by Lord Bonomy. While some of his recommendations have been supported, it would seem that his most important one has been dismissed. It has been proposed that the number of hounds should be limited to 2 for mounted packs, in contradiction of Bonomy?s recommendations and indeed in contradiction of the only published science by ?Naylor and Knott? who conclude that reducing the pack to two hounds compromises the fox?s welfare by increasing the time of the search and flush

by as much as five times as long as a full pack.

Even worse, the proposal is that packs of hounds to carry out fox control will attract licences in the ?Uplands?, but no-where else. Prejudice seems to play a big part in the government?s approach. What is the difference between carrying out fox control with a pack of hounds in the Lowlands and carrying out the same fox control activities in the Uplands / Highlands? The need for fox control is as important in the south of Scotland as it is anywhere else. This approach is totally illogical. Farmer Mr Edgar gave evidence under oath in the "Buccleuch case" that he loses upwards of one hundred lambs per year. Is this acceptable? Fox control by packs of hounds is effective and this is evidenced by the support of landowners and farmers in requesting / permitting our services.

As I understand it, there were nearly 19,000 responses to the consultation, of which 18,497 (98%) were from 5 online campaigns where the respondents could not be identified, and who probably did not even live in Scotland. 290 (2%) were substantive replies and 298 and 25 organisation?s had the courage and decency to supply their names and addresses. Is this really democracy at work? In addition, stakeholders including the mounted packs, the League against Cruel Sports, the SSPCA and others worked together for a year to produce a mutually agreed code of practice. It would seem this work has been dismissed out of hand. Horses are an important focus for the Border community, as could be seen at the New Year Meet in Hawick in 2019, which over 1,000 members of the public attended. The equestrian culture, which includes racing, eventing, common riding and riding clubs, is deeply embedded in Borders culture. The hunting community is an integral part of this. By way of example, nurses, teachers, business men and women, pensioners, farmers, undertakers, plumbers, builders and electricians are among those that follow. These are wide ranging, hardworking folk who enjoy being with friends who have similar horsey interests and who enjoy the social interaction. As importantly, the Borders has fragile employment opportunities: amongst others, farriers, feed merchants, vets, and fox control staff will suffer, with many likely to lose their jobs. It seems to me that banning fox control with a pack of hounds in the south of Scotland and allowing it in the ?Uplands? smacks wholly of prejudice. It is totally illogical. I

Yours sincerely

would urge you to support us.

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25 March 2019 12:48:34

Sent: To:

Public Engagement Unit

Cc:

Minister for Rural Affairs and the Natural Environment

Subject:

FW: SNP Fox Control Bill

For MACCS MR please allocate to



Minister for Rural Affairs and the Natural Environment

0131 244 4426 07896281679

MinisterRANE@gov.scot<mailto:MinisterRANE@gov.scot>

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From: Gougeon M (Mairi), MSP <Mairi.Gougeon.msp@parliament.scot>

Sent: 23 March 2019 00:35

To: Minister for Rural Affairs and the Natural Environment

<MinisterRANE@gov.scot>

Subject: Fwd: SNP Fox Control Bill

Begin forwarded message:

From

Kmailtɗ

Date: 22 March 2019 at 17:42:26 GMT

"Mairi.Gougeon.msp@parliament.scot<mailto:Mairi.Gougeon.msp@parliament.scot

<Mairi.Gougeon.msp@parliament.scot<mailto:Mairi.Gougeon.msp@parliament.scot

Subject: SNP Fox Control Bill

Dear Mairi,

I am writing to register my concern and disappointment with the recent

announcement concerning fox control with dogs.

The Scottish Government spent a great deal of time and presumably money commissioning a report by Lord Bonomy. While some of his recommendations have been supported, it would seem that his most important one has been dismissed. It has been proposed that the number of hounds should be limited to 2 for mounted packs, in contradiction of Bonomy?s recommendations and indeed in contradiction of the only published science by ?Naylor and Knott? who conclude that reducing the pack to two hounds compromises the fox?s welfare by increasing the time of the search and flush by as much as five times as long as a full pack.

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Yours sincerel

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

11 September 2017

14 SEP 2017 Received

Dear Roseanna,

Like many others concerned about animal welfare and the operation of the Protection of Wild Mammals (Scotland) Act 2002, I welcomed the announcement in the recent Programme for Government that Lord Bonomy's recommendations to strengthen the law on foxhunting are to be progressed.

I also welcomed the earlier news that the Scottish Government is to undertake a wider consultation on strengthening the Act.

This consultation offers an excellent opportunity to fully explore the many issues surrounding the operation of the Act - and to ensure that the hunting of foxes with dogs is really banned, as was intended in 2002.

There is considerable evidence in Lord Bonomy's report that mounted hunts are using the flushing to guns exemption to illegally hunt foxes with dogs in the traditional manner. Most significantly, post control on mounted hunts is described as 'incidental' to the primary aim of the exercise of horses and hounds, and the number of guns deployed on mounted hunts is acknowledged as being inadequate to ensure that a flushed fox can be shot.

Alongside this is the acknowledged difficulty "of proving an allegation of illegal hunting when a hunt operates over a wide area, and in particular identifying the huntsman and his control of the pack as —deliberately hunting a wild mammal with the pack" – together with Police Scotland's submission that "exceptions to the



offence to 'deliberately hunt a wild mammal with a dog' are multiple and provide opportunities for exploitation by those who continually and deliberately offend."

As such, whilst Lord Bonomy's recommendations would go some way towards strengthening the legislation and are to be welcomed, they would not prevent determined individuals and groups from continuing to use the flushing to guns exemption as a decoy for the illegal hunting of foxes with dogs. Rather, it would continue to be the case that whenever a mounted hunt takes out a full pack of hounds, there would be always be the possibility of illegal hunting in the traditional manner – and that it would remain very difficult to prosecute.

I appreciate that the Scottish Government is committed to ensuring the highest levels of animal welfare and is ambitious for Scotland to lead the way in this area.

Given all of the above, in order to ensure that hunting with dogs is really banned in Scotland, I would urge the Scotlish Government during consultation to give due consideration to the case for an outright ban on mounted hunting with dogs – by removing the flushing to guns exemption for mounted hunts.

I would also call for limiting the number of dogs allowed to be used in any exemption to two, as is currently the case in England and Wales under the stricter Hunting Act 2004 — the weakening of which is strongly opposed by the SNP at Westminster.

I believe that this would be consistent with both the aims of the Act and the remit of the Bonomy Review: to provide sufficient level of protection for wild mammals, while at the same time allowing effective and humane control of wild mammals.

Thank you for your consideration.

I look forward to hearing back from you.

Kind regards,

Ruth Maguire MSP

Cunninghame South (SNP)

14 Eglinton Street, Irvine KA12 8AS Tel: 01294 276730 rulli moguire msp@portloment.scol

25 June 2018 15:16:28

Sent: To:

Public Engagement Unit

Cc:

Cabinet Secretary for the Environment, Climate Change and Land

Reform

Subject:

FW: Lord Bonomy Review re foxhunting

Attachments: 20180625151120304.pdf

HI.

One for MACCS please.

Kind regards,

J- Roseanna Cunningham MSP, Cabinet Secretary for Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform - 2N.08, St Andrews House, Regent Road, Edinburgh, EH1 3DG - 0131 244 5337, CabsecECCLR@gov.scot<mailto:CabsecECCLR@gov.scot>

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From:

[mailtd

Sent: 25 June 2018 15:12

To: Cabinet Secretary for the Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform Subject: Lord Bonomy Review re foxhunting

Dear Cab Sec

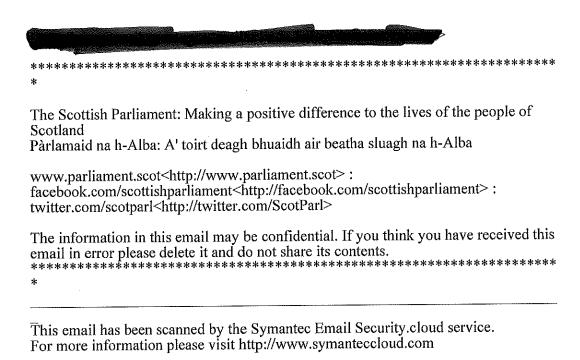
Lord Bonomy Review re Foxhunting

Please find attached a letter which was sent to Aileen Campbell MSP regarding the above and offers some points of view on the subject, prior to the Scottish Parliament's decision on the outcome of the review.

Kind regards

Aileen Campbell MSP

Kirkton Chambers 12 Kirkton Street Carluke ML8 4AB 01555 750249





Mr A compute MSP

Holywood Gambrigh 20.6.18.

LORD BONOMY REVIEW RE FOXHUNTING

Mr Composell Dear

Soon, I am told, the Scottish Parliament will decide on the outcome of the recent review into the use of foxhounds in Scotland, and I wish to make some points as to the value of foxhounds in vermin control.

The Act allows for the use of foxhounds to drive foxes from cover to be shot by standing guns in the attempt at reducing their numbers so that game interests, wild birds and also lambs in sheep farming might stand a chance of remaining less affected by fox predation. This is a practice we have undertaken all these years without any problem with anyone save the recent interference by Hunt Sabs and LACS.

