

widespread law breaking made by those whose very starting point in this debate is that fox control, of any kind, is not needed. Their references to "red coat hunts" clearly indicates the real motivation behind this fabricated storm around the Protection of Wild Mammals (Scotland) Act, as does their deliberate ignoring of Lord Bonython's clearest conclusions.

I was equally confused by your response suggesting that alternative methods of fox control may be utilised. Highlight night shooting, trapping and snaring. The argument for night shooting is fairly clear, or rather, it isn't! You must be able to see a fox before it can be shot at night. Even the advent of thermal imaging equipment does not allow the safe shooting of a wild mammal in thick cover or forestry. It is however, the last two suggestions that give me the greatest concern. If the Scottish Government accept that flushing with a pack of foxhounds and the death of a fox, having been first shot or otherwise caught in cover, has an unacceptable impact on the fox's welfare. You must also take note of the welfare impact associated with other legal methods.

Albeit used under licence, snares continue to be widely used across Scotland, principally to protect gamebirds such as grouse and pheasants from fox predation.

The current legislative regime has been openly criticised by animal rights organisations such as the League Against Cruel Sports and Onekind stating that "the Wildlife and Natural Environment (Scotland) Act 2011 has not succeeded in preventing severe suffering in animals trapped by snares. Snares have long been known to inflict extreme physical and mental suffering on captured animals, and recent legislation has not reduced this to any acceptable level." Minister, can I reassure you we are committed to working with the Scottish Government to provide the clarity required to ensure that the welfare of the mammal is the primary concern of practitioners carrying out necessary work to minimise losses of domestic livestock, game-birds and ground-nesting birds.

[cid:image004.png@01D51B7C.966F7840]Kindest Regards
[cid:image005.png@01D51B7C.966F7840]

[cid:image006.png@01D51B7C.966F7840]

From: [redacted]@gov.scot<mailto:[redacted]>
<[redacted]@gov.scot<mailto:[redacted]@gov.scot>> on behalf of
MinisterRANE@gov.scot<mailto:MinisterRANE@gov.scot>
<MinisterRANE@gov.scot<mailto:MinisterRANE@gov.scot>>
Sent: 25 March 2019 16:02
To: [redacted]
Cc: MinisterRANE@gov.scot<mailto:MinisterRANE@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: For the Attention of Kathryn Quinn

[redacted]
Thanks for letting me know.

The meeting will take place in the Scottish Parliament building at the foot of the Royal Mile. If yourself and [redacted] report to reception upon arrival, I or a colleague will come and escort you to the meeting room. We look forward to seeing you on April 24th.

Kind regards

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
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<<http://saltire/my-workplace/ministerial-preferences-and-support/Environment-and-Rural-Economy/Pages/Minister-for-Rural-Affairs-and-the-Natural-Environment.aspx>>!

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From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]> [mailto:[REDACTED]]
Sent: 25 March 2019 14:48
To: Minister for Rural Affairs and the Natural Environment
<MinisterRANE@gov.scot<mailto:MinisterRANE@gov.scot>>
Subject: Re: For the Attention of [REDACTED]

Many thanks [REDACTED]

I will be accompanied by my colleague [REDACTED]

I presume the meeting will be in St Andrew's house?

Kindest Regards

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Scottish Countryside Alliance

[REDACTED] <mailto:[REDACTED]>
[REDACTED]

Tel: [REDACTED]

Mobile: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

To join: v [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED] <mailto:[REDACTED]>
<[REDACTED]> <mailto:[REDACTED]>> on behalf of
MinisterRANE@gov.scot <mailto:MinisterRANE@gov.scot>
<MinisterRANE@gov.scot <mailto:MinisterRANE@gov.scot>>
Sent: 25 March 2019 14:45:49
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: MinisterRANE@gov.scot <mailto:MinisterRANE@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: For the Attention of [REDACTED]

Good afternoon [REDACTED]

Yes, the meeting is confirmed in the Minister's diary for Wednesday 24 April at 14:30.

Can you let me know whether you will be attending with any colleagues/associates?

Kind regards

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
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: [REDACTED]@gov.scot<mailto:[REDACTED]@gov.scot>
<[REDACTED]@gov.scot<mailto:[REDACTED]@gov.scot>> on behalf of
MinisterRANE@gov.scot<mailto:MinisterRANE@gov.scot>
<MinisterRANE@gov.scot<mailto:MinisterRANE@gov.scot>>
Sent: 06 February 2019 11:52:14
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: MinisterRANE@gov.scot<mailto:MinisterRANE@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: For the Attention of [REDACTED]

That's great, I'll go ahead and confirm Wednesday 24th in the Minister's diary - grateful if you could let us know in due course whether you will be accompanied to the meeting.

Many 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: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@gov.scot>
Sent: 06 February 2019 11:42
To: Minister for Rural Affairs and the Natural Environment
<MinisterRANE@gov.scot><mailto:MinisterRANE@gov.scot>>
Subject: Re: For the Attention [REDACTED]

Thanks for this [REDACTED],

Either date would suit.

I look forward to further correspondence

Many thanks

Tel:

Mobil:

From: [REDACTED]
<[REDACTED]@gov.scot<mailto:[REDACTED]@gov.scot>> on behalf of
MinisterRANE@gov.scot<mailto:MinisterRANE@gov.scot>
<MinisterRANE@gov.scot<mailto:MinisterRANE@gov.scot>>
Sent: 06 February 2019 10:59:32
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: MinisterRANE@gov.scot<mailto:MinisterRANE@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: For the Attention of [REDACTED]

Good morning [REDACTED]

Many thanks for your email - apologies for not getting back to you sooner, I've been on annual leave.

At the moment I'm in a position to offer you a meeting in the Scottish Parliament on the following dates;

Tuesday 23 April, 16:00

Wednesday 24 April, 14:30

Grateful if you could let me know whether either of these are suitable - or whether I

should look at alternatives - and hopefully we can get things firmed up.

Kindest 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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From: Jamie Stewart <jamie-stewart@scottishcountrysidealliance.org<<mailto:jamie-stewart@scottishcountrysidealliance.org>>>
Sent: 06 February 2019 09:02
To: Minister for Rural Affairs and the Natural Environment
<MinisterRANE@gov.scot<<mailto:MinisterRANE@gov.scot>>>
Subject: Fw: For the Attention of Kathryn Quinn

Resent 06/02/2019.

Can I ask that you please confirm receipt of my correspondence.

Kindest Regards

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 31 January 2019 14:43
To: MinisterRANE@gov.scot<mailto:MinisterRANE@gov.scot>
Subject: For the Attention of [REDACTED]

I received communication this afternoon from Mairi Gougeon's private secretary suggesting that I make contact to arrange a mutually agreeable time to meet.

Would you like to call my land line and we can take it from there.

Kindest Regards

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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 ceadachd 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 co-ionann ri beachdan Riaghaltas na h-Alba.

*

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From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 08 May 2019 14:48:04
To: Public Engagement Unit
Cc: Minister for Rural Affairs and the Natural Environment
Subject: FW: Fox hunting in Scotland

PEU

For MACCS ? AO [REDACTED]

Thanks

[REDACTED]
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: [REDACTED]
<[REDACTED]>
Sent: 08 May 2019 13:04
To: Gougeon M (Mairi), MSP
<Mairi.Gougeon.msp@parliament.scot<mailto:Mairi.Gougeon.msp@parliament.scot>>
>>
Subject: Fox hunting in Scotland

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Mairi Gougeon, MSP
The Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh
EH99 1SP

8th May 2019

Dear Minister,
Fox hunting in Scotland

Many thanks for your reply to my letter on the above subject. I note your point about the importance of landowners having access to humane fox control measures to preserve livestock and also ground nesting birds.

I was, however, surprised that you mention lamping, snaring and trapping as suitable, humane alternatives to flushing foxes with hounds. I have been involved in farming all my life, firstly as a child in [REDACTED] and now in [REDACTED]. On both farms lamping, snaring or trapping were never, ever used as they were felt to be very cruel. Lamping because shooting at night is tricky and often involved wounding, snaring as - quite apart from catching the wrong species (this is particularly important when people are allowed to roam in the countryside and so often let their dogs off leads; cats can't be controlled and the sight of a hare with its leg caught in a snare is horrible) it results in a long, lingering death. Trapping, is I feel, equally cruel.

Flushing with a sufficient number of hounds results in foxes being killed outright or, if healthy, getting away.

I would really value your thoughts on this subject as I am so disappointed to hear that the Scottish Government is so clearly and strongly recommending alternatives to Fox Hunting such as lamping, snaring and shooting.

With best wishes
[REDACTED]

*

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Your Ref: 2019/0003056

MAIRI GOUGEON

MINISTER FOR RURAL AFFAIRS

AND THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT

Public Engagement Unit

29 APR 2019

Received

RAE

26 APR 2019

20th Apr

PRIVATE OFFICE

Dear Mairi Gougeon,

THE PROTECTION OF WILD MAMMALS (SCOTLAND)

DÉROGATION OF THE TWO HOUND LIMIT

Thank you for taking time to reply to my letter, through [REDACTED] [REDACTED], on the 21st Febra. Since then I have learned about a more fact to add to information gathered towards supporting the ess^{ce} fox control carried out in the Border countryside using a pack of hound.

1. Extracts from Lord Bonomy's Repc into Fox Control:

"The use of a pack of hounds to flush out foxes to be shot

Remains a significant pest control measure, both to control the level of foxes in an area as well as addressing particular problems affecting a farm or estate.
"Searching and flushing out two dogs would not be as effective as that done by a full pack of hounds".

2. You may have seen only peer reviewed scientific evidence available on the subject. The Taylor and Knoll Paper, This showed that a pack of 12 is more effective at flushing foxes to guns than a pair of hounds.

3. The type of terrain found in Scottish Borders (dense forest and impenetrable gorse) makes other legal pest control methods (lamping or trapping) ineffective.

4. As you will probably know the Scottish Borders is a major sheep rearing area in Scotland. In addition the Borders' countryside provides a much appreciated and vital habitat for ground nesting birds. Fox control packs provide a free service over terrain where other methods of fox control are ineffective.

Nowadays, there is a strict Code of Practice and transparency to show that flushing out fox to rifles is being carried out by local Fox Control Packs in a humane and professional way.

Yours sincerely,



C. Rachael Hamilton MSP
11/12/11 11/12/11 11/12/11

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 29 March 2019 10:35:00
To: Scottish Ministers
Subject: FAO Mairi Gougeon

Attachments: LC letter to MSPs (Fox control).pdf

AO ? [REDACTED]

Good morning,

Please find attached a letter with regard to the proposed legislation change to the Protection of Wild Mammals Act (2002).

Yours,

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Mairi Gougeon, Minister for Rural Affairs and the Natural Environment,
T3.04
The Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh
EH99 1SP

28th March 2019

Dear Ms Gougeon,

On the 9th January 2019, you announced proposals to limit the number of hounds used to find and flush a fox to guns to two. This would effectively shut down every pack of foxhounds in Scotland. The reason cited for this change to the law is to provide a sufficient level of protection for foxes and other wild mammals.

Initially, I am cynical about the motivation for changing the law. The government commissioned a consultation in 2016, the responses to which were rigorously reviewed by Lord Bonomy, including the (now peer reviewed) research paper by Naylor and Knott, and recommendations made to improve the workability of the law. Lord Bonomy specifically states *'I am persuaded that limiting the number of hounds used to flush foxes to guns will seriously compromise the effectiveness of pest control in the country'*. Why has the government chosen to directly oppose a key conclusion of it's own consultation? Lord Bonomy also recommended the introduction of a Code of Practice; every one of the 10 mounted gun packs in Scotland voluntarily signed up to this code, drawn up in conjunction with Police Scotland, LACS, the SSPCA and OneKind amongst other stakeholders. At the time of this announcement, approximately 10 weeks of the season had passed since the adoption of the CoP. Why has the government allowed no time to assess the effectiveness of it's implementation, especially in the absence of an official monitoring scheme?

Furthermore, I have serious concerns over the misconception that 'stamping out' gun packs will do anything to improve wild animal welfare. At present, foxes are shot having been quickly moved out of cover by a pack of hounds. It is impossible for two hounds to do this effectively and farmers/landowners will instead resort to more widespread 'lamping' (ie. shooting at night). Whilst hound work is only carried out between September and March to allow foxes their breeding season, lamping is open season. It will remain perfectly legal and routine to shoot vixens throughout the spring and summer when they have litter of cubs to feed. Having shot the vixen, there are two choices: the cubs may be left to perish over the course of several days or may

be 'dug out' and shot at point blank range. What of welfare now? Please remember also that lamping can and does result in wounded foxes which are then impossible to find in the dark. In the daylight and the presence of hounds there is no risk of leaving a fox in prolonged suffering – should wounding occur, dispatch is rapid. It will also remain legal to use a snare, checked only once every 24 hours. The suffering caused by snaring is summarised in the Burns Report:

'Serious concerns have been voiced about the welfare implications of snaring. Indeed, the UK is one of a minority of countries in Europe which permits snaring. The concerns include the stress of being restrained at length and the dangers of dehydration and hyperthermia or hypothermia. There is also the additional stress which the animal may experience at the point at which a human being approaches it and dispatches it. Even in the case of legal snares, where the stop is required, there is still the possibility of strangulation or serious injury. There is the important point, too, that other animals are commonly caught in the snares set for foxes, with similar implications for their welfare.'