These bodies have little balanced input into our country practices save the wish to ban them. They have made themselves very vocal in Holyrood in recent times. What they will never acknowledge is the important role that shooting fishing and hunting play in supporting life in the country in economic ways and in social cohesion and community enhancement that they encourage. Hunts like the Berwickshire provide all sorts of extra activities for local people such as Horse trials. Point to point racing, Quiz nights. Lunches. Balls. Dinners, Stewarding horse classes at local Agricultural shows etc. We also run a deadstock disposal service for farmers and horse owners.

Rural areas can and are often very fragile indeed and in my view the Government should encourage each of these activities as a means of encouraging people to live and work and thrive in rural areas.

I mentioned lamb predation. We have just emerged from appalling late winter storms when sheep farmers had shocking losses of lambs from the ravages of the Beast from the East. Fox predation is another enemy and I know our farmers in Berwickshire value the fox control the Hunt does for them.

So, I sincerely hope that MSPs will refrain from making life more difficult for the use of foxhounds under the current law, and whilst I would like to return to the old order because it was actually more humane. I realise that is unlikely ever to happen even although it was a better system of 'management' of fox populations than the current model.

I am more than happy to discuss this letter and its contents should you wish to contact me.

Yours sincerely



Sent:

30 July 2018 13:40:02

To:

Public Engagement Unit

Cc:

Cabinet Secretary for the Environment, Climate Change and Land

Reform

Subject:

'W₁ ACH/MM/2771

Hi.

One for MACCS please.

Kind Regards,



- Roseanna Cunningham MSP, Cabinet Secretary for Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform - 2N.08, St Andrews House, Regent Road, Edinburgh, EH1 3DG - 0131 244 5337, CabsecECCLR@gov.scot<mailto:CabsecECCLR@gov.scot>

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From: Cole-Hamilton A (Alex), MSP [mailto:Alex.Cole-

Hamilton.msp@parliament.scot]

Sent: 30 July 2018 12:58

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

Subject: obo Douglas Chalmers ACH/MM/2771

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

30/07/18

Our ref: ACH/MM/2771/Chalmers

Dear Roseanna,

Lam writing to you on behalf of a constituent:

has got in touch with me over concerns that there is not enough enforcement when it comes to making sure that hunting clubs are following the law on fox hunting. Whils

has affirmed that Scottish hunting clubs have, since 2002, only acted as a pest control amongst other things, has seen several pieces of footage which would perhaps suggest otherwise. Footage taken by hunt saboteurs has shown foxes being hunted by dogs and nothing being done to stop it. Although sees it as more humane than being killed by hounds.

I am writing to you to see if you are able to address concerns and would be grateful if you could do so. I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours Sincerely,

Alex

Alex Cole-Hamilton
Member of the Scottish Parliament for Edinburgh Western Constituency
The Scottish Parliament | Edinburgh | EH99 1SP and 151 St John's Road I Edinburgh
I EH12 7SD
alex.cole-hamilton.msp@parliament.scot<mailto:alex.colehamilton.msp@parliament.scot>

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10 December 2018 11:20:31

Sent: To:

Public Engagement Unit

Cc:

Cabinet Secretary for the Environment, Climate Change and Land

Reform

Subject: FW: The Future of Fox Hunting in Scotland



Hi,

One for MACCS please.

Kind Regards,



From: Cole-Hamilton A (Alex), MSP < Alex. Cole-

Hamilton.msp@parliament.scot<mailto:Alex.Cole-Hamilton.msp@parliament.scot>>

Sent: 07 December 2018 17:02

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

<CabSecECCLR@gov.scot<mailto:CabSecECCLR@gov.scot>>

Subject: Re: The Future of Fox Hunting in Scotland

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

07/12/18

Our ref: ACH/MM/Foxhunting/Cunningham

Dear Roseanna,

I am writing to you on behalf of a number of constituents who have got in touch with me in regards to the Scottish Government consultation of Wild Mammals in relation to Fox Hunting.

Many of them have expressed dismay at the fact that, despite the consultation closing in January, no decision about improving the law has been reached. I am writing to you to ask if there is any clarification of plans to release the response to the consultation and if it could be explained to my constituents why there has been such a delay.

I look forward to hearing from you and would be grateful if you could take my constituents concerns into consideration.

Best,

Alex

Alex Cole-Hamilton Member of the Scottish Parliament for Edinburgh Western Constituency The Scottish Parliament | Edinburgh | EH99 1SP and 151 St John's Road I Edinburgh I EH12 7SD alex.cole-hamilton.msp@parliament.scot<mailto:alex.cole-hamilton.msp@parliament.scot>

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25 February 2019 10:10:25

Sent: To:

Public Engagement Unit

Cc:

Minister for Rural Affairs and the Natural Environment, Greenan R

(Rebecca)

Subject:

FW: Fox Control in Scotland

AO?

PEU

For MACCS please

Thanks

Minister for Rural Affairs and the Natural Environment 2N.08 St Andrew?s House | Regent Road | Edinburgh | EH1 3DG

? 0131 244 5596 MinisterRANE@gov.scot<mailto:MinisterRANE@gov.scot>

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Date: 22 February 2019 at 19:38:04 GMT

To:

<Mairi.Gougeon.msp@parliament.scot<mailto:Mairi.Gougeon.msp@parliament.scot

Subject: Fox Control in Scotland

Reply-To:

(mail(

Dear Ms Gougeon

I am writing to you in response to the SNP?s announcement to change current legislation for fox control in Lowland Scotland. As someone who has followed the Buccleuch Foxhounds for 40 years with my grandparents, parents and now with my own family I am here to fight for a way of life, an important contribution to the

countryside, the Borders, farmers and a way of life.

First of all we have to ask why there is a prejudice on Lowland Scotland, I am sure is this because there is a narrow minded view that horse ownership/riding is seen as elitist and a ?rich man?s hobby? which anyone knows could not be further from the truth as nurses, pensioners, farmers, undertakers, plumbers, builders and electricians are among those that follow the In fact as Lord Bonomy recognised, horses are an important focus for the Border community, not only for hunting but point to pointing, common riding and as a tourism pull. The hunting community is an integral part of equine activity, illustrated at New Year Meets all over the area including in Hawick in 2019, which over 1,000 members of the public attended. In addition and very importantly, the Borders has fragile employment opportunities: amongst others, farriers, feed merchants, leather repairs, vets, and fox control staff will suffer, with many likely to lose their jobs.

Pest control is as important in lowland Scotland - Farmer Mr Edgar gave evidence under oath in the "Buccleuch case" that he loses upwards of one hundred lambs per year. Is this acceptable? Fox control by packs of hounds is effective and this is evidenced by the support of landowners and farmers in requesting and allowing this to happen, again the prejudice angle springs to mind.

I wonder why the SNP disrespect Lord Bonomy?s work and recommendations with this change of heart. 98% of the Government consultation was generated by five online campaigns from unidentifiable respondents, 2% were substantive responses, responsible enough to supply their names and addresses. Can the outcome of a consultation which accepts the views of unidentifiable respondents over that of identifiable members of Scottish society be accepted in representing the democratic voice of Scotland? In compliance with Lord Bonomy's recommendations, the hunting community have worked for over a year with a range of stakeholders including the League Against Cruel Sports, Onekind and the SSPCA to produce the Code of Practice for Mounted Foxhounds. It would seem that all of that good work has been dismissed out of hand as is the published science relating to flushing to hounds (Naylor and Knott) which was also was recognised by Lord Bonomy that reducing the pack to two hounds compromises the fox?s welfare by increasing the time of the search and flush by as much as five times as long as a full pack.

There are those who love to shop at weekends, those who spend their money on holidays or fast cars, those who love watching football (masked hooligans are abhorred on the football field but seem to be accepted by town folk on the hunting field for some reason). We choose to embrace the countryside by following hounds. I would love to know what the SNP plan to do with the hounds and horses which no longer have a job to do. Do not underestimate the passion of country folk, this prejudice is unfair and I implore you to look at the facts and not support this proposed legislative change for Lowland Scotland.

Thank you for taking the time to read this



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From: Sent:

07 November 2018 14:06:36

To: Subject: Scottish Ministers Fox Hunting



Good afternoon,

I have received a number of emails from constituents seeking clarity on the issue of fox hunting. At the end of 2017, there was a Scottish Government consultation on improving the welfare of wild mammals in relation to fox hunting. I believe almost 20,000 people took part in this and that 98% of respondents thought that the Protection of Wild Mammals (Scotland) Act 2002 needed strengthened. Can I ask what action is being taken on fox hunting following this consultation report?

Thanks for your time.

Kind regards,

Tom Mason MSP

Member of the Scottish Parliament North East Scotland Region Scottish Conservative and Unionist 80 Rosemount Place, Aberdeen, AB25 2XN

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GILL FURNISS MP

Shirecliffe Community Centre 349 Shirecliffe Road Sheffield S5 8XJ

Mairi Gougeon MSP
Minister for Rural Affairs and Natural Environment
Scottish Government
St. Andrew's House
Regent Road
Edinburgh
Scotland
EH1 3DG

2 6 OCT 2018

20 001 7 3

Our Ref: GF7855

23 October 2018

Dear Mairi Gougeon

I am writing on behalf of a number of my constituents, who have contacted me to express their concerns about fox hunting in Scotland. I enclose a sample of their correspondence for your information.

They ask about the Scottish Government consultation on improving the welfare of wild mammals, and what the Scottish Government plans to do to improve the law on fox hunting.

I would appreciate it if you could look into this matter for me, and address the concerns they raise.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely

Gill Furniss MP

Sheffield Brightside and Hillsborough

Constituency Office Telephone: 0114 234 9079 Email: gill.furniss.mp@parliament.uk Dear Ms Furniss,

At the end of 2017 I was one of almost 20,000 people who took part in a Scottish Government consultation on improving the welfare of wild mammals in relation to fox hunting. Of those who responded, 98% agree with me that the Protection of Wild Mammals (Scotland) Act 2002 needs to be strengthened to really ban hunting in Scotland.

I am disappointed that over eight months after the consultation closed, the Scottish Government has failed to reach a decision on what it plans to do to improve the law. In just a couple of weeks the full hunting season will get underway. This is the fourth season since Lord Bonomy was commissioned to report on the workings of the law and nothing has changed. I think the time has come for the Scottish Government to be accountable to everyone who gave their views through the consultation and act to improve the law.

As my MSP, please can you write to the Scottish Government, asking for clarification on what it intends to do to improve the law and why it has taken so long to reach a decision. I believe the Scottish Government should make public its intentions before the hunting season gets underway next month.

As someone who opposes animal cruelty I am saddened that once again hunts will be out in Scotland chasing and killing foxes for sport. I look forward to hearing back from you about the Scottish Government's position, and I hope I can rely on your support to help stop animals suffering as a result of this outdated tradition.

Yours sincerely

Sent: To:

06 March 2019 11:19:01 Public Engagement Unit

Cc:

Minister for Rural Affairs and the Natural Environment

Subject:

FW: Fox control



For MACCs OR please.

Thanks



Minister for Rural Affairs and the Natural Environment

0131 244 4426

MinisterRANE@gov.scot<mailto:MinisterRANE@gov.scot>

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From: Gougeon M (Mairi), MSP

Mairi.Gougeon.msp@parliament.scot

>>

Sent: 04 March 2019 20:47

To: Minister for Rural Affairs and the Natural Environment <MinisterRANE@gov.scot<mailto:MinisterRANE@gov.scot>>

Subject: Fwd: Fox control

Begin forwarded message:

From: Smailto: Smailto: Date: 4 March 2019 at 18:29:59 GMT

To: "Mairi.Gougeon.msp@parliament.scot<mailto:Mairi.Gougeon.msp@parliament.scot

<Mairi.Gougeon.msp@parliament.scot<mailto:Mairi.Gougeon.msp@parliament.scot</p>

Subject: Fwd: Fox control

From: <maile

Date: 4 March 2019 at 18:23:10 GMT

To:

Subject: Fox control Dear Mairi Gougeon,

I am extremely upset that Fox Control with Hounds is again in the firing line. There was a considerable amount of time, work and money spent on Lord Bonomy's report the findings and outcome of which deserves more respect from the Scottish Government. It is not acceptable, Scottish Packs of Hounds went to considerable trouble to Produce a Code of Practise for Mounted Foxhounds. Working with various other organisations to produce a document acceptable to all, time and money wasted yet again for everyone. The good work that was done seems to be to no avail. The suggestion that we reduce a pack to two Hounds is 'ridiculously 'Hounds help each other to flush a Fox, and they bring different qualities to the 'team' to do this. Not every hound will kill a Fox, so there for it would get away wounded and die a

slow painful death.

The Borders have a large Equestrian culture which includes racing, Eventing, common Riding, Pony Club all of which has a Hunting community within it, and are members Hunt in the winter and compete at one or another horse related sports in the summer. We have a cross section of people that hunt with us, plumbers, builders, undertakers, blacksmiths, vets, electricians, farmers, pensioners, business men and women, all of which are hardworking Border Folk, who enjoy riding over our wonderful countryside that they would not have access to if they did not follow the Hounds. Why do we get picked on for wanting to ride across the beautiful hills with our friends and people that go and watch a Rugby Match in Melrose don't. Why are racist remarks not acceptable at a Football Match but we have to put up with it? I came to Scotland some thirty years ago because of my husbands job, he hunted the

which kept the two of us employed for 25yrs plus 2 others in full time employment. This is a way of life for many Border folk who have seen the damage a Fox can do to lambs at lambing many farmers looseing over 100 to foxes every year, this is not acceptable. Hens slaughtered and left in the hen run, foxes think this is a game ,not acceptable . Fox in a release pen killing pheasant poults not acceptable. Fox control with Hounds has a very important role in the countryside to help stop the distruction that the fox can do.

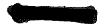
Most of the time people think you have to be rich to hunt, may be it was true years ago but not now it is very welcoming to people all across the board and is comparable with most activities that people take part in . Don't make it impossible for future

generations to experience what is part of our Border Life.

I cannot believe the 'stupid' amount of money that has been spent on trying to ban this , when there are homeless, starving people in our cities, child abuse, people waiting for operations etc.

The money used to try and stop something that is doing a controlled service for the countryside could be used to improve, education the health service, housing and better working conditions for Border people.

The Government think that if they introduce a ban that the fox would be safe, this is far from true it will be targeted by trigger happy people that will just shoot at it for the sake of it, to crawl away injured and die a slow painful death is far more cruel than ' fox control'.



Sent from my iPad.

Sent from my iPad.

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http://twitter.com/ScotParl>

Minister for Rural Affairs and the Natural Environment

Sent: To: 10 March 2019 12:03:59 Public Engagement Unit

Cc:

Minister for Rural Affairs and the Natural Environment

Subject:

Fw: Note from Valerie Wells to your Facebook Page Mairi Gougeon

MSP

AO -

For MACCs MR please



Minister for Rural Affairs and the Natural Environment

0131 244 4426 07896281679

MinisterRANE@gov.scot<mailto:MinisterRANE@gov.scot>

From: Gougeon M (Mairi), MSP

Mairi.Gougeon.msp@parliament.scot<mailto:Mairi.Gougeon.msp@parliament.scot</p>

>>

Sent: Saturday, 9 March 2019 22:25

To: Minister for Rural Affairs and the Natural Environment

Subject: Fwd: Note from Valerie Wells to your Facebook Page Mairi Gougeon MSP

Begin forwarded message:

From:

Date: 9 March 2019 at 20:46:31 GMT

To: "Gougeon M (Mairi), MSP"

Mairi.Gougeon.msp@parliament.scot<mailto:Mairi.Gougeon.msp@parliament.scot</p>

Subject: Note from Valerie Wells to your Facebook Page Mairi Gougeon MSP

Dear Ms Gougeon, MSP,

I was appalled to read a Facebook page today about the and a video of hideous ripping apart of a fox by the hounds whilst the Hunt members stood watching. Such barbaric acts of violence, which seem to happen under the eyes of the law, yet blatantly illegal and in breach of the Hunting Act 2004. When is the barbaric primitive ritual going to be outlawed?

The Hunts have no place in today's modern civilised society.

I would like your comments please.

Kind regards

[cid:3b02e3c2-60f5-4b3c-a3d4-35bf4b1dd7c7@eurprd01.prod.exchangelabs.com]

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_

Ms M. Gongeon, MSP, The Scottish Panhement, Edinbrych, EH99 15PECEWED



25 February 2019

Dear Ms Gongeon,

Hunting with a pack of Foxhounds

Government announced that it wishes to limit the number of fox hounds, used to flush a fox to gens, to two.

This directly Contradicts the Government's own Independent never by Lord Borromy. This will Senously Compromise effective pers controls which is so tradly needed to protect our brautiful rural areas or especially needed by Sheep formers or others. Farmers need all the Support they can get. Mounted packs do comply with Lord Borromy's neconmendations it obey a working Code of practice. This Code was produced in Conjunction with the League Against Comel Sports of the SSPCA, thenting is open for all to see it thinks always Share information with the Posice of reeded. The Police are always aware of when the Mers are being held. If this hing of toxics with a face its Mers are being held. If this hing of toxics lists a face in the work of toxics with a face in the second of the Market of the second of the Market is a horrible death.

Formers its mell holders need toxics to be confielled.

Two hounds only could not fush forces from large Woods & gorse banks that are on Scothish hills, efficiently where as a pack can do a thorough Jor & guide the fox to the Warring guns. It could meen that farmers have to waste Time with fox controls.

A ban could affect rural communities in Many For direct & Indurect Ways & Cause Considerable unemployment amongst grooms, blacks miths, feed Suppliers & Vets etc. ctc. This is not needed in these defficient times. The Country side badly needs to be cared for & Supported to Keep it as We Wish to See it.

Having analyd of Presumably Paid to an Independent Review by Lord Bonomy, I does seem extraordinary ther the Government does not like the onthome our now wholes to draw up new legislation, Contrary to The Review. It really appears just to be towing to those who Protest about hunting. Profestors probably Lave very little knowledge of the background of the Review or also how the Conntryside works.

Conntryside Works of can cause many problems in the future. The welfare of the box is emportant

to us au.

This new legislation delwas no Welfare benefit atau. So what is the point of it?

Lord Bonony did recognise the Value of Packs of toxhounds thushing toxes to guns, to be good fox Controle.