It is notable that Lord Bonyon's review does not include comparison of legal fox control methods in terms of humaneness. How can the government morally justify a ban on the use of hounds whilst alternative practices carrying serious welfare implications remain legal and widely used?

Not only does this proposal have implications for individual animals; it is also a gloomy prospect for the fox from a population perspective. In Scotland we are fortunate to have a law which allows gun packs to provide a measurable and moderate pest control service to farmers, whilst in England and Wales there is anecdotal evidence of a steep decline in fox numbers since the total ban, thanks to widespread shooting.

There has long been a great storm around this subject and I understand that to be a politician stuck in the middle of it will be a thankless task. With respect to public concerns, I'm afraid that many of the 'hunting' community and those who support it are frequently intimidated and vilified for participating in a legal activity and for that reason it can be very difficult to encourage them to speak up in any kind of public forum. Meanwhile, it is easy and popularised for a society which is increasingly disconnected from working rural life (and increasingly connected to social media) to oppose the management of foxes, without really understanding the processes involved.

Of course, as politicians, you will naturally aim to please the greatest number of people but do not forget your equal responsibility to represent minorities. You also have a duty to uphold animal welfare by considering the real implications of each of the methods of fox control and by making decisions genuinely unaffected by prejudice and expedience. This can only be achieved through the making of laws based on sound evidence and in the presence of due process; neither of these things are apparent in the government's proposals to restrict the number of hounds that may be used to flush a fox from cover.

I look forward to receiving your response.

Yours sincerely,

A thick, black horizontal bar used to redact the signature of the sender.

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 21 March 2019 11:18:21
To: Public Engagement Unit
Cc: Minister for Rural Affairs and the Natural Environment
Subject: FW: Protection of wild mammals (Scotland) Act

[REDACTED]
PEU

For MACCS, MR please ? grateful if you could allocate to ?

Thanks

[REDACTED]
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: 21 March 2019 11:11
To: Minister for Rural Affairs and the Natural Environment
<MinisterRANE@gov.scot<mailto:MinisterRANE@gov.scot>>>
Subject: Fwd: Protection of wild mammals (Scotland) Act

Begin forwarded message:

From: [REDACTED] <mailto:[REDACTED]>>
Date: 21 March 2019 at 11:01:58 GMT
To: <mairi.gougeon.msp@parliament.scot<mailto:mairi.gougeon.msp@parliament.scot>>>
Subject: Protection of wild mammals (Scotland) Act

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Telephone: [REDACTED] E-Mail: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] <mailto:[REDACTED]> Mobile: [REDACTED]

Dear Ms. Gougeon,

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 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 Uplands/Highlands ? The honest answer must be ? 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 and 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 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 truly,

[REDACTED]

*

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From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 19 March 2019 21:03:06
To: Scottish Ministers
Subject: For the Attention if Ms Marion Gougeon MSP

AO ? [REDACTED]

Dear Ms Gougeon,

I read with interest your recent article in the Scottish Farmer.

I studied Agriculture in the late 80s in Aberdeen and I share your passion for many of the points you raise, which are neatly summarised in the headings in your article. Interestingly whilst studying, I took a holiday job as relief dairy milker between [REDACTED] in an area where I believe you were brought up?

My reason for writing to you is that I understand you are currently reviewing the Scottish Protection of Wild Mammals Bill and in particular, in relation to the number of hounds that can be used to flush foxes to guns. I have to say that I am perplexed and dismayed at what appears on the face of it, to be a politically motivated proposal, and seems to be a knee jerk reaction to the orchestrated and misleading vociferous ?noise? emanating from generally urban based animal rights lobby and flies in the face of peer reviewed studies. Indeed any suggestion that it is being promoted on welfare grounds is simply baseless.

If we all accept the need for fox control, (I appreciate you as well as anyone, will know the damage foxes do to lambs, game, hens, ground nesting birds and wildlife in the countryside), then there must be a place for using hounds to locate and flush foxes to guns. I do not believe or accept that the current alternatives such as snaring and ?lamping?, offer any significantly higher welfare benefits. It can be argued they all have their place in vermin control but snares need only be checked every 24 hours and lamping at night can be fraught with difficulties. The temptation for the person holding the rifle to take a shot at distance or when conditions are not perfect, is clearly a concern. If they do not shoot the fox cleanly, it can for example crawl into the nearest ditch and potentially escape injured meaning there is the risk of a longer drawn out death. In the instances where hounds are used to flush foxes, once shot and if by chance it is wounded, at least the hounds can find it quickly and dispatch it within in a matter of seconds. It may not be pretty, but nor is seeing a fox in a trap or one wounded by a rifle shot.

I am not sure if you are familiar with the research paper produced by Naylor and Knott on the use of only two hounds versus a pack which shows it is significantly less effective and justifiable on grounds of fox welfare. Their summary conclusion is as follows.

Taking into consideration all the variables, the results were impressively clear cut. The pair of hounds flushed 56% fewer foxes than the pack, meaning the pack flushed nearly twice as many foxes from the same coverts as the pair of hounds. Furthermore, the average time taken to flush the fox for a pack of hounds was 9.37 minutes compared to 21.67 minutes by a pair. In layman's terms the pack of hounds flushed more foxes and did so faster than the pair of hounds.

A copy of the full study can be found via this link
<https://wildlife.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/epdf/10.1002/wsb.876>

It is clear it will inevitably take longer for the hounds to find a fox and when they do, they will have to work much harder in trying to put sufficient pressure on it to encourage it to leave the cover, this in turn will tire both fox and hound thus, there are clearly no arguments on welfare grounds to reduce the number of hounds to two.

I am also concerned by the ill-informed, biased and frequently blatantly untrue rhetoric that comes from animal rights activists or saboteurs, in their efforts to garner political and public support. As a recent example of this demonstrates, and you will be probably be aware, saboteurs made a claim, substantiated by a so called wildlife expert, that the [REDACTED] 'Illegally' killed a lactating vixen and to paraphrase 'whose cubs would no doubt starve to death'. This is quite simply a lie, designed to stir up a media storm. The fox in question was actually a Dog Fox (there is photographic proof of this) and was first shot. The so called wildlife expert is in fact a convicted saboteur who in effect, runs the [REDACTED] and has been charged and convicted of various offences relating to his activities as a saboteur. It demonstrates that claims by these saboteurs completely lack credibility and are simply designed to try and stir up a storm, create emotive but false images through their frankly ludicrous claims and highly edited filming, all of which are aimed at duping both politicians and public in an effort to gain support.

From a purely legal perspective, it would not have mattered were it a vixen or dog fox as there is no 'closed' season for controlling foxes. That said the use of hounds by the hunt in question works to a closed season and generally stops in the first or second week of March and Vixens do not usually give birth to cubs this far north until into April, thus reducing the likelihood of killing a lactating vixen. All other forms of fox control whether snaring or lamping can and do go on throughout the year.

What is clear is these saboteurs are generally against any form of fox or vermin control. (During a recent rampage by hunt saboteurs they took time to smash up crow traps on a shooting estate for example). Their angst is often based on prejudice rather than simply a welfare issue and see hunting in the first instance as an easy target. They are prone to using emotive language such as 'tearing the fox apart'. All very effective but if a fox has been shot and is already dead, then it is no different to say the spaniel or collie tearing into the a tin of pedigree chum! But the image conveyed by this rhetoric is completely different. It appears to me that this proposed change to the legislation is simply aimed at appeasing this small but extremely vocal and media

savvy group of extremists

Do we honestly think that these saboteurs will stop at banning the use of hounds in vermin control? They will be bolstered by their victory and turn on to the next on the list of their animal rights agenda, whether that be livestock farming, shooting or fishing etc, all of which hold a place in many rural communities across Scotland.

In this democratic society we are lucky to live in, I am all in favour of peoples' basic right to protest peacefully. However the right to roam was not designed to cater for disruptive, intimidating and often violent masked up activists, wearing paramilitary style gear and rampaging through the country side causing havoc to not only those who are undertaking a lawful activity in carrying out fox control, but also to those farmers on whose land they cross. Frequently they will march over sown crops, deliberately leave gates open and wander through their farmyards causing alarm and intimidation.

In the last few months or so they have become increasingly belligerent, and disruptive, spraying riders, hounds and helpers on quad bikes with a noxious chemical called citronella, causing both distress and harm to hounds, horses and humans alike. I have also seen them masked up and surrounding individuals in an intimidating manner and even throwing bottles at them! (there is plenty of photographic evidence to support this which I would be happy to share). Surely this should be deemed unacceptable, unlawful and amount to aggravated trespass?

I find our country is becoming increasingly polarised and divided and the rural voice is being drowned out. I am however, extremely fortunate to live on the edge of a small village in [REDACTED], which epitomises the spirit of a rural community. We have a post office / shop, Butcher and pub the latter not dissimilar to say the [REDACTED]. Go to the pub any Friday or Saturday evening and as well as the farmers, retired professional workers, you have numerous people who shoot (along with their spaniels or retrievers), as well as grooms, riders and hunt staff. Sadly however, we are seeing country pubs throughout Scotland closing down (I noticed the [REDACTED] in [REDACTED] closed recently). [REDACTED] our local Publican relies on this trade and it would be a disaster if the pub did close as it provides social refuge and company for many retired people in the village, who would be left lonely in the community if this place of social gathering was to close.



Take the Village's New Year's day meet. Where hounds and riders gather on the Village Green. You would be most welcome to come and visit and experience that community spirit for yourself. Despite the energetic festivities of many the night before, we get a huge turnout of locals at noon to see the hounds and chat with their neighbours. The vast majority have never even sat on a horse, never mind hunted, but again it is one of the annual focal points supported by our local rural community.

I would also ask you to consider the effect on the numerous grooms, feed merchants, shooting fraternity, professional hunt staff, keepers, blacksmiths, vets and hoteliers etc many of whom make a living from either Hunting, Shooting or fishing or contribute to the rural economy, which we all know is in a fragile state. We need and indeed rely on these jobs and income to keep these local rural economies and communities alive and functioning.

I appreciate voting margins are slim and when no one holds an overall majority, the temptation is to court whatever votes one can, in order to obtain a workable coalition.

However, I would urge you not to succumb to this pressure to push through ill-founded and illogical amendments to current legislation designed to stop the use of hounds in fox control, which will also have wider ramifications as referred to above.

Yours sincerely

 <mailto:>

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The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

John Scott M.S.P.

Member of the Scottish Parliament for Ayr Constituency

17 OCT 2018

PR1

Marie Gougeon MSP
Minister for Rural Affairs and the Natural Environment
St. Andrew's House
Regent Road
Edinburgh
EH1 3DG

15th October 2018
15 OCT 2018

Dear Marie

I am writing to you following contact from constituents who have asked me for clarification on the position taken by the Scottish Government regarding the recommendations made by Lord Bonomy following his review of the Protection of Wild Mammals (Scotland) Act.

I do know that you have recently met with stakeholders, including the Scottish Countryside Alliance, the Scottish Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals and the League Against Cruel Sports Scotland, and that you will be considering the consultation analysis arising from the review.

In order to respond to my constituents, I would, however, be grateful for any additional information you could provide, including if possible an indicative timescale for the Scottish Government setting out its intentions.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter and I look forward to hearing from you in due course.

Kind regards,

Yours sincerely


JOHN SCOTT

Parliamentary Office:

Scottish Parliament, Edinburgh EH99 1SP

Telephone: 0131 348 5664 ~ Facsimile: 0131 348 5617

Constituency Office:

17 Wellington Square, Ayr KA7 1EZ

Telephone: 01292 286251 ~ Facsimile: 01292 280480

e-mail: John.Scott.msp@parliament.scot

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 08 November 2018 12:16:28
To: Public Engagement Unit
Cc: Minister for Rural Affairs and the Natural Environment, Dora S (Steven)
Subject: FW: The Future of Fox Hunting

Attachments: Bob Doris MSP to Mairi Gougeon MSP 31 October 2018.pdf

Ao - [REDACTED]

PEU

For MACCS - MR please.

Thanks

[REDACTED]
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: [REDACTED]
<[REDACTED]><mailto:[REDACTED]>

Sent: 08 November 2018 10:51

To: Minister for Rural Affairs and the Natural Environment
<MinisterRANE@gov.scot<mailto:MinisterRANE@gov.scot>>
Subject: The Future of Fox Hunting

Hi Mairi,

Attached is a letter from Bob regarding the future of fox hunting in Scotland.