I disagree with the Suggested nawleg is lation of hope you will consider my Views & there is a vove

yours Sincerely,

Sent: 11 March 2019 13:36:12

To:

Public Engagement Unit

Cc:

Cabinet Secretary for the Environment, Climate Change and Land

Reform Subject:

FW: People Support The Fox Hunting Ban

AO ?

Hi

One for MACCS please, as an MR.

(NB? the correspondent has sent the email to the Cab Sec?s parliament email account. Not clear if the correspondent is a constituent of the Cab Sec.)

Regards

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

St. Andrews House
EDINBURGH
EH1 3DG
0131 244 3443
cabsececclr@gov.scot<mailto:cabsececclr@gov.scot>

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[SG master logo colour CMYK]

From: Cunningham R (Roseanna), MSP

<Roseanna.Cunningham.msp@parliament.scot<mailto:Roseanna.Cunningham.msp@</p>

parliament.scot>>

Sent: 11 March 2019 07:05

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

<CabSecECCLR@gov.scot<mailto:CabSecECCLR@gov.scot>>

Subject: Fwd: People Support The Fox Hunting Ban

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From:

≪mailto:

Date: 10 March 2019 at 22:18:08 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: People Support The Fox Hunting Ban

Dear MSP Roseanna Cunningham,

I was horrified to see footage of a mother fox's body being torn apart by hounds taken on 9th March 2019, the footage can be found here:

Whether the kill itself was legal or not the vast majority of people want to see this sick bloodsport being completely banned. The current legislation is essentially useless, and has been described by Police Scotland as "unworkable".

The proposed changes to legislation will still have several loopholes that will allow these to continue to recklessly kill our precious wildlife for pleasure. We need a complete and absolute ban on hunting with hounds, NO loopholes. In order to prevent the 'trail hunting' lie that has become prevalent in England there would need to be some sort of recklessness clause, where if one takes a pack of hounds into the countryside and the hounds kill an animal then that person is responsible whether or not intent was there. This would prevent people purposely hunting with a pack of dogs, then pretending it was an accident when they are caught.

I hope I can count on you to speak up on behalf of our wildlife.

I?d like to hear your position on this issue,

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*

11 March 2019 12:55:12

Sent: To:

Public Engagement Unit

Cc:

Cabinet Secretary for Health and Sport

Subject:

FW: Fox Control Bill

AO -

PEU

Please could you scan this on to MACCS as an MR.

Thanks

Ministerial Private Office (Health) St Andrew's House

Edinburgh

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From:

≺mailto: O

Behalf Of Freeman J (Jeane), MSP

Sent: 11 March 2019 12:25

To: Cabinet Secretary for Health and Sport

<CabSecHS@gov.scot<mailto:CabSecHS@gov.scot>>

Cc: Freeman J (Jeane), MSP

<Jeane.Freeman.msp@parliament.scot<mailto:Jeane.Freeman.msp@parliament.scot>

>; Hamilton T (Tracy)

<mailto:</pre>

Subject: FW: Fox Control Bill

Hi 💮

Please see email below for response.

Thanks,

Jeane Freeman MSP 46-48 Glaisnock Street, Cumnock, East Ayrshire, KA18 1BY

Constituency Office: 01290 425876 Parliamentary Office: 0131 348 6745

jeanefreeman.scot | @JeaneF1MSP | FB: Jeane Freeman MSP

Sent: 11 March 2019 12:21 To: Freeman J (Jeane), MSP

<Jeane.Freeman.msp@parliament.scot<mailto:Jeane.Freeman.msp@parliament.scot>

>

Subject: Fox Control Bill

Dear Cabinet Secretary

It has come to my attention that the Scottish Parliament is re looking into the bill on fox control with the intention of considering reducing the licenses for vermin control to only the 'Upland areas'. This makes little sense on the back of Lord Bonomy's report on behalf of the Government and what really strikes me is, what is the difference between carrying out fox control with a pack of hounds in the Lowlands and that of carrying out the same fox control activities in the Uplands/Highlands?

Sheep farmers in Lowland areas are just as vulnerable to the loss of lambs, and fox control by packs of hounds is effective and crucially important for the rural community, and this is evidenced by the support of landowners and farmers requesting/permitting their services.

I live in the Borders where horses are an important focus for the Border community, as could be seen at the New Year Meets across the area with the New Year's Meet in Hawick attracting over 1,000 members of the public. The equestrian culture, which includes racing, eventing, common riding and riding clubs, is deeply embedded in Borders culture. The hunting community is an integral part of this. By way of example, nurses, business men and women, pensioners, farmers, undertakers, plumbers, builders and electricians are among those that follow the Buccleuch Hunt. These are wide ranging, hardworking folk who enjoy being with friends who have similar horsey interests and who enjoy the social interaction. As importantly, the Borders has fragile employment opportunities; amongst others, farriers, feed merchants, vets, and fox control staff will suffer, with many likely to lose their jobs.

Can I urge the Minister and the Rural Affairs Committee to pay attention to the recommendations of Lord Bonomy's report, which support the continued existence of hunts in Scotland.

Yours sincerely

*

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*

11 March 2019 15:05:30

Sent: To:

Public Engagement Unit

Cc:

Minister for Rural Affairs and the Natural Environment, Greenan R

(Rebecca)

Subject:

FW: Fox Control Bill

AO?

For MACCs MR please

Thanks



Minister for Rural Affairs and the Natural Environment

0131 244 4426 07896281679

MinisterRANE@gov.scot<mailto:MinisterRANE@gov.scot>

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From: Gougeon M (Mairi), MSP

Mairi.Gougeon.msp@parliament.scot<mailto:Mairi.Gougeon.msp@parliament.scot</p>

Sent: 11 March 2019 15:04

To: Minister for Rural Affairs and the Natural Environment

<MinisterRANE@gov.scot</td>

<mailto:MinisterRANE@gov.scot</td>

Subject: Fwd: Fox Control Bill

Begin forwarded message:

From:

Date: 11 March 2019 at 12:22:36 GMT

To:

"Mairi.Gougeon.msp@parliament.scot<mailto:Mairi.Gougeon.msp@parliament.scot

<Mairi.Gougeon.msp@parliament.scot<mailto:Mairi.Gougeon.msp@parliament.scot</p>

Subject: Fox Control Bill Dear Minister Mairi Gougeon

It has come to my attention that the Scottish Parliament is re looking into the bill on fox control with the intention of considering reducing the licenses for vermin control to only the ?Upland areas?. This makes little sense on the back of Lord Bonomy?s report on behalf of the Government and what really strikes me is, what is the

difference between carrying out fox control with a pack of hounds in the Lowlands and that of carrying out the same fox control activities in the Uplands/Highlands?

Sheep farmers in Lowland areas are just as vulnerable to the loss of lambs, and fox control by packs of hounds is effective and crucially important for the rural community, and this is evidenced by the support of landowners and farmers requesting/permitting their services.

I live in the Borders where horses are an important focus for the Border community, as could be seen at the New Year Meets across the area with the New Year?s Meet in Hawick attracting over 1,000 members of the public. The equestrian culture, which includes racing, eventing, common riding and riding clubs, is deeply embedded in Borders culture. The hunting community is an integral part of this. By way of example, nurses, business men and women, pensioners, farmers, undertakers, plumbers, builders and electricians are among those that follow the Buccleuch Hunt. These are wide ranging, hardworking folk who enjoy being with friends who have similar horsey interests and who enjoy the social interaction. As importantly, the Borders has fragile employment opportunities; amongst others, farriers, feed merchants, vets, and fox control staff will suffer, with many likely to lose their jobs.

Can I urge the Minister and the Rural Affairs Committee to pay attention to the recommendations of Lord Bonomy?s report, which support the continued existence of hunts in Scotland.

Yours sincerely

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13 March 2019 08:39:24

Sent: To:

Public Engagement Unit

Cc:

Minister for Rural Affairs and the Natural Environment, Greenan R

(Rebecca)

Subject:

FW: Fife fox hunt shock videos

AO ?

For MACCs Mr please

Thanks

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

0131 244 4426

07896281679

MinisterRANE@gov.scot<mailto:MinisterRANE@gov.scot>

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From: Gougeon M (Mairi), MSP

<Mairi.Gougeon.msp@parliament.scot<mailto:Mairi.Gougeon.msp@parliament.scot</p>

>>

Sent: 13 March 2019 08:34

To: Minister for Rural Affairs and the Natural Environment <MinisterRANE@gov.scot</pre>mailto:MinisterRANE@gov.scot>>

Subject: Fwd: Fife fox hunt shock videos

Begin forwarded message:

From:

Date: 13 March 2019 at 00:09:18 GMT

To:

"Mairi.Gougeon.msp@parliament.scot<mailto:Mairi.Gougeon.msp@parliament.scot

<Mairi.Gougeon.msp@parliament.scot<mailto:Mairi.Gougeon.msp@parliament.scot</p>

Subject: fox hunt shock videos

Dear Mairi

I feel compelled to write and express my abosulte horror and disgust at the latest

sickening fox hunt videos and pictures that have surfaced on social media of late.

fox hunting group in particular have been involved in some of the most graphic and barbaric behaviour that has been shown throughout the country via social media to widespread condemnation by decent compassionate people.

This vile blood lust, laughably regarded as a sport, has had its time and should be consigned to history along with bear bating and dog fights.

Laws have to be put in place robust enough and easily policed as the law stands the perpetrators of this perverse travesty against common compassion continue with impunity.

This situation as I am sure you are aware is causing understandable outrage amongst normal citizens who believe this ?pass time? has no place in a civilised society.

These people even have the audacity to trail along their offspring to initiate them into this abomination. Are we to stand by as another generation of degenerates are indoctrinated?

Lastly there is no excuse scientifically on the grounds of fox population control by hunting in the traditional horse and hounds method as there are far more efficacious and humane methods available. Dogs should not be a legal method and should be banned and made an illegal act.

The analogy with hare coursing is in my opinion valid.

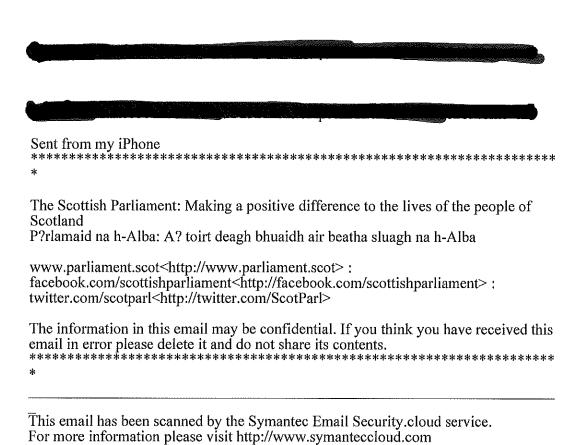
There is enough evidence of these individuals cruelty and perversity.

social media page warrants a look, but be warned it will shock!

I have inclosed a few links i feel compelled to bring to your attention.

It would be great for Scotland to lead the way on changing the hunting laws particularly since Westminster is led by Mrs May a self confessed hunt supporter.





From: Sent:

11 March 2019 15:37:23

To:

Public Engagement Unit

Cc:

Cabinet Secretary for the Environment, Climate Change and Land

Reform

Subject:

FW: Fox Control Bill Letter from Guy Roxburghe (Duke of

Roxburghe)

AO I

Hi

One for MACCS please as an MR.

Regards

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

St. Andrews House **EDINBURGH** EH1 3DG 0131 244 3443 cabsececclr@gov.scot<mailto:cabsececclr@gov.scot>

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[SG_master_logo_colour_CMYK]

From: Cunningham R (Roseanna), MSP

<Roseanna.Cunningham.msp@parliament.scot<mailto:Roseanna.Cunningham.msp@

parliament.scot>>

Sent: 11 March 2019 15:05

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

<CabSecECCLR@gov.scot<mailto:CabSecECCLR@gov.scot>>

Subject: Fwd: Fox Control Bill

Sent from my iPhone

From:

Begin forwarded message:

Date: 11 March 2019 at 12:22:14 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: Fox Control Bill Dear Cabinet Secretary

It has come to my attention that the Scottish Parliament is re looking into the bill on fox control with the intention of considering reducing the licenses for vermin control to only the ?Upland areas?. This makes little sense on the back of Lord Bonomy?s report on behalf of the Government and what really strikes me is, what is the difference between carrying out fox control with a pack of hounds in the Lowlands and that of carrying out the same fox control activities in the Uplands/Highlands?

Sheep farmers in Lowland areas are just as vulnerable to the loss of lambs, and fox control by packs of hounds is effective and crucially important for the rural community, and this is evidenced by the support of landowners and farmers requesting/permitting their services.

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Can I urge the Minister and the Rural Affairs Committee to pay attention to the recommendations of Lord Bonomy?s report, which support the continued existence of hunts in Scotland.

Yours sincerely

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twitter.com/scotparlhttp://twitter.com/ScotParl>

From: Sent:

13 March 2019 10:52:45 Public Engagement Unit

To: Cc:

Cabinet Secretary for the Environment, Climate Change and Land

Reform

Subject: FW: Fox Control Bill

AO

Hi

One for MACCS please as an MR

Regards

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

St. Andrews House EDINBURGH EH1 3DG 0131 244 3443 cabsececclr@gov.scot

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----Original Message----

From:

Sent: 12 March 2019 15:47

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

<CabSecECCLR@gov.scot> Subject: Fox Control Bill

Dear Cabinet Secretary

It has come to my attention that the Scottish Parliament is re looking into the bill on fox control with the intention of considering reducing the licenses for vermin control to only the ?Upland areas?. This makes little sense on the back of Lord Bonomy?s report on behalf of the Government and what really strikes me is, what is the difference between carrying out fox control with a pack of hounds in the Lowlands and that of carrying out the same fox control activities in the Uplands/Highlands.

Sheep farmers in Lowland areas are just as vulnerable to the loss of lambs, and fox control by packs of hounds is effective and crucially important for the rural community, and this is evidenced by the support of landowners and farmers

requesting/permitting their services.

Yours sincerely

I live in the Borders where horses are an important focus for the Border community, as could be seen at the New Year Meets across the area with the New Year?s Meet in Hawick attracting over 1,000 members of the public. The equestrian culture, which includes racing, eventing, common riding and riding clubs, is deeply embedded in Borders culture. The hunting community is an integral part of this. By way of example, nurses, business men and women, pensioners, farmers, undertakers, plumbers, builders and electricians are among those that follow the Buccleuch Hunt. These are wide ranging, hardworking folk who enjoy being with friends who have similar horsey interests and who enjoy the social interaction. As importantly, the Borders has fragile employment opportunities; amongst others, farriers, feed merchants, vets, and fox control staff will suffer, with many likely to lose their jobs.

Can I urge the Minister and the Rural Affairs Committee to pay attention to the recommendations of Lord Bonomy?s report, which support the continued existence of Hunts in Scotland.



Sent: To:

12 March 2019 10:51:19 Public Engagement Unit

Cc:

Cabinet Secretary for the Environment, Climate Change and Land

Reform

Subject:

FW: Fox Control

AO ?

Hi

One for MACCS please as an MR

Thanks

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

St. Andrews House **EDINBURGH** EH1 3DG 0131 244 3443 cabsececclr@gov.scot<mailto:cabsececclr@gov.scot>

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[SG master logo colour CMYK]

From: Cunningham R (Roseanna), MSP

<Roseanna.Cunningham.msp@parliament.scot<mailto:Roseanna.Cunningham.msp@</p>

parliament.scot>>

Sent: 12 March 2019 10:50

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

<CabSecECCLR@gov.scot<mailto:CabSecECCLR@gov.scot>>

Subject: Fwd: Fox Control

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From:

Date: 12 March 2019 at 09:11:31 GMT

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

Subject: Fox Control

Fox Control.

If ain?t broke- don?t fix it.

The present legal method of fox control flush and shoot whilst not perfect, in that it is not selective is better than none. The prospect of flushing foxes with two hounds or dogs is akin to eating a plate of soup with a pair of chop sticks, not much use on a 4000 acres hill farm or even 10 acres of kale or a young plantation. With present problems facing the country, the last thing we wish is to be involved is a lengthy legislation that takes up Parliamentary time and if passed is almost impossible to police with present resources. I know the motto. ? It is a good distraction for hiding had news.? Do not be led astray.

*

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*



Mrs M Gougeon MSP
Cabinet Sec for Rural Affairs & Environment.
Holyrood
Edinburgh
25/2/2018
12 3 2019

Lord Bonomy Review etc

Dear Mrs Gougeon,



I am an MFH (Master of Foxhounds) — a once honoured position in the country now sadly held in low esteem by our urban majority. I farm a lowground farm which rises to 850 feet and have also have farmed a hill farm where I developed a grouse moor shoot which employed a part time keeper as well as two shepherds. We used foxhounds during the winter as part of our fox control system preferring not to use snares. So I have considerable experience in all aspects of vermin control. I am writing to you in your capacity as Minister, and because of your threatening overtures as regards Hunting.

225. (17)

I always regarded the 'protection of wild mammals act' to be flawed. I felt it was a largely political machination of its time and in reality it had little to do with protection of wild mammals, much less the management of wildlife. There are perfectly sound laws available to police poaching as in hare coursing and in the case of fox hunting the Act allowed an exemption for shooting of hunted foxes, and thus a level of cruelty which never existed before, because of shooting and wounding. Hounds do account for wounded foxes but not always. The clean kill is not guaranteed by shooting but a fox is dispatched in 2-3 seconds by hounds and never torn to pieces in the action of 'killing' the fox. I have no experience of birds of prey in fox control but in nature birds of prey take some time to dispatch their quarry and it is in the nature of peck by peck.

As to the Chase – an old huntsman in my hunt calculated that in 16 years as huntsman of about 60 – 70 days per season, say 1000 days in his time as huntsman, he only remembers about 10 'long hunts'. Half of those resulted in a kill of the fox and in the other 5 the fox went to ground or was lost. So the 'chase' and the 'kill' remain much misunderstood terms. Even back in the 'day' before the ban, long hunts were not so common. In reality a fox is actually very difficult to kill on top of ground with hounds. Hounds hunt by scent and not sight. Foxes are almost always in control of events unless scenting conditions are very good. Good scent allowing a prolonged hunt was rare.