Best wishes,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Office of Bob Doris, MSP for Maryhill and Springburn

Email:

[REDACTED]@parliament.scot<mailto:[REDACTED]@parliament.scot>

Phone:

[REDACTED]

*

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The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Mairi Gougeon MSP
Minister for Rural Affairs and the Natural Environment
The Scottish Government
St Andrew's House
Regent Road
Edinburgh
EH1 3DG



Date: 8 November 2018
Ref: BD6284

Dear Mairi,

The Future of Fox Hunting

I have recently been contacted by several constituents regarding the future of fox hunting in Scotland. Concerns have been raised about the effectiveness of the Protection of Wild Mammals (Scotland) Act 2002. My constituents believe that the exemptions within the Act may simply provide loopholes for hunting in a way that would otherwise be illegal.

Several of my constituents were among those who took part in the Scottish Government consultation on Lord Bonomy's recommendations following his review of current proceedings relating to fox hunting. They have expressed frustration that it is now over 8 months since that consultation closed, and as yet there has not been a response to that consultation from the Scottish Government.

I am writing to ask for additional information as to how the Scottish Government may proceed with its response to the consultation and when the analysis of responses to the consultation is expected to be completed.

In particular, is the Scottish Government considering reducing, limiting, or tightening up the exemptions within the 2002 Act banning fox hunting? Question 5 in the Lord Bonomy consultation asked whether the onus for establishing that conduct falls within one of the exceptions provided in the 2002 Act should rest with the person accused of an offence. Will the Scottish Government consider putting the onus on the individual citing an exemption to

Bob Doris MSP
e-mail: bob.doris.msp@parliament.scot
Maryhill Burgh Halls 10-24 Gairbraid Ave. G20 8YE
Phone: 0141 946 7700

demonstrate compliance? I am sympathetic to this if hunting is to continue even in a limited way. I am also aware that a difference between the current legislation in Scotland compared with that in England is that in Scotland there is no limit on the number of dogs that can be used to 'flush to guns' whereas in England there is a limit of two dogs. Again if hunting is to be permitted at all then this is another obvious example of where matters could be tightened up.

What is the Scottish Government's current position on these matters, and when are any changes likely to be brought forward?

I look forward to your response in due course.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bob Doris". The script is cursive and fluid, with the first letters of "Bob" and "Doris" being capitalized and prominent.

Bob Doris MSP for Maryhill and Springburn (SNP)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 20 September 2018 18:01:31
To: Public Engagement Unit
Cc: Minister for Rural Affairs and the Natural Environment, [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: Letter(S) attached

Attachments: RANE letter 0118.pdf, Colin Smyth letter 0918.pdf

For MACCs please expedite this case.

Thanks

[REDACTED] Minister for Rural Affairs and the Natural Environment

0131 244 4426

07896281679

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

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From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 19 September 2018 09:42
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Letter(S) attached

Good afternoon [REDACTED]

Two letters attached. Could please forward to the Minister.

Thank you

Kindest Regards

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] <mailto:[REDACTED]>

Tel: [REDACTED]
Mobile: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

To join: [REDACTED]

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14/09/2018

The Protection of Wild Mammals (Scotland) Act 2002

Minister

I write in relation to your most recent exchange with Colin Smyth MSP Labour Shadow Cabinet Secretary for Rural Economy and Connectivity.

Mr Smyth made a number of observations about the Protection of Wild Mammals (Scotland) Act 2002 and the independent review of that Act, commissioned from Lord Bonomy by the Scottish Government.

I thought it might be helpful to him if I clarified a number of matters... I have taken the liberty of copying my response for your attention.

Minister, in response to Mr Smyth's comments on the Protection of Wild Mammals Scotland Act 2002, you make reference to the most recent consultation "Improving the Protection of Wild Mammals in Scotland" Indeed you responded thus "A number of people feel very passionately about the issue, as we can see from the 20,000 responses that we received from the consultation."

We were given to believe that regardless to the numerical representation, consultation responses originating from an email campaign would count as "one response".

My understating of the analysis is that the consultation received 18,787 responses. However 18,497 were generated by five (5) campaigns. (98%) while 290 were substantive responses (2%)



14/09/2018

The Protection of Wild Mammals (Scotland) Act 2002

Mr Smyth

In your recent exchange with the Minister, Mairi Gougeon, you made a number of observations about the Protection of Wild Mammals (Scotland) Act 2002 and the independent review of that Act, commissioned from Lord Bonomy by the Scottish Government.

I thought it might be helpful to you if I clarify a number of matters.

You stated that in voting for the Act the then Scottish Parliament believed it would lead to a "proper ban on hunting". You seem to imply that a 'proper ban' consists of a situation where mounted hunts can no longer flush foxes to guns as the current law allows. Can I assume that so long as no one is mounted that you would be happy for the law to continue to allow dogs to be used to flush out foxes to be shot for the legitimate reasons set out in the Act?

What mounted hunts do is no different from that done by the Scottish hill packs unmounted. Perhaps the involvement of people on horses has a negative impact on the welfare on foxes being flushed to guns, which is not the case when the activity is conducted on foot or using some other mode of transport? If this is so then I would be very interested to see the evidence which supports such a position.

Contrary to what you stated, I would strongly suggest that the Scottish Parliament voted for a ban on traditional hunting (involving the chase and kill by dogs) but recognised the need to continue to use dogs to flush foxes to guns for pest control and that this is clearly reflected in the Act as passed. Logically, not least in terms of animal welfare, whether flushing was done mounted or in any other way was irrelevant and the Parliament recognised that. The exceptions/exemptions in the Act are therefore not "unintended loopholes" as you suggest but Parliament's recognition of the role dogs have to play, a role clearly supported by Lord Bonomy. Lord Bonomy notes: "3.9 ...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."

While we do not accept that there was evidence to justify any ban on traditional hunting, the Act passed by the Scottish Parliament did at least recognise that the control of foxes using dogs was necessary and the Parliament refused to legislate on the basis of an artificial and prejudiced distinction between those who used dogs mounted and those unmounted. Legislation in those terms would clearly have been unjustifiable and ridiculous.

You went on to call for a limit on the number of dogs to two which could be used under all the exemptions, despite the fact that this is directly contrary to the findings of Lord Bonomy and contrary to the only scientific evidence in this area, the Naylor and Knott research to which Lord Bonomy refers and which has since been peer reviewed. Lord Bonomy found that: "7.26 ...I am 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...". If the credibility of Parliament is of such importance, one can think of fewer things likely to call that credibility into question than for Parliament to ignore the science and evidence and also act directly contrary to Lord Bonomy's findings.

You imply that hunts have been ignoring the law both in "spirit and in practice". Yet despite intensive public scrutiny, including by the LACS, there is no evidence of the widespread law breaking you suggest. Lord Bonomy himself noted that "4.7...The operation of the Act has not been raised as a topic in this forum (the Plenary Group of the Partnership Against Wildlife Crime Scotland (PAWS))...". The Plenary Group consists of all PAWS members including Police Scotland, COPFS and animal welfare charities, land management organisations and Government agencies. He goes on to say: "4.15...there have been proportionately no more prosecutions in England and Wales than in Scotland..."; "4.17...Police Scotland lead on wildlife crime, Chief Superintendent Sean Scott, did say, in answer to a question posed by a member of the Rural Affairs, Climate Change and Environment Committee at their meeting on 13 January 2016, that there is no evidence to suggest that the mounted hunts are acting outwith the legislation that is in place..." and "6.1 ... none of the submissions contain evidence of hounds actually killing a fox...". He also noted how the hunts had changed their way of operating in accordance with the legislation and had worked closely with the police from the beginning. Simply making allegations of widespread law breaking does not mean that it is true, and if it really is as widespread and blatant as you seem to suggest then where is the evidence and why has it not been handed to the police so that those breaking the law can be prosecuted? Where the law has been broken and the evidence exists, those deliberately hunting a wild mammal with a dog(s) have been successfully prosecuted. Over two hundred to date, including one mounted pack, the Jedforest. Even then, When sentencing the Jedforest Huntsman and Whip Sheriff Peter Patterson said: "In My opinion, there was no question of the appellants carrying on traditional hunting" "The appellants were involved in pest control".

I hope this puts some matters into perspective and I have taken the liberty of copying this to the Minister as I think it important that she is aware of the facts in this matter and the way in which evidence is in danger of being twisted, contradicted or ignored. We continue to have confidence that the Government and Parliament will base their position on the evidence and not prejudices unrelated to animal welfare or the need to manage foxes in Scotland humanely.

It would be a sad day for the Scottish Parliament, and Scottish politicians, if the long-settled issue of hunting with hounds were to return to the top of the political agenda.

I should be delighted to meet you in person, should that be helpful.

I look forward to your response

Kind Regards

Cc **Mairi Gougeon MSP** Minister for Rural Affairs and the Natural Environment

From: Macintosh K (Ken), MSP
Sent: 15 October 2018 14:37:22
To: Scottish Ministers
Subject: Strengthening the Protection of Wild Mammals (Scotland) Act 2002

AO ? [REDACTED] ? MR

TO: Mairi Gougeon MSP
Minister for Rural Affairs and the Natural Environment

Our Ref: MD/KM10382

Dear Mairi

Re: Strengthening the Protection of Wild Mammals (Scotland) Act 2002

I have recently been contacted by a number of constituents about strengthening the Protection of Wild Mammals (Scotland) Act 2002. Please find below part of the correspondence for your information.

?Dear Mr Macintosh,

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?

As you can see, my constituents are disappointed at the length of time it is taking for a decision to be made on whether improvements to this legislation will be introduced.

With the analysis of the consultation being published at the end of June, I would welcome your thoughts on how this Act may be improved in line with both the Lord Bonomy report and comments made in the public consultation.

???????Thank you for your attention to this matter and I look forward to your response.

Yours sincerely
Ken

Rt Hon Ken Macintosh MSP
Presiding Officer

Member of the Scottish Parliament for the West of Scotland
Parliamentary Office: Queensberry House, The Scottish Parliament, EH99 1SP | Tel: 0131 348 5324
Regional Office: 1 Spiersbridge Way, Thornliebank, G46 8NG | Tel: 0141 620 6310
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From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 05 December 2018 13:33:31
To: Public Engagement Unit
Cc: Minister for Rural Affairs and the Natural Environment, Dora S
(Steven)
Subject: FW: Letter for the minister

Attachments: A Johnstone MSP letter 1218.pdf, RANE letter 1218.pdf

PEU

Grateful for addition to MACCS please

Thanks

[REDACTED]
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: [REDACTED]
Sent: 05 December 2018 07:41
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: Mairi.Gougeon.msp@parliament.scot
Subject: Letter for the minister

[REDACTED]

I hope this finds you well

Please find attached two letters I would like the minister to see soonest.

Many thanks

Kindest Regards

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Tel: [REDACTED]
Mobile: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

To join: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

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05/12/2018

Protection of Wild Mammals (Scotland) Act 2002

Mrs Alison Johnstone MSP,

I write in this instance on behalf of the [REDACTED] and specifically in relation to the media reports on your observations of the [REDACTED] activities on the 20th of November 2018.

It is my understanding that you participated in covert surveillance with the League Against Cruel Sports Wildlife Crime Investigator [REDACTED] and that you believe that you witnessed a wild life crime.

I have been authorised [REDACTED], to offer you the opportunity to return to the location, to meet with the operational staff present that day and to review the full account of the incident.

I accept that this is unlikely to change your mind on the application of the process and unequivocally respect your personal thoughts. I am however certain that it will help you clarify the practicalities involved in the flushing and shooting of a wild mammal under the Protection of Wild Mammals (Scotland) Act 2002 and to avoid further accusations being made in your name against those who practice this form of legal pest control.

I look forward to your response

Kind Regards

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Cc **Mairi Gougeon MSP** Minister for Rural Affairs and the Natural Environment

[REDACTED]

05/12/2018

The Protection of Wild Mammals (Scotland) Act 2002

Minister

I write in this instance in relation to Alison Johnstone's recent statements on the activities of the [REDACTED] and specifically in relation to the media reports on Mrs Johnstone's observations of the foxhound pack activities on the 20th of November 2018.

It is my understanding from the media that she has reported her participation in covert surveillance with the League Against Cruel Sports Wildlife Crime Investigator [REDACTED] and that she believes that she witnessed a wild life crime.

While I absolutely respect Mrs Johnstone's right to object to the control of wild mammals, I would have expected an elected member of the Scottish Parliament to respect the law. In doing so, I would have anticipated that she immediately call Police Scotland to halt such proceedings and not, as she has done, report this through mainstream media channels.

I fully expect Mrs Johnstone to raise the issue within parliamentary debate and wanted to reassure you that I have reached out to her with the attached letter. I will inform you to her response.

Kind Regards

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 13 June 2018 15:14:08
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 Cunningham letter 130618.pdf

Hi,

One for MACCS please.

Kind Regards,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] - 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@01D40329.2CD31340]<<http://home.scotland.gov.uk/home>>

From: [REDACTED] [mailto:[REDACTED]]
Sent: 13 June 2018 14:41
To: Cabinet Secretary for the Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform;
[REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: Letter for Ms Roseanna Cunningham MSP

Good afternoon [REDACTED]

Letter for the Cabinet Secretary attached.