That's not to say hounds did not kill foxes – they did. Sometimes foxes just made a mistake as they can now, but often hounds account for the halt and the lame or the ill or the old. These latter examples are more the ones which do harm to sheep flocks or at least lambs, or poultry or indeed game birds.

I am sure that Lord Bonomy is a fair minded man but I hope that MSPs will be fair minded too. This whole process shouldn't be a witch hunt at the call of animal rights lobbies Sabs or LAC members not to mention the urban majority, most of whom may have no knowledge or real interest in the subject.

The Scottish Government needs to encourage life and living in the countryside. Imagine the Irish closing down hunting or National Hunt Racing? They wouldn't dream of it and where would all the racing jockeys come from, many of whom learn their riding and the nerve they require in crossing country out hunting?

On any day of any year I could, as a member of the public, (with the right equipment), sit at the side of a street and record people speeding and report these to the Police. The evidence would not be acceptable in a court of law. Why is it that vigilantes like LACS produce bits of film footage allegedly incriminating individuals of supposed law breaking, and the footage be accepted in courts of law? The cost of these reviews (Bonomy) and individual cases brought to court is massive and unwarranted. So I hope the Government will exercise great caution and discretion in applying this Review. I would urge you to leave well alone. Rural communities are fragile enough.

Yours sincerely



PS. at the risk of appearing condescending may I ask you to read the enclosed literature from VETERINARY ASSOCIATION FOR WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT. It contains an expert opinion which is worthy of inspection.

Ps I mentioned Hunts being good for social cohesion and community spirit. Many in fact most of the people participating in the following do not grace the hunting field but are none the less keen supporters:

Annual puppy show.

gricultural Show, running of horse classes.

Mini Charterhall horse trial 250 entries.

Jumble Sale

Point to Point (racing).

Hunt lunch, approx 100 people.

Annual Hunt Ball 250 - 350 people.

trial 250 entries.

New Year Meet of hounds in

usually very well attended.

Grand National Dinner, Etc Etc

Sorry to be so long winded but there's much more than I have said. I would be delighted to hear from you and indeed would welcome a conversation with you on the whole subject and would be happy to come into Edinburgh for such a meeting.

Yours sincerely



Ps the unclosed vower on from circo the brytond bon, but the information in the same there as now. I am not upperly REPEAL but nearly to inform any albert.

Sent:

18 October 2018 10:09:07

To:

Public Engagement Unit

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

Reform Subject:

: FW

A0 -

For MACCS please - MR

Roseanna Cunningham MSP | Cabinet Secretary for Environment, Climate Change & Land Reform | Scottish Government | 2N:08, St Andrew's House, Regent Road, Edinburgh, EH1 3DG | Tel: +44(0)131 244 7327 | cabsecectr@gov.scot

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----Original Message----

From: On Behalf Of

Neil A (Alex), MSP

Sent: 18 October 2018 10:07

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

<CabSecECCLR@gov.scot>

Cci

Subject:

Dear Roseanna,

Please see below email for your attention.

I would be grateful if you would investigate this matter and address the specific concerns raised.

Yours sincerely,

Alex Neil MSP

> On 13 Oct 2018, at 14:00, "johncatterson27@gmail.com" <johncatterson27@gmail.com> wrote:

_ _ _

> Dear Mr Neil,

>

> At the end of 2017 I was one of almost 20,000 people who took part in a Scottish Government consultation on improving the welfare of wild mammals in relation to fox hunting. Of those who responded, 98% agree with me that the Protection of Wild Mammals (Scotland) Act 2002 needs to be strengthened to really ban hunting in

Scotland.

~` >

> I am disappointed that over eight months after the consultation closed, the Scottish Government has failed to reach a decision on what it plans to do to improve the law. In just a couple of weeks the full hunting season will get underway. This is the fourth season since Lord Bonomy was commissioned to report on the workings of the law and nothing has changed. I think the time has come for the Scottish Government to be accountable to everyone who gave their views through the consultation and act to improve the law.

111

> As my MSP, please can you write to the Scottish Government, asking for clarification on what it intends to do to improve the law and why it has taken so long to reach a decision. I believe the Scottish Government should make public its intentions before the hunting season gets underway next month.

>

> As someone who opposes animal cruelty I am saddened that once again hunts will be out in Scotland chasing and killing foxes for sport. I look forward to hearing back from you about the Scottish Government?s position, and I hope I can rely on your support to help stop animals suffering as a result of this outdated tradition.

> Yours sincerely



*

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ጥ

25 May 2017 12:49:06

Sent: To:

Public Engagement Unit

Cc:

Cabinet Secretary for the Environment, Climate Change and Land

Reform

Subject: FW: Fox hunting

Hi,

One for MACCS please.

Kind Regards



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

Tel: 0131 244 5337

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

[cid:image001.png@01D2D555.4AE47BB0]http://home.scotland.gov.uk/home

From:

Sent: 25 May 2017 12:06

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

Subject: Fox hunting

Dear Roseanna,

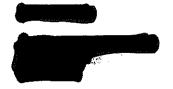
I am emailing as a parliamentary candidate for general election.

I have been approached by several local residents about fox hunting. I am aware that earlier this year, you announced a new code of practice for hunts.

While I have already highlighted my own thoughts on the issue to those who have contacted me, it would be helpful to know whether the Scottish Government has plans to directly amend the current legislation during the current parliamentary session.

I appreciate your assistance in this matter and look forward to receiving your response.

Best wishes



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T1 April 2018 14:55:17

Sent:

To:

Public Engagement Unit

Cc:

Cabinet Secretary for the Environment, Climate Change and Land

Reform

Subject:

FW: Letter for Ms Roseanna Cunningham MSP

Attachments: Roseanna Cunnigham letter 110418.pdf

For MACCS please

Roseanna Cunningham MSP | Cabinet Secretary for Environment, Climate Change & Land Reform | Scottish Government | 2N:08, St Andrew's House, Regent Road, Edinburgh, EH1 3DG | Tel: +44(0)131 244 7327 |cabsececclr@gov.scot<mailto:%7Ccabsececclr@gov.scot>

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From:

Sent: 11 April 2018 10:29

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

Patterson R (Rachael).

Subject: Re: Letter for Ms Roseanna Cunningham MSP

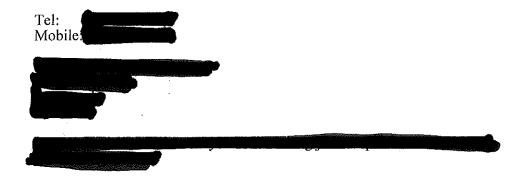
Good Morning

I hope this finds you well

Please find attached my response to the Cabinet Secretary's letter.

Kindest Regards





From: on behalf of

CabSecECCLR@gov.scot<mailto:CabSecECCLR@gov.scot>
<CabSecECCLR@gov.scot<mailto:CabSecECCLR@gov.scot>>

Sent: 22 March 2018 14:46 To:

Cc: CabSecECCLR@gov.scot<mailto:CabSecECCLR@gov.scot>

Subject: Letter from Ms Roseanna Cunningham MSP

Dear

Please find attached your response from Ms Roseanna Cunningham MSP, Cabinet Secretary for the Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform. Apologies for the time taken to respond to you.

Many thanks,

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

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

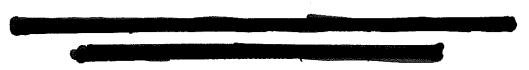
Tel: 0131 244 5337

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

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Tha am post-d seo (agus faidhle neo ceanglan còmhla ris) dhan neach neo luchd-ainmichte a-mhàin. Chan eil e ceadaichte a chleachdadh ann an dòigh sam bith, a' toirt a-steach còraichean, foillseachadh neo sgaoileadh, gun chead. Ma 's e is gun d'fhuair sibh seo gun fhiosd', bu choir cur às dhan phost-d agus lethbhreac sam bith air an t-siostam agaibh agus fios a leigeil chun neach a sgaoil am post-d gun dàil. Dh'fhaodadh gum bi teachdaireachd sam bith bho Riaghaltas na h-Alba air a chlàradh neo air a sgrùdadh airson dearbhadh gu bheil an siostam ag obair gu h-èifeachdach neo airson adhbhar laghail eile. Dh'fhaodadh nach eil beachdan anns a' phost-d seo coionann ri beachdan Riaghaltas na h-Alba.



11/04/2018

Minister,

Thank you for taking the time to respond to my letter of the 24th Jan (your ref 2018/0003597) in which you highlight my approach to both the Cabinet Secretary for Justice and the Cabinet Secretary for Rural Economy and Connectivity.

Having corresponded with you on numerous occasions, I am well aware that the review of the Protection of Wild Mammals Scotland Act 2002 falls within your portfolio. However, given the potential of change to legislation and the effects that any such change may have on the farming community, I felt justified in contacting your colleagues.

I also wrote to a number of SNP MSPs representing rural constituencies, like the aforementioned Cabinet Secretaries, they delegated responsibility back to you.

I apologies if you felt in any way that I was trying to undermine your position. This was most certainly not my objective.

I have written previously to confirm our commitment to the overall objective of increased transparency and confidence in the use of dogs in association with exceptions within the Protection of Wild Mammals (Scotland) Act 2002 to search, stalk and flush foxes and other wild mammals from cover to be shot.