Kindest Regards

[REDACTED]

Tel: [REDACTED]
Mobile: [REDACTED]

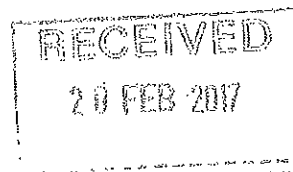
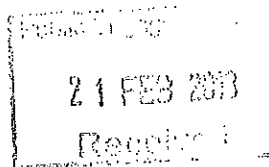
To join: [REDACTED]

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 co-ionann ri beachdan Riaghaltas na h-Alba.

*

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Ms Roseanna Cunningham MSP
Cabinet Sec for Environment.
Holyrood
Edinburgh
15/2/2018

Lord Bonomy Review

Dear Ms Cunningham,

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 am writing to you in your capacity as Minister and the above review.

I always regarded the 'protection of wild mammals act' to be flawed. I felt it was largely political and in reality it had little to do with protection of wild mammals, much less the management of wildlife. But then I would. However there are perfectly sound laws available to police poaching as in hare coursing and in the case of fox hunting the Act brought in 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 [REDACTED] 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. That is primarily because a fox is actually very difficult to kill on top of ground by hounds. Hounds hunt by scent and not sight. Foxes are almost always in control of events unless scenting conditions are good. Good scent allowing a prolonged hunt is 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.

The driving to guns model, as now, takes out the good and the bad alike and as a management tool is a blunt indiscriminate method, but a very effective method in terms of vermin control. This is what we were left with in 2002. I for one don't really like it because it reduces the stock of good animals too. In the past we couldn't challenge the law for fear of getting something worse. We have had to operate that

model to keep our hunt infrastructures alive. And these hunts or clubs do a fine job in keeping social cohesion in the areas where they exist, and make a significant financial contribution locally. They all play their part in horse trials, agricultural shows and point to points and in numerous other ways which add to the social fabric of rural Scotland.

If the current Parliament succeeds in driving hunts to the wall as some would like, then fox control will be left entirely to game keepers or amateurs etc with their array of weapons like snares high powered rifles lamps and military type night sights etc. In certain areas in my country foxes are virtually absent. There is no close season, just destruction. Is that the management and welfare you want? Foxes should be present in the countryside and they have their place in the ecosystem. I urge balance. Fox hunting has always preserved that balance.

The other factor which should be taken into consideration is comparison between all methods of control and to have a knowledge of how animals act in the wild. Most people have no awareness of how raptors kill their prey, or have they observed how domestic cats operate with their victims, or carrion crows and ravens with new born lambs sometimes attacking the same as they are being born. The list goes on and fox hunting is mild compared to some things which occur in the wild or even domestically. And, incidentally what is the difference between hounds being used on foot or from a horse except for the prejudice of the observer.

The Review by Lord Bonomy activated by your administration sadly did not start at the beginning of the story. It rather assumes merit in the Act and perhaps also assumes that the said Act is not working because people have not been convicted. It could be the case, and I believe is the case that actually the restrictions in the law are working well in curbing the things the Parliament thought were wrong.

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 Hunt sabs or LAC members not to mention the urban majority, many of whom may have no knowledge or real interest in the subject.

On any day of any year I could, as a member of the public, (with the right equipment), sit in a hedgerow 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? So I hope the Government will exercise great caution and discretion in applying this Review. The rural economy is underpinned by activities like hunting shooting and fishing. I would urge you to leave well alone. Rural communities are fragile enough.

Yours sincerely

[Redacted Signature]

PS at risk of appearing condescending may I commend the views of VAWM (vets for animal wildlife management) which as an evidenced body is very interesting on this whole subject.

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 31 January 2018 08:07:32
To: Public Engagement Unit
Cc: Cabinet Secretary for the Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform
Subject: FW: Response to consultation

Hi,

One for MACCS please.

Kind Regards

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Assistant Private Secretary
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@01D39A6A.8B39D3B0]<<http://home.scotland.gov.uk/home>>

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 30 January 2018 16:53
To: First Minister; Cabinet Secretary for Justice; Cabinet Secretary for the
Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform
Subject: Fw: Response to consultation

Dear Ministers,

Please don't make minor changes to The Protection of Wild Mammals (Scotland) Act 2002. As you can see from my submission to the consultation on improving that Act I believe it is time to replace it with a law that really does ban fox hunting in Scotland.

Yours faithfully,

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 30 January 2018 07:49
To: 2002ActReview@gov.scot<mailto:2002ActReview@gov.scot>
Subject: Response to consultation

Dear Sir or Madam,

I have looked at your prepared response questionnaire for the consultation on Improving the Protection of Wild Mammals in Scotland. Your questionnaire does not properly reflect my feelings on this and I wish you to accept this e-mail as my submission to this consultation. I give permission for my details to be published along with my submission.

Like the vast majority of people in Scotland I believe there is no place for hunting with hounds in the 21st Century. The Protection of Wild Mammals (Scotland) Act 2002 sought to end the killing of foxes by hounds but failed miserably.

Fox hunters had their chance to change to drag hunting and stop killing foxes. They chose not to do that and, free from the attention of hunt saboteurs and of the police who totally failed to police the new law, they continued killing foxes.

Instead of tweaking and tinkering with The Protection of Wild Mammals (Scotland) Act 2002 I ask the Scottish Government to replace that Act with a new law which truly bans hunting, lethal or otherwise, with dogs. I ask that it be made illegal to use dogs to deliberately chase wild mammals and that it be made illegal for people on horseback to chase wild mammals.

While I disagree that there is any legitimate need to kill foxes I fear the Scottish Government will continue to allow dogs to be used to flush foxes out of cover to be shot. If that is the case I urge you to do three things.

- 1: Limit the number of dogs to be used to two.
- 2: Make it mandatory that dogs used are fitted with safe muzzles.
- 3: Make it illegal to put terriers or other dogs into any hole in the ground to force any animal to the surface.

I urge the Scottish Government to create a law which truly bans fox hunting.

I wish to confirm that I am replying as an individual and happy for my name and comments to be displayed.

Yours faithfully,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 29 January 2018 14:47:49
To: Public Engagement Unit
Cc: Cabinet Secretary for the Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform
Subject: FW: consultation on Improving the Protection of Wild Mammals in Scotland

Hi,

One for MACCS please.

Kind Regards,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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

Tel: 0131 244 5337

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

[cid:image001.png@01D39910.2234F9E0]<http://home.scotland.gov.uk/home>

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 29 January 2018 14:45
To: Cabinet Secretary for the Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform
Subject: consultation on Improving the Protection of Wild Mammals in Scotland

Dear Minister

Below is the response to the consultation on Improving the Protection of Wild Mammals in Scotland that I've just sent.

Best wishes

[REDACTED]

This e-mail is my response to the consultation on Improving the Protection of Wild Mammals in Scotland since the questionnaire does not accord with my views.

The Protection of Wild Mammals (Scotland) Act 2002 failed to end the killing of foxes by hounds but such barbarity is simply inexcusable in the 21st century. Fox hunters have not taken up drag hunting and continue to kill foxes.

Instead of amending The Protection of Wild Mammals (Scotland) Act 2002 it would be much better to replace it with a new law banning hunting, using dogs to chase wild animals and chasing wild animals on horseback.

There is absolutely no need to kill foxes but if it is permitted for dogs to be used to flush foxes out of cover to be shot then:

- the number of dogs should be limited to two

- the dogs should wear muzzles
- the use of terriers should be banned.

I trust my views will be taken into consideration.

Best wishes

[Redacted signature block]

Tel. [Redacted phone number]

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From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 29 January 2018 12:40:07
To: Public Engagement Unit
Subject: Consultation "improving the protection of wild mammals in Scotland":

OR PLEASE

I would be grateful if you would put this on MACCS for an official reply.

Many thanks,
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
Private Office of Michael Matheson MSP, Cabinet Secretary for Justice
St. Andrews House | Regent Road | Edinburgh EH1 3DG | 0131 244 5143

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From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 29 January 2018 12:21
To: Cabinet Secretary for Justice
Subject: consultation "improving the protection of wild mammals in Scotland":

Dear Mr Matheson,

please scrap the severely flawed 2002 Protection of Wild Mammals (Scotland) Act and introduce a new law which actually does ban fox, hare and any other hunting of animals. Scotland has led the way with the ban on wild animals in circus now we must continue to show that the torture and killing of sentient beings for fun (as we know the excuse that it is for control is scientifically incorrect) is unacceptable and will not be tolerated in Scotland. Hunters do have an alternative in drag hunting.

I include below my submission to the consultation "improving the protection of wild mammals in Scotland":

Dear Sir or Madam,

I have looked at your prepared response questionnaire for the consultation on Improving the Protection of Wild Mammals in Scotland. Your questionnaire does not properly reflect my feelings on this and I wish you to accept this e-mail as my submission to this consultation. I give permission for my details to be published along with my submission.

Like the vast majority of people in Scotland I believe there is no place for hunting with hounds in the 21st Century. The Protection of Wild Mammals (Scotland) Act 2002 sought to end the killing of foxes by hounds but failed miserably.

Fox hunters had their chance to change to drag hunting and stop killing foxes. They chose not to do that and, free from the attention of hunt saboteurs and of the police who totally failed to police the new law, they continued killing foxes.

Instead of tweaking and tinkering with The Protection of Wild Mammals (Scotland) Act 2002 I ask the Scottish Government to replace that Act with a new law which truly bans hunting, lethal or otherwise, with dogs. I ask that it be made illegal to use dogs to deliberately chase wild mammals and that it be made illegal for people on horseback to chase wild mammals.

While I disagree that there is any legitimate need to kill foxes I fear the Scottish Government will continue to allow dogs to be used to flush foxes out of cover to be shot. If that is the case I urge you to do three things.

- 1: Limit the number of dogs to be used to two.
- 2: Make it mandatory that dogs used are fitted with safe muzzles.
- 3: Make it illegal to put terriers or other dogs into any hole in the ground to force any animal to the surface.

I urge the Scottish Government to create a law which truly bans fox hunting.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]

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From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 29 January 2018 14:23:38
To: Public Engagement Unit
Subject: The Protection of Wild Mammals (Scotland) Act 2002

Grateful if this could be passed on to whoever is dealing with the current consultation.

Many thanks,
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
Private Office of Michael Matheson MSP, Cabinet Secretary for Justice
St. Andrews House | Regent Road | Edinburgh EH1 3DG | 0131 244 5143

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From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 28 January 2018 12:07
To: Cabinet Secretary for Justice
Subject: The Protection of Wild Mammals (Scotland) Act 2002

From: [REDACTED]
To: Mr Michael Matheson, Cabinet Secretary for Justice, Scottish Government, Edinburgh

Dear Mr Matheson,

Please don't make minor changes to The Protection of Wild Mammals (Scotland) Act 2002. As you can see from my submission (below) to the consultation on improving that Act I believe it is time to replace it with a law that really does ban fox hunting in Scotland.

Yours sincerely,
[REDACTED]

Submission

Dear Sir or Madam,

I have looked at your prepared response questionnaire for the consultation on Improving the Protection of Wild Mammals in Scotland. Your questionnaire does not properly reflect my feelings on this and I wish you to accept this e-mail as my submission to this consultation. I give permission for my details to be published along with my submission.

Like the vast majority of people in Scotland I believe there is no place for hunting with hounds in the 21st Century. The Protection of Wild Mammals (Scotland) Act 2002 sought to end the killing of foxes by hounds but failed miserably.

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- 3: Make it illegal to put terriers or other dogs into any hole in the ground to force any animal to the surface.

I urge the Scottish Government to create a law which truly bans fox hunting.

Yours faithfully,



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From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 08 January 2018 14:53:37
To: Public Engagement Unit
Cc: Cabinet Secretary for the Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform
Subject: FW: Rigged reviews

Hi,

One for MACCS please.

Kind Regards,

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

Tel: 0131 244 5337

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

[cid:image001.png@01D38890.7702D9A0]<<http://home.scotland.gov.uk/home>>

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 02 January 2018 13:10
To: Cabinet Secretary for the Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform
Subject: Rigged reviews

[REDACTED]
02/01/2018

Rt Hon Roseanna Cunningham MSP

Dear Roseanna,

As you can see I will be advising stakeholders to bow out of your rigged reviews, whatever they decide is up to them, but at least I have given them information for them to make an informed decision, something the Scottish Government in public consultations appears not willing to do. I will also be contacting anyone that has been contracted by the Scottish Government to investigate grouse moor management as they reputations to uphold and an association to the Scottish Government could potentially damage these reputations. You really have yourself to blame for getting into bed with horrible organisations like Onekind, you reap what you sow Roseanna.

<https://thealdenham.wordpress.com/2018/01/02/they-rig-public-consultations-in-scotland-dont-they/>

Yours Sincerely

[REDACTED]

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Cabinet Security for Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform

Protection of Wild Mammals (Scotland) Act 2002

13/06/2018

Cabinet Secretary,

I am certain that [REDACTED] will have informed you that stakeholders have reached a consensus on the Code of Practice for Mounted Foxhound Packs and that the document is now fit for wider distribution and use.

I thank you for allowing our contribution to what I believe to be a significant achievement, particularly when you consider the polarised opinions of those involved. I am aware that it is the intention of the chair to recall a selection from the stakeholder group to consider Lord Bonython's thoughts on a complimentary monitoring scheme. We willingly commit to making such a scheme work for all concerned. I very much hope that you will ensure that these measures will be given time to prove themselves before any further measures are contemplated.

It is my understanding that the analysis of the consultation nears completion and that you plan to announce the government's response and intention before the parliament lifts for summer recess. I wondered if you might consider a meeting in advance of your announcement, if only to better prepare my members for the next phase of the review.

Unfortunately, I am on annual leave from the Monday the 18th returning to work on the 25th June.

I look forward to your response

Kind Regards

[REDACTED]
Director
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 23 July 2019 09:35:20
To: Public Engagement Unit
Subject: FW: The Importance of Foxhounds

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Minister for Rural Affairs and the Natural Environment

0131 244 4426
07896281679
MinisterRANE@gov.scot<mailto:MinisterRANE@gov.scot>

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From: [REDACTED]
<[REDACTED]>
Sent: 22 July 2019 20:32
To: Minister for Rural Affairs and the Natural Environment
<MinisterRANE@gov.scot<mailto:MinisterRANE@gov.scot>>
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<mailto: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 co-operated 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 Bony'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.

[REDACTED]

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[Image removed by sender.]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 23 April 2019 09:22:52
To: Public Engagement Unit
Cc: Minister for Rural Affairs and the Natural Environment
Subject: FW: Message from Scottish Parliament website

For MACCs please

Please allocate to [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Minister for Rural Affairs and the Natural Environment

[REDACTED]
MinisterRANE@gov.scot<mailto:MinisterRANE@gov.scot>

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From: Gougeon M (Mairi), MSP <Mairi.Gougeon.msp@parliament.scot>
Sent: 19 April 2019 10:00
To: Minister for Rural Affairs and the Natural Environment
<MinisterRANE@gov.scot>
Subject: Fwd: Message from Scottish Parliament website

Begin forwarded message:

From: <noreply@parliament.scot<mailto:noreply@parliament.scot>>
Date: 18 April 2019 at 23:44:29 BST
To:
<Mairi.Gougeon.msp@parliament.scot<mailto:Mairi.Gougeon.msp@parliament.scot>>
>>
Subject: Message from Scottish Parliament website
name:

[REDACTED]

address:

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

postcode:

[REDACTED]

email:

[REDACTED]

telephone:

message:

I live in the Scottish Borders [REDACTED] to be more precise .
I am aware the Scottish Government seek to make legislative changes following the outcome of the Lord Bonomy's review of the Protection of Wild Mammals (Scotland) Act 2002, and I am writing to express my dismay and point of view.

It is my understanding that Lord Bonomy concluded that ?The use of packs of hounds to flush out foxes to be shot remains a significant pest control measure? and ?Searching and flushing by two dogs would not be as effective as that done by a full pack of hounds.?

I believe the only peer reviewed scientific evidence available on the subject in the form of The Naylor and Knott paper 2018 showed that a pack of dogs is more effective at flushing red foxes to guns than a pair of dogs.

The mounted foxhound packs have adapted to provide a highly professional pest control service for farmers with particular attention being given to the welfare and conservation of the fox whilst also providing a subsidised service to collect and dispose of deadstock, which is a great benefit for stock farmers.

I believe using dogs to flush foxes to guns is the most humane method of legal pest control. Humane because it is intrinsically certain and leaves no wounded or damaged survivors because it has the ability to humanely dispatch any animals which are not immediately killed outright.

I am reliably informed that mounted foxhound packs in Scotland comply with current law and have adopted the voluntary code of practice. I can speak with confidence , and through personal experience of The Lauderdale, Buccleugh and Berwickshire hunts that the current law is diligently followed and adhered to ! The pack and its subscribers contribute significantly to the local rural economy and should this pest control service be further restricted by over-zealous and ill informed legislation it is my impression that employment levels and the local economy would suffer. Horse numbers would decline, meaning less employment for vets , feed merchants etc. Another unintended consequence would be Border common ridings would suffer , as there would be less horses and participants, and these are centuries old traditions, held very dear---Try telling a Hawick man , or woman, there will be no more ride outs due to lack of horses!!! I fear the outrage would make my protestation pale into insignificance.

The community associated with hunting makes a major contribution to the social cohesion of the area and provides an opportunity for all ages to exercise, education themselves about the countryside and how to manage it responsibly. It maintains access to the countryside for horseback riders and in addition supporting committees organise a range of annual social activities in rural areas that can otherwise be isolating.

I will always respect the right of others to have a different view of hunting and countryside conservation from my own, but I deplore the way they use intimidation and distortion of the truth to force their minority point of view onto others and try to prevent the hunting community and others from pursuing their lawful activities. As far as hunting is concerned, their manipulation of the press, social media and opinion polls to portray a completely false picture of an activity which is permanently rooted in our culture is a travesty and has no place in our hard-won free, liberal and democratic society.

I am concerned that public money (my money!) has been spent on Lord Bonomy's independent review for the conclusions not only to be ignored but indeed the name of the review to be used as justification for legislative changes to be made that contradict its conclusion.

I would be keen to get your thoughts on this issue so I am best placed to identify individuals and parties who I would be happy to represent me in the future.

*

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From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 13 March 2019 16:58:54
To: Public Engagement Unit
Cc: Cabinet Secretary for Health and Sport
Subject: FW: Reference Lord Bonython's review of the Protection of Wild Mammals (Scotland) Act 2002.

AO [REDACTED]

PEU

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

Thanks

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

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From: [REDACTED]
<[REDACTED]@parliament.scotmailto:[REDACTED]> On
Behalf Of Freeman J (Jeane), MSP
Sent: 13 March 2019 16:12
To: Cabinet Secretary for Health and Sport
<CabSecHS@gov.scotmailto:CabSecHS@gov.scot>>
Cc: [REDACTED]
<[REDACTED]@parliament.scotmailto:Tracy.Hamilton@parliament.scot>>
Subject: FW: Reference Lord Bonython's review of the Protection of Wild Mammals (Scotland) Act 2002.

Hi [REDACTED]

Please see email below for response.

Thanks,
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] 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: [REDACTED]

Sent: 13 March 2019 14:29

To: Freeman J (Jeane), MSP

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

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

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

13th March 2019

Jeane Freeman MSP

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

Cabinet Secretary for Health and Sport

Dear Ms Freeman

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

I understand that the Scottish Government plans to make a legislative change
prompted by the outcome of the Lord Bonomy review of the above act. I am writing
to give my personal point of view as the sister of a former Welsh hill farmer, the wife
of a Borders farmer. I am concerned about the proposal to limit flushing to just 2
dogs

I am aware that a number of farmers loose significant numbers of lambs every year to
foxes: to give one example the [REDACTED] family at [REDACTED] near [REDACTED] estimate they
loose approximately 90 lambs every year to foxes. Fox control provided by the
foxhound packs is often greatly appreciated by famers. In remote hill country
difficulties of access and increased afforestation makes it even harder for farmers to
control foxes.

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.?

I can imagine this is going to be a challenging issue for you to work though and I just
wanted to thank you for all your help.

I understand a licensing system to specific ?geographic? locations is being considered.
I would much appreciate hearing your thoughts on the subject.

Yours sincerely
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 13 March 2019 14:02:23
To: Public Engagement Unit
Cc: Minister for Rural Affairs and the Natural Environment, Greenan R (Rebecca)
Subject: FW: Reference Lord Bonomy's review of the Protection of Wild Mammals (Scotland) Act 2002.

AO [REDACTED]

For MACCs please

[REDACTED] 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: 13 March 2019 14:02
To: Minister for Rural Affairs and the Natural Environment
<MinisterRANE@gov.scot<mailto:MinisterRANE@gov.scot>>
Subject: FW: Reference Lord Bonomy's review of the Protection of Wild Mammals (Scotland) Act 2002.

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 13 March 2019 13:59
To: Gougeon M (Mairi), MSP
<Mairi.Gougeon.msp@parliament.scot<mailto:Mairi.Gougeon.msp@parliament.scot>>
Subject: Reference Lord Bonomy's review of the Protection of Wild Mammals (Scotland) Act 2002.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

13th March 2019

Mairi Gougeon

Mairi.Gougeon.msp@parliament.scot<mailto:Mairi.Gougeon.msp@parliament.scot>
Minister for Rural Affairs & the Natural Environment

Reference Lord Bonomy's review of the Protection of Wild Mammals (Scotland) Act 2002.

I understand that the Scottish Government plans to make a legislative change prompted by the outcome of the Lord Bonomy review of the above act. I am writing to give my personal point of view as the sister of a former Welsh hill farmer, the wife of a Borders farmer. I am concerned about the proposal to limit flushing to just 2 dogs

I am aware that a number of farmers lose significant numbers of lambs every year to foxes: to give one example the [REDACTED] family at [REDACTED] near [REDACTED] estimate they lose approximately 90 lambs every year to foxes. Fox control provided by the foxhound packs is often greatly appreciated by farmers. In remote hill country difficulties of access and increased afforestation makes it even harder for farmers to control foxes.

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.'

I understand a licensing system to specific 'geographic' locations is being considered. I would much appreciate hearing your thoughts on the subject.

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]

*

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From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 02 January 2019 09:20:05
To: scottish.ministers@gov.scot
Subject: Important - Latest Hunting information for Mairi Gougeon MSP

Attachments: Charity Commission.pdf, Harris-Final.pdf

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

02/01/2019

Rt Hon Mairi Gougeon MSP

Dear Mairi,

During the period of the investigation starting in 2015 into how to find ways to restrict or ban hunting a few very important matters have arisen. I feel it's never too late to receive and act upon the latest information especially over an issue so divisive as hunting.

The attached report (Charity Commission.pdf) was sent to the Charity Commission on the 6th Dec 2018, they have 30 working days to respond, hence why I cannot give you their response. And of course as I am unaware of the timing of your announcement, I can only provide what I sent for the time being. The report clearly shows the League Against Cruel Sports do not even have a legitimate cause, instead they have a very good PR department disseminating propaganda through the press.

However the information most pertinent for Scotland is the exposure of Prof Stephen Harris since he wrote the report 'The utility of killing foxes in Scotland' in 2015. If you recall this was the League Against Cruel Sports claimed scientific evidence and prompted Lord Bonython's review. As you will read, Professor Harris was far from impartial and has been generously funded by the animal rights groups for decades. The information in the report (Harris-Final.pdf) culminated in the following Daily Telegraph article.

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2018/08/11/foxhunting-prosecution-professor-misrepresented-science/>

Noteworthy - Professor Harris was the lead Author in the Welsh circus review 2016 and this was referenced in the Scottish parliament as providing the welfare concerns to support the ban. Known as the Dorning review after the graduate researcher and not after the lead author.

Another matter of concern that has arisen since 2015 is the discovery of new information showing the League Against Cruel Sports number one and most trusted monitor [REDACTED] fixed up videos to get circus folk the blame for being cruel to their animals in the nineties, this mischief led to harassment, closure of businesses and a letter bomb.

This discovery caused the COPFS some embarrassment as they had defended [REDACTED] as a credible witness in a previous trial that led to the conviction of the Jedforest Huntsmen in 2017. In Oct 2018 Terry Hill gave evidence as the chief witness in the Duke of Buccleuch's trial at Jedburgh magistrate's court, the case was adjourned until early Dec 2018 as Hill's supporting witnesses were unable to attend. During that month long period I provided the COPFS with information including copies of signed witness statements from the nineties showing Hill had staged situations that he would film and get others the blame. I informed the COPFS this information will be placed online for public viewing.

The COPFS in turn wrote to the defence then discounted Hills evidence, at the trial (Dec 4th 2018) the supporting evidence was not sufficient to gain a conviction and the huntsman acquitted.

Noteworthy ? Alison Johnstone MSP of the Green Party claims to have seen a fox chased recently when she went on field trip with a League Against Cruel Sports representative. The League's representative accompanying her was none other than Terry Hill.

I hope this latest information is of use and please do not hesitate to contact me for further information or clarification.