We fully cooperated with Lord Bonomy to aid his review of the 2002 Act to ensure that the current legislation provided the necessary level of protection for the welfare of foxes and other wild mammals, while at the same time allowing effective and humane control.

We further welcomed Lord Bonomys recommendations and thereafter acted on elements within the report in advance of any policy or legal intervention, in particular the provision to Police Scotland of written records including the identification of those involved in the activity in a bid to assist officers when investigating allegations of illegal hunting.

We further committed to participate within the Scottish Government appointed stakeholder group charged with the development of a Code of Practice. Identifying the time lag for the introduction of an agreed Code of Practice, we voluntarily strengthened or own operational protocol for 2017-18 to reflect key elements of Lord Bonomys report.

It's was then disappointing to hear that the Scottish National Party's National Council had ignored Lord Bonomys recommendations and indeed the Scottish Governments considered action plan, electing instead to react to party activists and supporting a move towards a policy to further restrict the ability to use dogs in the control of wild mammals to the point of a de facto ban.

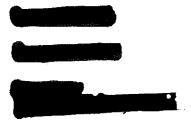
As a concerned party member, I wrote to both the First Minister and yourself in December 2017 highlighted my understanding of the role and function of the National Council and accepting that they do not directly make government policy. I am however not so naive that I do not see this as a significant threat to the process put in place to provide a solution to a perceived problem. I did not receive a direct answer to ease my concerns.

It will not come as a surprise that I now have a very upset membership who had both trusted and invested in the Scottish Governments review.

Given the recent calls from other land management groups for visitation to discuss a perceived problem highlighted by animal rights organisations, I wondered Minister if you are in a position to meet in person or to make a statement to easy our concerns.

Further to the work of the Code of Practice for Mounted Foxhound packs. The Minister will be aware that we are very close to concluding our work on the document. I wondered if the Minister might consider attending a soft launch of the COP at the Scottish Game Fair, Scone 2018.

I look forward to your response



30 April 2018 10:07:57

Sent: To:

Public Engagement Unit

Cc:

Cabinet Secretary for the Environment, Climate Change and Land

Reform

Subject: FW: Fox hunting

Hi,

One for MACCS please, MR.

Kind Regards,



- Roseanna Cunningham MSP, Cabinet Secretary for Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform - 2N.08, St Andrews House, Regent Road, Edinburgh, EH1 3DG - 0131 244 5337, CabsecECCLR@gov.scot

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----Original Message----

From: Campbell AE (Aileen), MSP [mailto:Aileen.Campbell.msp@parliament.scot]

Sent: 27 April 2018 18:07

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

Cabinet Secretary for the Rural Economy and Connectivity

Cc:

Subject: rw: rox hunting

Dear Cab Secs, I am writing on behalf of a constituent who has raised with me his concerns about changes to hunting practices and also what is traditionally considered to be rural pursuits. He has explained he is concerned about an erosion of a way of life that has developed in order to manage the land and cope with the challenges it faces such as vermin. His points are listed below and I would be grateful if I could get for him some responses and also a reassurance about the Government's commitment to rural life and the rural economy.

Grateful for your help.

Best wishes Aileen

"> Hi Aileen, unfortunately we didn?t manage to meet up in January as we

> planned. I would like to try to put across my feelings in the increasingly high

> profile, often media led attacks on any type of vermin control which contain

> very little in the way of balanced argument or hard facts. My concern is that

> these high profile attacks cause a change in Scottish Government policy which I > feel would be disastrous to the countryside. > Fox hunting is the first example, my children and I have been for days out > following the > following the > following the > the state of

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20 March 2019 10:25:19

Sent: To:

Public Engagement Unit

Cc:

Minister for Rural Affairs and the Natural Environment

Subject:

FW: Fox control

PEU

For MACCS? MR please, grateful if you could allocate to

Thanks

Minister for Rural Affairs and

Minister for Rural Affairs and the Natural Environment 2N.08 St Andrew?s House | Regent Road | Edinburgh | EH1 3DG

? 0131 244 5596

MinisterRANE@gov.scot<mailto:MinisterRANE@gov.scot>

Please check our updated Ministerial preferences!

[https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/0/01/Scottish_Government_Logo.svg/220px-Scottish_Government_Logo.svg.png]

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Enom

Date: 19 March 2019 at 5:21:56 pm GMT

To:

Roseanna.Cunningham,msp@parliament.scot<mailto:Roseanna.Cunningham.msp@parliament.scot>

Subject: Fox control

The SNP have failed miserably with the health service, education, local government, The police forces. The fire service. Important issues that are far more important than vermin control that the Bonomy report indicated was working Satisfactorily in Scotland. When all major issues are working at a far higher percentage, then look at the full report and proposals he made, and see if if it is worth wasting more time and money on a subject that is working quiet well. It has been proved that working two

hounds does not work as proved in England. Please consider this carefully before making any change to the existing laws.

Yours

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Mairi Gougeon MSP Minister for Rural Affairs The Scottish Government St Andrew's House Edinburgh EH1 3DG

27 February 2019

Dear Minister,

-> - Request for Minister to accept fox hunting petition

I am writing to request a meeting where a representative from the can hand over a petition which has collected over 20,000 signatures in support of strengthening the Protection of Wild Mammals (Scotland) Act 2002.

If you are in agreement we are keen to invite press photographers to join us and also include our fox costume.

We would envisage this being outside the Scottish Parliament but are entirely flexible based on your availability.

If you diary permits, we would be happy to follow up with your officials to identify an appropriate time that suits you.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

17 June 2019 09:23:45

Sent: To:

Public Engagement Unit

Ĉc:

Minister for Rural Affairs and the Natural Environment, Greenan R

(Rebecca)

Subject:

FW: Meeting request

Attachments: Meeting request - Minister for Rural Affairs .pdf

For MACCs please, urgent response required.

Thanks

to the Minister for Rural Affairs and the Natural Environment

MinisterRANE@gov.scot<mailto:MinisterRANE@gov.scot>

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From:

Sent: 11 June 2019 15:33

To: Minister for Rural Affairs and the Natural Environment

<MinisterRANE@gov.scot>
Subject: Meeting request

Dear Minister

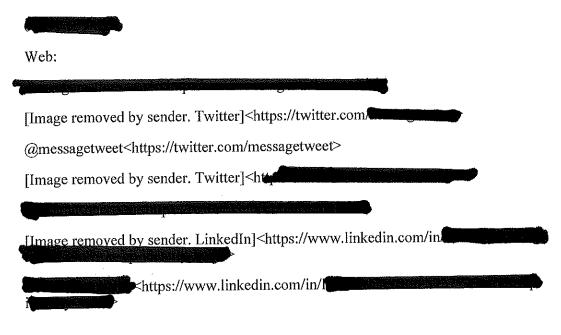
Please find attached a request for a meeting on behalf of the

Best wishes

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Mobile:



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Sent:

10 January 2019 17:50:15

To:

Public Engagement Unit

Cc:

Minister for Rural Affairs and the Natural Environment

Subject:

FW: Letter attached

Attachments: RANE letter 011019.pdf



PEU

For MACCS please

Thanks

Minister for Rural Affairs and the Natural Environment 2N.08 St Andrew's House | Regent Road | Edinburgh | EH1 3DG

* 0131 244 5596

MinisterRANE@gov.scot<mailto:MinisterRANE@gov.scot>

Please check our updated Ministerial preferences!

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From:

≺mailto:Mariella.Matheson@gov.scot>>

Sent: 10 January 2019 17:02

To: Minister for Rural Affairs and the Natural Environment <MinisterRANE@gov.scot<mailto:MinisterRANE@gov.scot>>

Subject: FW: Letter attached



to the lynnister for Kurar Arrans and the Natural Environment

0131 244 4426 07896281679

MinisterRANE@gov.scot<mailto:MinisterRANE@gov.scot>

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From: Jamie Stewart <jamie-stewart@scottishcountrysidealliance.org<mailto:jamie-

stewart@scottishcountrysidealliance.org>>

Sent: 10 January 2019 16:29 To: Matheson M (Mariella)

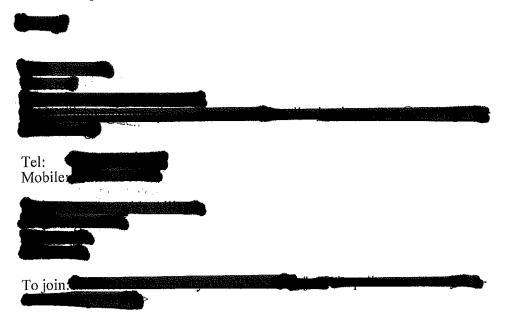
<Mariella.Matheson@gov.scot<mailto:Mariella.Matheson@gov.scot>>

Subject: Letter attached



Please find attached a letter for Mairi Gougeon MSP

Kindest Regards





10/01/2019

The Protection of Wild Mammals (Scotland) Act 2002

Minister

Further to your statement on 09/01/2019. You will no doubt understand that I feel somewhat disappointed with the Scottish Governments proposals to further restrict the use of dogs within pest control.