I will also copy this letter and attached reports to the following:

Donald Cameron MSP

Rachael Hamilton MSP

Sheila Voas CVO Scotland

Andrew RT Davis AM

Janet Finch-Saunders AM

Iain Stewart MP

Neil Mackay editor Herald

Jamie Stewart Scots CA

Ken Stephen SGA

Yours Sincerely

[REDACTED]

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Why the League Against Cruel Sports should have their charity status removed

Charity Commission public benefit rules for a charity

From the Charity Commission's website:

The 'benefit aspect'

To satisfy this aspect:

- a purpose must be beneficial - this must be in a way that is identifiable and capable of being proved by evidence where necessary and which is not based on personal views
- any detriment or harm that results from the purpose (to people, property or the environment) must not outweigh the benefit - this is also based on evidence and not on personal views

The 'public aspect'

To satisfy this aspect the purpose must:

- benefit the public in general, or a sufficient section of the public - what is a 'sufficient section of the public' varies from purpose to purpose
- not give rise to more than incidental personal benefit - personal benefit is 'incidental' where (having regard both to its nature and to its amount) it is a necessary result or by-product of carrying out the purpose

Summary of evidence

- The following information will prove beyond any reasonable doubt the League Against Cruel Sports are of no public benefit and should have their charity status removed immediately.
- The information will show they do not even have a cause and rely on personal views, opinions and carefully written propaganda to fool the public into believing their campaigns are justified. To further pull the wool over the eyes of the public they have used manipulated science from a professor they nicknamed the 'chosen one'.
- Hunt monitors serve no purpose other than to inflame situations, provoke confrontation and then capture the aftermath on film or carefully shoot footage that can be made to look like someone is breaking the law.
- The use of monitors also puts people's lives in grave danger.
- Registered charities are bullied by the League into making controversial public decisions.
- Some of the information I will provide the Commission may pre-date their charity status, but the mischief sowed the seeds of resentment, discontent and hatred that is very much evident today and thus cannot be discounted. Douglas Batchelor, the CEO who steered the League to charity status, publicly inferred twice fox hunters were child abusers, this set the tone for the social media vitriol we see today directed at hunters and now recorded by the Countryside Alliance - <http://www.countryside-alliance.org/two-thirds-of-country-sports-supporters-are-bullied-online-for-their-beliefs/>

Douglas Batchelor ex-CEO of the League Against Cruel Sports recorded in Hansard:

"In much the same way as while paedophiles may feel that they enjoy abusing children and are therefore justified, a civilised society condemns their pleasures and regards them as socially unacceptable".

Douglas Batchelor again around 2011:

"In my blog post last week I referred to the grooming of children to kill for fun. It evoked a storm of protest from the hunters and shooters. They really did not like being labelled with the language more commonly used for other perversions"

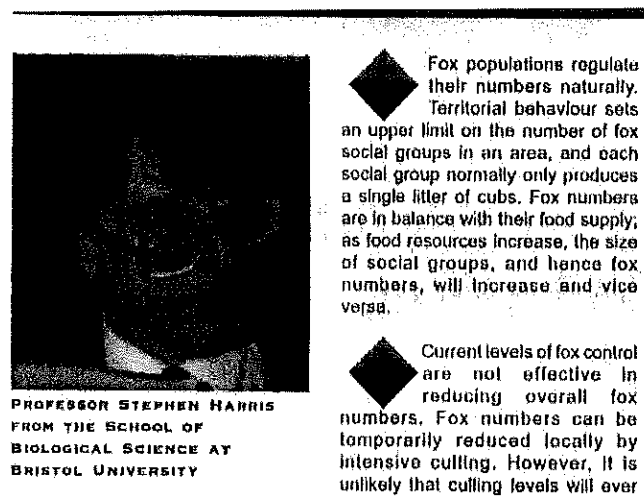
- Baroness Angela Smith of Basildon, ignored counter evidence and used her parliamentary position to promote false propaganda the counter-evidence from the circuses has only just come to the public's attention and needs airing.
- Baroness Angela Smith of Basildon, Vice President of the **charity** the League Against Cruel Sports ignored honest citizen's cries for help. While they were being threatened with violence and sent a letter bomb she was busy promoting false propaganda.

- Animal rights groups rely on discovering the one bad apple which they then use to generalise i.e. everyone else is doing it. However the evidence shown below suggests unless a prosecution has arisen from that bad apple's activities then it's just as probable someone innocent has been set up with mischievous and deceptive intent.

No valid cause for the League

At the heart of the League's activities was one Dr Stephen Harris, a one-time Professor at Bristol University. The League have for decades insisted on his independence and used him at every available opportunity in court to prosecute hunts from 2006 - 2018. He is photographed here in the League's 97/98 winter edition of the Wildlife Guardian alongside a key summary he wrote in an IFAW funded report called 'How will a hunting ban affect the fox population'.

Fig1



Only now, 20 years later, have we discovered Dr Harris was far from independent or impartial as Janet George Ex-CEO of the Countryside Alliance went public saying she witnessed documents from around 1997 showing Dr Harris was receiving money from the League through a third party conservation organisation for 'drummed up' research.

Fig2



Janet George

Mar 17, 2018

I got the full dirt on Harris in 1997/98. He was being generously funded by the League Against Cruel Sports and the money was being 'laundered' via another wildlife group. I left all the proof with the Countryside Alliance – it seems they 'lost' it – and never made it available for court cases where it would have totally disproved Harris's standing as an 'independent' expert witness.

It's worth noting at this juncture how staunchly the League argued Dr Harris' independence and impartiality even after the Lamerton hunt trial in 2015 where his links to them were revealed and the trial halted.

<https://www.league.org.uk/News/league-withdraws-from-private-prosecution-of-hunt>

However the defence solicitor told a somewhat different story the same year to Lord Bonomy for the Scottish review into the wild mammals act (2002)

<https://www.gov.scot/binaries/content/documents/govscot/publications/consultation-responses/2016/10/review-protection-wild-mammals-scotland-act-2002-written-submissions/documents/00507929-pdf/00507929-pdf/govscot%3Adocument>

This bias and pretence of Dr Harris as an 'impartial independent witness' came to a head when the world-renowned animal behavioural expert Dr Ted Friend was so angered at how his data had been manipulated by Dr Harris, he wrote a letter to the Italian Senate publicly accusing Dr Harris of spinning his data 180 degrees.

"I am concerned that very few people have actually read my scientific publications and discovered that Harris's spin is 180 degrees from what we found"

Dr Ted Friend also wrote a harsh critique of the Welsh circus animal review to Bristol University in December 2016 that resulted in an unprecedented forced mid-term retirement without ceremony after 40 years' service in Feb 2017 for Dr Harris. Reliable sources from within Bristol University confirmed his departure was for taking money from animal welfare/rights groups and pretending his work for them was disinterested, this fits in with the League' payments for 'drummed' up research revealed by Janet George. However, the official line from Bristol University is they can't confirm or deny his departure because of the Data Protection Act. The giveaway though is a petition by students requesting his return in some capacity and this was met by a refusal.

Rather than slip away quietly and unnoticed, as could have been the case, Dr Harris showed his sheer fanaticism and hatred of hunting folk and hid behind the Data Protection Act for a return to court as an independent expert just one month later in March 2017. A guilty verdict was obtained, with his help, of the Grove & Rufford huntsmen and it was at this point I was alerted to Harris' return. I was frustrated, especially after the Lamerton trial, and from then on provided a steady stream of information into the CPS over Dr Harris' bias as I was concerned he was attempting to fix up hunt folk in the same way he has fixed countless reports for animal rights groups. In March 2018 the Huntsmen were acquitted with CPS withholding the reason why the pulled out just as Dr Harris was due for cross examination.

The full brief sent to the CPS is attached **Harris-Final.pdf**. The news story finally broke here:

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2018/08/11/foxhunting-prosecution-professor-misrepresented-science/>

Why is Dr Harris so important to the League?

First we have to accept the three animals the League most want to afford protection are the deer, fox and hare. All three animals can be considered pests and are controlled by other charities. For example, the RSPB shoot foxes and deer, as do the National Trust. Government bodies also control these animals and this puts the League in direct conflict with much greater authority in terms of public recognition and knowledge. The League's only fall-back is an abhorrence of killing for sport, but as you will see the evidence does not support even this claim.

Dr Harris was credited with research that found vixens can have fewer cubs if their numbers get too high and food is scarce, equally they will have bigger litters if there are fewer competing foxes and food availability is plentiful. This was sold by the League to the public and politicians as foxes controlling their own numbers, a quaint, rather simplistic ideal for urbanites that won't know any better, but very unhelpful to those at the business end knowing the claim is pure nonsense and bereft of reality for very obvious reasons. What happens when farmers provide a whole field of new born lambs? If left uncontrolled the vixens would naturally increase their litter sizes to feed on this newly available food source. Hence why for generations foxes have never controlled their own number and farmers have culled them all year around using a variety of available methods best suited for the terrain as can be seen in historical Parish Records from Weem, Perthshire –

'the foxes before the year 1760 made great havoc among the sheep, goat and poultry stocks but from that time on it was recorded that regular fox hunters have been employed at fixed salaries, by whose diligence and skill, vast numbers of foxes have been accounted for so that the inflated population is now greatly reduced.'

"However, in Golspie, Kirkpatrick and Lochlee Forfarshire upwards of £100.00 sterling is expended yearly for the purpose of extirpating the noxious animal."

The various methods in place by farmers and landowners are so successful lamb losses to fox predation runs at less than 1% per annum. To overcome this inconvenience Dr Harris took the 1% and said this proves foxes are not a pest and they only kill 1% of lambs thus the argument can be forwarded that foxes are being killed for sport. Although clearly wrong it fits the narrative the League Against Cruel Sports can promote and has the backing of an academic. Now we can see the accuracy of Dr Ted Friend accusation against Dr Harris of spinning information 180 degrees.

This narrative of accusing hunters of killing for sport, giving the public the impression this is the sole motive, is ruthlessly promoted and can be found on thousands of online articles, tweets and Facebook posts by the League and has been going on for decades through other media outlets such as pamphlets. (See Appendix A)

The only study researching sport as a possible motive for killing foxes was pre ban and formed the backbone of the Burns Inquiry in 2000. It found the vast majority of cases where 'sport' was cited, another reason was also given i.e. pest control, while solely sport was cited by only 6% of farmers, this again has to be divided between just shooting and hunting. That's 3% of farmers using hunts saying they kill for sport but the 'sport' in hunting is from Nov-Feb and is about giving the fox a sporting chance, hence where that happened fewer were dugout and many foxes allowed to escape, its true to say only a handful of foxes were actually killed for sport by hunts throughout the UK pre-ban.

Burns Inquiry:

"5.11 The majority of farmers and landowners who do control foxes give several reasons for doing so."

Nothing has changed post hunting ban, fox control is still a necessity and hunts still provide a very important role in pest control available free to farmers and funded in many cases through the trail hunting it can also provide.

There is absolutely nothing wrong or immoral in having a 'sport' motive attached to legitimate pest control or fox management. What that means is the farmer or landowner gets the control for free and doesn't have to spend long cold nights in a ditch waiting for the fox. That's good economic sense and use of one's own time and certainly not an excuse for a charitable cause.

Thus it's disingenuous and dishonest of the League Against Cruel Sports to continually single out just 'sport' on its own and present that as the sole motive for killing foxes, nonetheless they have been doing that for decades to attract support and donations.

The fallacy of hunt monitors

It's very apparent the League view themselves not as a charity but as a law enforcement agency and want to appear as such to the public.

Fig3



Even if they were genuine in their aims and looked to prevent illegal 'sport' hunting with dogs then their efforts would be solely concentrated at the illegal coursers, long-dog men and poachers that make landowner's lives a misery. With over 700 prosecutions of the aforementioned since the ban was introduced and the likelihood this is the tip of the iceberg, that's where the law is being broken not the registered hunts and the 25 prosecutions on technicalities of the law.

This proves beyond reasonable doubt they want to target a section of society they despise and has nothing whatsoever to do with perceived animal cruelty or upholding the law.

To further prove that point we find director of the League, Robbie Marshland, in the Scottish southern reporter 8th Oct 2018 claiming to have deployed monitors up in Scotland in a bid to capture footage of law-breaking by hunts in an attempt to persuade the Scottish government to strengthen the ban still further.

This ploy appeared to work as a prosecution trial was started in Oct 2018 against the Duke of Buccleuchs huntsmen with the League's number one hunt monitor Terry Hill. He passed all the COPFS checks and was the League's chief witness in this trial.

Interesting the COPFS were warned about Terry Hill in 2017 over his diehard fanaticism after two Jedforest huntsmen were convicted on his evidence. The COPFS chose to ignore that advice only to find it was in fact correct. It turns out that in the late nineties Terry Hill went under the pseudonym of 'Spike Stocker' and set up the circuses by mixing up animals that should have been apart so they would fight. As the handlers rushed in with sticks to split them up that's when Hill's camera started rolling. The full story can be found here:

<https://countrysquire.co.uk/2018/10/12/the-compromising-of-terry-hill/>

This information was passed to the COPFS who acted accordingly by notifying the defence solicitors of this new-found unreliability and the accused huntsmen were later acquitted.

It would be foolhardy to think Terry Hill was a one off, the fact is the League's manufactured cause will attract diehard fanatics like him, including ex-policemen. Carbon-copies of Terry Hill all desperate to get a prosecution, all willing to play fast and loose with the rules and truth in court because in their mind it doesn't matter, the huntsman is guilty anyway.

This is no different to the situation experienced by Gemma Cowell as reported in the online Daily Mail 22nd June 2018. She went online with the good intentions of trapping online perverts but looked on in horror as her group appeared to treat their activities as a sick game.

"They mocked innocent people, sometimes obviously mentally ill, egged each other on and openly admitted they were desperate for a result."

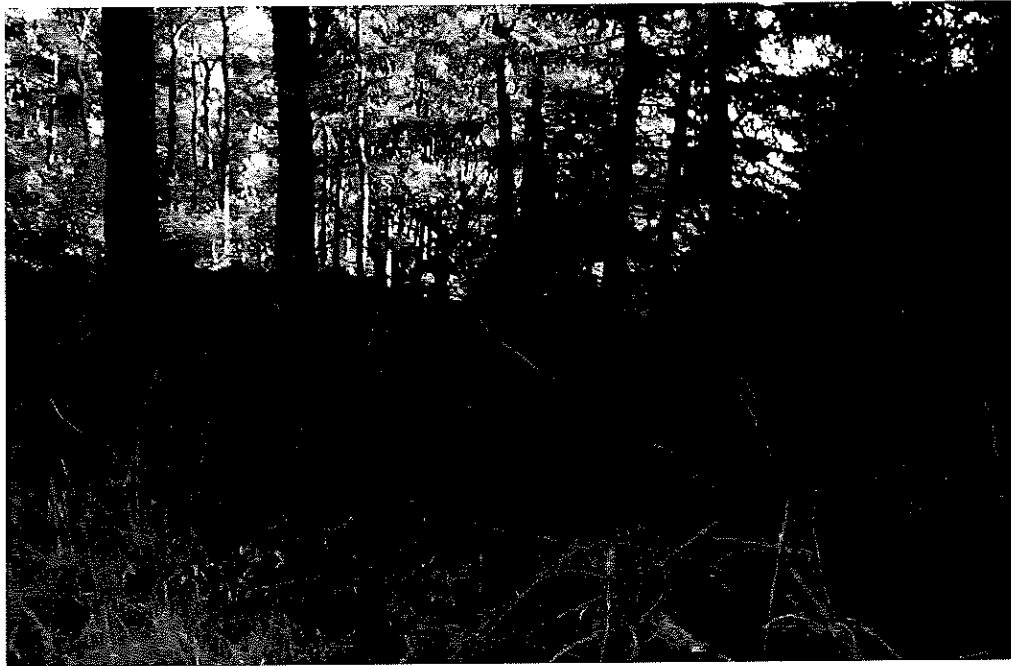
Of course it's very easy to sit at a computer on line at home in a warm room when the kids have gone to bed. It's a different matter to trudge through mud and hide in bushes for hours on end year after year without a result that in itself shows real fanaticism. The trouble is these fanatics are desperate and put themselves and others in grave danger to get their result. This is very evident from two pictures taken a few years ago up in Scotland. The hounds are legally flushing a fox, the monitors have just wasted police time by reporting illegal hunting, hence the police car, and the gun is positioned on the edge of the wood to take care of the flushed fox.

Fig4



And while hounds are in full cry flushing the fox in front of the gun position appears three camouflaged monitors.

Fig5



Hunts thought out England and Wales provide this service and welsh gun packs are an essential part of fox control in Wales. We can't have charitable causes putting people's lives in danger. The blood will be on the hands of the Charity Commission for allowing the League to continue as a charity.

Trail Hunting

When hunts are not carrying out legitimate pest control they are mimicking the old style tradition hunting as much as possible for the enjoyment of the followers. The problem with monitors and saboteurs arises yet again - Foxes have excellent hearing and poor eye sight and can lay up in their territory where they please. Thus sometimes a fox will be disturbed by hounds and move away to put distance between themselves and the sound.

A fox that could have got a clean getaway can get turned back into the hounds or forced across the pre laid trail given a fresher scent to follow by the antics of monitors or Saboteurs. Of course what the public see is a dead fox and edited highlights as the antics of Terry Hill prove.

It's interesting to see if the public were to look at the Leagues website for information on trial hunting they will find a page Trail Hunting - The Truth

<https://www.league.org.uk/trail-hunting>

On this page they quote:

"After finding three members of the Grove and Rufford Hunt guilty of hunting a wild mammal with dogs in 2017, district judge Tim Spruce said:"

"It's an inescapable conclusion that the Grove and Rufford Hunt were hunting foxes and not artificial scent trails. They maintained they were engaged in trail laying, but I am not convinced that this was the case".

The three members of the Grove and Rufford were acquitted 8 months ago in March 2018.

The bullying and harassment of the National Trust

The bullying and harassment of the National Trust by the League Against Cruel Sports under the veil of a right to protest is a disgrace. The League hope to ban hunting on National Trust property by slowly bleeding them out with hundreds of fake news stories surrounding inferences to illegal hunting. (Appendix B) Soon you won't be able to search for the National Trust on-line without getting the impression through fake news they happily facilitate bTB ravaged hounds killing foxes for sport illegally while a pack of toffs look on in laughter.

Central to animal rights tactics are the continued and sustained pressure through press, magazine and now social media, first documented 67 years ago in the first ever fox hunting government enquiry.

"There are, on the other hand, some organisations which have been formed solely for the purpose of securing the prohibition of a particular sport or all field sports. In the main such organisations seek to convert public opinion to their point of view by pamphlet, advertisements and press propaganda, and by Parliamentary action instigated by pressure on Members of Parliament which is both direct and indirect, through letters which constituents are invited to send to their representatives. Such organisations do not as a rule themselves investigate the facts of the practices to which they object, and the evidence they placed before us was for the most part based on reports appearing in the Press or other publications."

We will examine the latest media blitz and see how extremists then prevent the National Trust from carrying out one of its core conservation principles - The League's Chris Luffingham wrote to estates owned by the Trust just as they were about to hand out licences for access to their land by the hunts. He also wrote to the left wing Trinity Mirror newspaper group, hunt stories are good click bait, a selection here:

<https://www.iwcp.co.uk/news/17185887.national-trust-slammed-by-animal-welfare-charity-over-new-hunting-licence-for-mottistone-estate/>

<https://www.bournemouthcho.co.uk/news/17236047.row-breaks-out-between-animal-charity-and-national-trust-after-trail-hunting-licence-is-issued-for-kingston-lacy/>

<https://www.cornwalllive.com/news/cornwall-news/anger-over-national-trust-decision-2161335>

By writing to the group you can ensure nationwide coverage in many local papers that carry unflattering headlines.

"National Trust slammed by animal welfare charity over new hunting licence for Mottistone Estate"

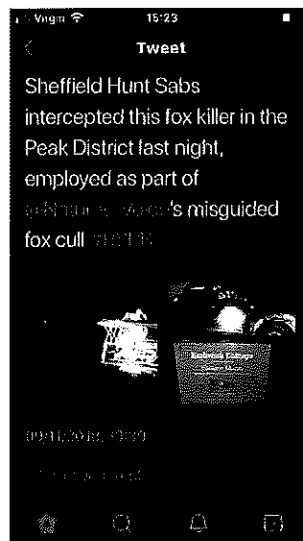
Of course, next year Luffingham will write a similar letter and so the tsunami of fake news builds, but one has to question the content he is putting out and see how that fits the Charity Commission's rules:

"Allowing a hunt to trample across the land, taking part in an activity which many people believe involves the killing of animals, completely goes against that philosophy."

"Many people believe involves the killing of animals" Just who are 'many' people? How about many people know for a fact, as laid down by the Commission's rules? In fact they won't know because not one hunt has ever been prosecuted on National Trust land. A clear break in Commission rules that has gone nationwide.

"The benefit aspect from the Charity Commission - Any detriment or harm that results from the purpose (to people, property or the environment) must not outweigh the benefit - this is also based on evidence and not on personal views"

Fortunately the National Trust have not bled out enough and have yet to become tired and wearisome from the constant harassment and abuse meted out by the League and other groups, they stood firm and issued the licenses. That was all bar one, the Ashridge estate in Hertfordshire. They were about to issue trail hunting licences to the Trinity foot and South Herts Beagles when the letter arrived from League. This put National Trust Ashridge in a very awkward position because they were also in the middle of a large conservation exercise culling deer and issuing the licenses worried the National Trust they might attract the sort of people shown in fig5. On top of that extremists, a week previously, had put themselves at risk by preventing a perfectly legitimate and legal conservation exercise in culling foxes on land shared with the RSPB.



**Note the RSPB are only misguided because the Sheffield Hunt Sabs have taken in Dr Harris' 180 degree spin of foxes controlling their own number, a good example of the damage Harris' spin can do.*

The Trinity Foot and South Herts Beagles have had use of the National Trust land for well over 40 years and once had their hounds kennelled down the road in Ivinghoe Aston. They have never been prosecuted for illegal hunting and yet the National Trust were forced to take the decision to suspend the license as a direct result of extremist action and in doing so broke one of their own Conservation principles:

"Principle 4: Access and engagement - we will conserve natural and cultural heritage to enable sustainable access and engagement for the benefit of society, gaining the support of the widest range of people by promoting understanding, enjoyment and participation in our work"

Just why is the Charity Commission allowing one charity to bully and harass another forcing them to forgo their own principles?

Baroness Angela Smith Vice President of the charity the League Against Cruel Sports

It's sometimes the case people achieve a position of status from doing great harm to others. Baroness Angela Smith of Basildon, a Vice President of the League, is a prime example. She worked for the League in 1994 when the then CEO James Barrington announced publicly a shift towards trying to capture rule breaking by fox Hunters in the independent on the 10th Oct 1994. We were asked in that article do we remember 'Terry Hill' and 'Shamrock Farm' in the early nineties.*

When Angela Smith became MP she showed the footage of claimed beatings of circus animals to Parliament and single handily destroyed a perfectly legitimate industry. We now know Terry Hill had set them up under a different name but more worryingly the evidence of the setup was being passed to the home office and Angela Smith but they ignored the cries for help from honest British citizens. The abuse and threats of violence directed at the circus folk peaked when a letter bomb was sent to the brother of Anne Chipperfield. This is was as direct result of Angela Smith's actions and is captured in a letter sent to her by Anne Chipperfield. The full story here.

<https://countrysquire.co.uk/2018/10/20/animal-rights-criminality-part-i/>

Dear Ms. Smith,

Last week a letter bomb was delivered to my brother's house. I consider this incident to be a direct result of your actions in showing a video to Parliament which was nothing less than a commercial for an animal rights group.

You made no attempt to verify the truth of the video tape and because it has been shown to M.P.'s the accusations on it have gained respectability and status as well as huge media publicity. The animal rights group were bombarded with phone calls from people, who had never seen a circus, offering donations. So your action was very lucrative for them.

How any person can think it justice to promote false propaganda which incites hatred against a small minority group of people is beyond my understanding.

Yours faithfully,

Ms. Anne Chipperfield.

**A reason given by James Barrington for leaving the League was after that was reported they did obtain footage that was shown on nationwide television. Apparently a stag having fallen was savaged by hounds. Unbeknown to Barrington it had been doctored to look that way, to add to the humiliation it was Janet George the CEO of the Countryside Alliance that showed him the real footage. This episode again proves dishonesty will be applied in desperation to get a result.*

Conclusion - We have a charity inventing causes, bullying other charities, using people with a history of fixing videos to obtain prosecutions, a Vice President that destroys lives and businesses, there is no public benefit, please take away this dysfunctional group's charity status immediately.

Appendix A

A google search of the League shows how much they mislead the public into believing foxes and other animals are killed for sport, giving the impression this is the sole motive.

Stop the killing of animals by hunts in the UK - League Against Cruel ...

<https://takeaction.league.org.uk/page/19719/data/1?locale=en-GB> ▼

Animals are being **killed** in the UK countryside, and those responsible are getting ... 100% of our work to help protect animals from cruelty in the name of 'sport'.

League Against Cruel Sports | Home

<https://www.league.org.uk/> ▼

The **League Against Cruel Sports** is Britain's leading charity that works to stop animals being persecuted, abused and **killed for sport**.

You've visited this page many times. Last visit: 04/11/18

League Against Cruel Sports | Working for the League

<https://www.league.org.uk/animal-charity-jobs> ▼

2 Aug 2018 - The **League Against Cruel Sports** is a UK animal charity which ... is the UK's leading charity that works to prevent animals being **killed for sport**.

Say What: The big clubs are killing the English Premier League | The ...

<https://www.thestar.com.my/sport/.../the-big-clubs-are-killing-the-english-premier-lea...> ▼

7 Nov 2018 - **Sport** thrives on competition, drama and uncertainty. The English Premier **League** markets itself around the world based on these qualities but it ...

League Against Cruel Sports - Wikipedia

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/League_Against_Cruel_Sports ▼

The **League Against Cruel Sports** is an animal welfare charity that campaigns against **sports** ... Trophy hunting is the stalking and **killing** of wild animals for **sport**. The **league** says this multimillion-pound international industry is causing an ...