You will remember that Lord Bonomy was persuaded by the submissions and such other evidence as there is, in particular that of the experience of those who work with packs, the scientific study paper by Naylor and Knott (taking full account of its limitations and the criticisms made of it), and the fact that in England and Wales hunts do not generally flush to guns using two dogs, not only that searching and flushing by two dogs would not be as effective as that done by a full pack of hounds, but also that imposing such a restriction could seriously compromise effective pest control in the country, particularly on rough and hilly ground and in extensive areas of dense cover such as conifer woodlands.

I later shared the full Naylor and Knot document with you, informing that research had subsequently been peer-reviewed and published, providing the only credible scientific research on the subject. I am therefore at a loss to how the Scottish Government can arrive at an outcome which is clearly at odds with the science, animal welfare and Lord Bonomy's recommendations.

Personally, I am deeply disappointed that much of the good work and goodwill established during Lord Bonomy's review has been washed away with little or no respect for those involved.

I would appreciate a meeting with you at your earliest convenience when you might explain to me the Scottish Governments position in greater detail.

I look forward to your response

Kind Regards

The second of th

03 June 2019 11:42:32

Sent: To:

Public Engagement Unit

Cc:

Minister for Rural Affairs and the Natural Environment

Subject:

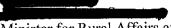
FW: For the Attention of Kathryn Quinn



PEU

For MACCS, diary please

Thanks



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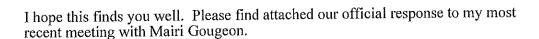
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From:

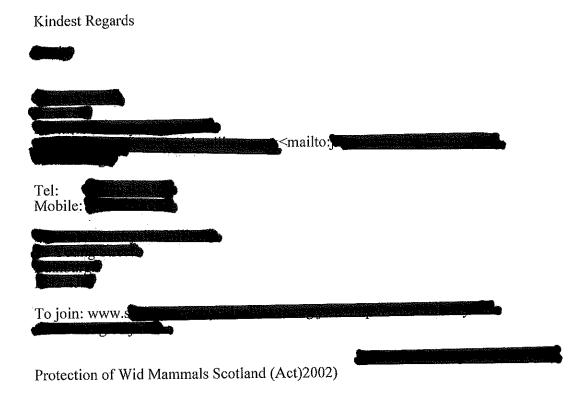
Sent: 30 May 2019 16:44

To: Minister for Rural Affairs and the Natural Environment <MinisterRANE@gov.scot</pre>

Subject: Re: For the Attention of Kathryn Quinn



I wonder, is it possible to have a short meeting with the minister during recess, no civil servants... Happy to see her in parliament or surgery.



29/05/19

Minister,

Many apologies for the tardy response. My life has been a little busier than I had hoped of late and thank you for taking the time to see me in parliament on the 24th April.

While I acknowledge the Scottish Government's policy and intention to legislate, I

would still like to challenge the rationale for the measures proposed.

I must admit to being somewhat confused by the arguments advanced by your team to justify the Scottish Government's position, many of which arguments I have subsequently picked up in your own response to letters from our members and other interested parties. I was particularly concerned by what seem to be a deliberate misrepresentation of Lord Bonomy's findings.

From your letter dated 25th April 2019:

"While it is not an offence under the Act if the dogs are used with the intention of flushing the fox to waiting guns, Lord Bonomy also noted that there were legitimate grounds for suspicion that the present arrangements were providing cover for the unlawful use of dogs, contrary to the intention of the Protection of Wild Mammals Act with the associated concerns about welfare of foxes and other wildlife."

And Lord Bonomy acknowledged that "there are occasions... when a fox is caught and killed by the hounds before it can be flushed from cover into the open and when a fox is wounded by the guns when it emerges from cover and is killed by the hounds and that " in general 20% or more of foxes disturbed by hunts are killed in this way". Indeed, you go on to highlight these as the reasons why you have decided to limit the number of dogs that can be used to two, unless otherwise permitted by licence.

Taking Lord Bonomy's comments in context, he stated:

"Submissions and evidence presented challenge the claim by the mounted hunts that the chase has been eliminated and that their kills are achieved exclusively by activity that falls within the exception in section 2 of the Act. There is before the Review material on the basis of which an impartial observer would be entitled to suspect that there are occasions when the packs of mounted hunts engage in chasing foxes when on the face of it the huntsman is in control of the pack. The evidence is not conclusive, but equally the suspicion that it gives rise to cannot be dismissed as groundless."

The submissions and evidence to which Lord Bonomy makes reference, are wholly generated by the League Against Cruel Sports and in his own words are "inconclusive".

Lord Bonomy continued:

"Ideally the grounds for that suspicion should be addressed. Clearly suspicion of illegal activity is not an adequate basis for deciding that the Act is not working as it was intended to or condemning the hunts or outlawing a practice that has been changed with a view to complying with the law. It is, however, a basis for considering whether reasonable measures can be put in place to determine whether the suspicion is well-founded and, if so, steps can be taken to ensure that it is eliminated.

Lord Bonomy outlined his thoughts on reasonable measures in his report to Government, namely:

"...that the existing Scottish Mounted Foxhound Packs Fox Control Protocol should form the starting point for the development of a separate Code of Practice for the conduct of hunt activities, including requirements for notification to the police in advance of the hunt of the identities of those responsible for the activities of the hunt, the number of hounds to be used, the identities of the guns and other information, and also provisions about the conduct of those participating in the activities of the hunt.

That this material should be recorded in the form of a log or register which would form the basis for an annual report by Police Scotland to Scottish Ministers with a view to relevant parts being incorporated into the Wildlife Crime in Scotland Annual Report

And that consideration should be given to the appointment of part-time, independent hunt monitors to observe on a random basis the activities of hunts using packs of hounds, and an annual summary of their observations could be included in the Wildlife Crime in Scotland Annual Report."

I would have hoped that the Mounted Foxhound packs immediate adoption of Lord Bonomy's recommendations, as outlined, would have alleviated the element of suspicion.

Your letter also misrepresents the number of foxes that are killed by hounds: It states:

Lord Bonomy acknowledged that "there are occasions... when a fox is caught and killed by hounds before it can be flushed from cover into the open and when a fox is wounded by the guns when it emerges from cover and is killed by the hounds" and that "in general 20% or more foxes disturbed by hunts are killed in this way by hounds"

The reference to 20% comes from the submission from one foxhound pack based on one season. Lord Bonomy reflected on this by stating that this was anecdotal, in other words an account based on personal accounts rather than facts or research".

Lord Bonomy's unedited comment:

"Purely on the basis of anecdotal evidence, it appears that in general 20% or more of foxes disturbed by hunts are killed in this way by hounds". It would seem that the adjective that qualifies the statement was left out.

It is also worth pointing out, if welfare is the principal consideration, that Lord Bonomy confirms the finding of the Burns Inquiry that the kill by dogs is almost instantaneous and there is no risk of wounding: "5.36... the weight of the evidence, as noted in the Burns Report at paragraph 6.48, is that in the vast majority of cases the time to insensibility and death in these situations is no more than a few seconds. These provisions were enacted in the knowledge of the terms of the Burns Report. No evidence has been presented to this Review to indicate the abuse of these provisions by using dogs to despatch ...wild mammals."

I was pleased that you conceded that the 18,497 animal rights campaign email responses to the consultation "Improving the Protection of Wild Mammals in Scotland" as unquantifiable. I would also expect you to concede that in no way, can

animal rights campaigns be measured a genuine "public concern". A YouGov online survey conducted between 19-23 February 2018 asked voters what issues had the most impact on their vote at the last election. Of the 1,031 adults asked not one single respondent listed hunting when asked for their opinion unprompted. When asked to rank different issues by impact 98% of voters said hunting was not in the top 5 issues that affected their vote.

Public opinion was further tested at the SNP Spring conference 2019. The organised a fringe event and debate based on Lord Bonomy's

recommendation that:

"The use of packs of hounds to flush out foxes to be shot remains a significant pest control measure, both to control the general level of foxes in an area as well as to address particular problems affecting a farm or estate".

We have invited a range of speakers including Emma Harper MSP to debate whether they believe the use of foxhound packs to flush foxes in order they are shot, to be legitimate wildlife management.

I do hope that Emma Harper reported back on the debate. In any case, I am happy to tell you that despite the presence of League Against Cruel Sports staff, the only two questions of note focussed on the clothes worn and the mode of transport used. In an informed debate, animal welfare was clearly not an issue.

It is extraordinary that the Scottish Government seeks to use equivocal and heavily qualified comments made by Lord Bonomy to justify legislative action which goes against the clearest and most unequivocal of Lord Bonomy's findings, namely that regarding a two dog restriction. Lord Bonomy states that he was "...persuaded by the submissions and such other evidence as there is, in particular that of the experience of those who work with packs, the scientific study paper by Naylor and Knott (taking full account of its limitations and the criticisms made of it), and the fact that in England and Wales hunts do not generally flush to guns using two dogs, not only that searching and flushing by two dogs would not be as effective as that done by a full pack of hounds, but also that imposing such a restriction could seriously compromise effective pest control in the country, particularly on rough and hilly ground and in extensive areas of dense cover such as conifer woodlands..."

Nothing in the report could justify legislation that goes against this clear finding of an independent review which the Scottish Government itself commissioned. It is also worth noting that the research to which Lord Bonomy refers has now been peer reviewed and publish and is the only scientific evidence available on this issue. The inescapable conclusion can only be that the Scottish Government is not interested in objective independent evidence and is responding to unsubstantiated allegations of