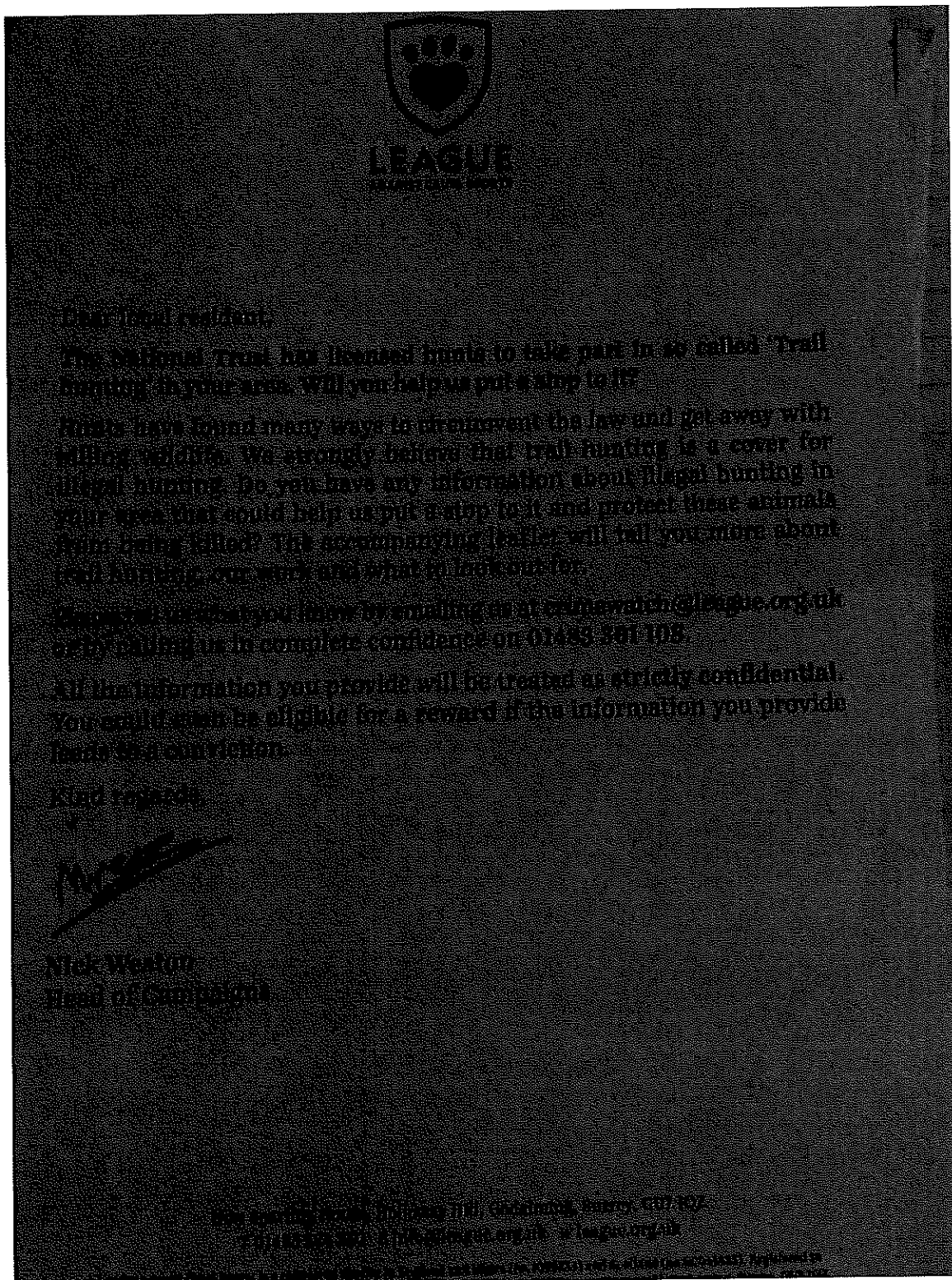
Founded: 1924

Focus: Animal welfare

Founder: Henry B Amos; Ernest Bell

Location: Godalming, United Kingdom

Appendix B



The case against Professor Stephen Harris as an 'expert witness'

'..... while 34 out of 72 citations are to unrefereed publications, unpublished reports or word of mouth. The authors give equal weight to all sources of information. This may sound objective, but it means that the evidence of first class experimental studies is ranked equal with that of poor studies that lack any experimental design at all.'

'The curious manner of its release (selectively to the press on 27th October, but denied to everyone else until a full week later) also suggested a deliberate effort to achieve publicity without disagreement.'

'This has been a continuing problem with misinterpretation of my data that apparently began with an anti-hunting group in the U.S. That group's web page attributed changes recorded in trapped foxes to changes in foxes chased by dogs. This is blatantly incorrect and, I suspect, wilfully done.'

'As the regional and national zoo associations with strong commitment to ensuring their members have the highest levels of welfare, we are concerned that the report groundlessly conflates the keeping of animals at zoos with the exotic pet trade and travelling circuses.'

'The Case against Fur Factory Farming, claims to be a scientific review, but fails on a number of factual errors and misinterpretations. The report is political rather than scientific.'

'Mr. Harris fails to fulfil the report's objective of doing a scientific review of WelFur'

'The Welfare of Wild Animals in Traveling Circuses by Dorning, Harris and Pickett also cited my studies many times, and their use of my studies and the literature is similarly biased.'

'I am concerned that very few people have actually read my scientific publications and discovered that Harris's spin is 180 degrees from what we found.'

Introduction

Professor Stephen Harris signed an agreement on the 25th Nov 2015 to write a review looking into the welfare of wild animals in circuses. Rebecca Evans, Welsh AM, stated anyone concerned over Professor Harris' appointment will be answered by Harris directly suggesting she was not willing to entertain any feedback on her controversial decision. However, by early Dec 2015, just a few days later, a hunting court case collapsed when his links to animal rights groups were exposed.

A year later, in Dec 2016, his review is handed to the Welsh Government but receives unprecedented attention from Dr. Ted Friend who, with his colleagues, started their research on circus animals in the early 1980's and is still continuing. He published eleven peer-reviewed articles in scientific journals spanning 1996 to 2010, and the reports to the USDA from his lab that were funded by the USDA APHIS Animal Care Program (the program that inspects circuses) who found that, in well-managed circuses, animal welfare was very good.

He accuses Harris of manipulating his data and leaving out seminal work by his group and other researchers from what is supposed to be a worldwide review of the evidence. By July 2017, Professor Ted Friend's critique of Harris' Report was translated for the Italian senate. Dr. Friend accuses Harris of spinning data 180 degrees and leaving out seminal work that would conflict with the animal rights activist agenda.

These two accusations were my primary concern when I wrote to the CPS concerning Professor Harris after the case involving the Grove & Rufford hunt in June 2017. He was the opposition to hunting's lead scientists, he spun data 180 degrees and left out seminal data that would conflict with his animal rights funded conclusions to achieve a ban in 2005. He has made a career of pretending to be impartial over hunting, whereas his whole *raison d'être* is to have hunting banned through manipulated information designed specifically to generate bad publicity against hunting.

The ban has allowed Professor Harris, via the CPS, the opportunity to watch his mischievous ways derogate and humiliate numerous people while getting paid for the privilege of doing so.

Abbreviations:

RSPCA – Royal Society for the Prevention of cruelty to animals

IFAW –International fund for animal welfare

LACS – League Against cruel Sports

Non-experts – Members of the public, Politicians & Journalists

Modus Operandi of Professor Stephen Harris

The Modus Operandi of Professor Harris was exposed in the late nineties by Dr Jonathan Reynolds of the GWCT in a critique he wrote of a Harris review called *'Is the fox a pest'*. Dr Reynolds noted the review is written in an easy to understand journalistic format rather than a scientific one, thus targeted at non-experts in the full knowledge they are unlikely to follow the citations and judge for themselves the validity of the review.

'Summarising a complex subject like this involves making many approximations. This is where bias can creep in. Of course, the evidence considered in a review is listed and the reader can potentially get published items through libraries to read and judge for his or herself; but since 'Is the Fox a Pest?' is clearly targeted at non-experts, it is disingenuous of the authors to suppose that most readers really will do so.'

Dr Reynolds investigated the citations:

'..... while 34 out of 72 citations are to unrefereed publications, unpublished reports or word of mouth. The authors give equal weight to all sources of information. This may sound objective, but it means that the evidence of first class experimental studies is ranked equal with that of poor studies that lack any experimental design at all.'

'The curious manner of its release (selectively to the press on 27th October, but denied to everyone else until a full week later) also suggested a deliberate effort to achieve publicity without disagreement.'

Professor Harris writes political, journalistic reviews in the knowledge they will be assumed as scientific simply because they were written by a Professor. He uses a very high number of references he knows non-experts won't validate. He can now leave out convincing conflicting evidence knowing his conclusions will be taken at face value.

Professor Harris hates fox-hunting with vengeance and writes biased reviews with the specific intent of generating bad publicity for hunting. The carefully worded *'Is the fox a pest'* allows charities to manipulate and fool non-experts, politicians and journalists into believing foxes are not pests and fox hunting as a method of control is ineffective.

Foxes are not a pest – *'Is the fox a pest'* lists low figures for livestock losses due to fox predation and suggests this proves the fox is not a pest. The low figures are in fact the achievement of sustained year round culling by farmers looking to protect their livestock. Cynical spin considering we had to bring back a huntsman from front-line service during the Second World War as documented in Hansard:

'One Mr Harry Roberts, the huntsman of the Plas Machynlleth Hunt in west Wales, was called up into the army at the beginning of the war. As a consequence, hunting was totally suspended. Within two years, the fox population had grown to such an extent that farmers were suffering severe losses. The local War Agriculture Executive Committee in Meirionnydd, with the support of Local MPs, including Mr Clement Davies, who, either then or certainly later, was the leader of the Liberal Party, petitioned the Government to release Mr Roberts. He was released in 1941 for six months in the interests of essential food production. Hunting was resumed in that part of Wales and Mr Roberts promptly killed 149 foxes. If any noble Lord wants a reference for that story, Picture Post picked it up in 1941'
Hansard 12 Mar 2001: Column 557

Fox hunting as a method of control is ineffective – Professor Harris knew farmers integrate separate approaches to keep livestock losses to a minimum and he also knew this was the best solution as it was documented in a book *'Mammals as pests'* written about the discourse and findings from a symposium he received acknowledgement for organising.

'.....one final and important lesson vertebrate managers might learn from insect pest control is that the most effective management exercises overall are those that integrate a number of separate approaches to the problem.'

Comparing the numbers of foxes killed by traditional mounted hunting to the combined total killed by all other lethal methods of control is not science, Professor Harris knew the best approach to fox management and control was already being practised.

Despite this blatant shenanigans Professor Harris is encouraged with charity funding. The RSPCA, IFAW (fig1) and LACS were deeply involved in funding Professor Harris and the RSPB conspired to withhold information from the public on how many foxes they kill on their reserves, giving credibility to the claim the fox is not a pest. They refused to take part in the 2000 Government inquiry into hunting with dogs, reluctantly agreeing if their submission is kept hidden from the public. With their demands met and noted on the Government inquiry website with an (*) indicating their submission is not viewable even to this day. After the ban the figures were obtained covertly, we now know the RSPB can shoot up to 293 foxes across 23 reserves. (Appendix A)

Conclusion: The evidence confirms my fears, having engineered the ban by exploiting the public's good faith and ignoring convincing conflicting evidence to write reviews, Professor Harris' hatred of hunting folk is allowed to manifest into vengeance in a court of law.

A Timeline Of Hunting Bias By Prof Stephen Harris

1996 – Professor Harris attends a League Against Cruel Sports rally and discusses the decline of the Brown Hare.



PROFESSOR STEPHEN HARRIS FROM BRISTOL UNIVERSITY SPOKE ABOUT THE SERIOUS DECLINE IN THE BROWN HARE POPULATION

1997 – Professor Harris co-authors two reports funded by IFAW, the reports are intended to complement the £1,000,000 donation made to Labour by the Political Animal Lobby (PAL), a company set up to make large donations to Labour by IFAW. The reports are called 'How a ban will affect the fox population' the other 'Is the fox a pest'¹. The reports are heralded by hunting abolitionists, for instance the League Against Cruel Sports paper the Wildlife Guardian reported:

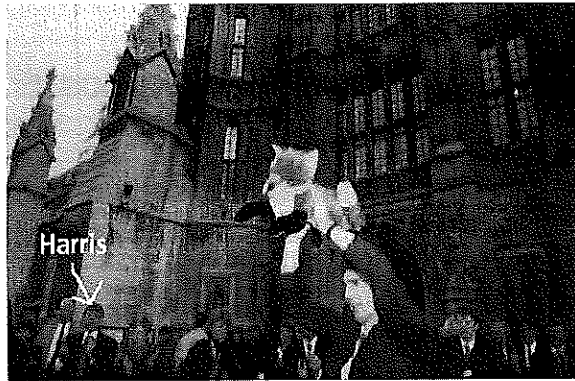
'The members of the committee will be encouraged to accept the hard evidence produced by wildlife academics and campaigners, rather than the myths and anecdotes of the blood sports fraternity.' (Appendix B).

1997 – In October Professor Harris journeys from Bristol to London to be present at the announcement of the Hunting bill put forward by Michael Foster. He is photographed alongside League Against Cruel Sports Vice President Kevin McNamara, Michael Foster the bill's proposer and the vehemently anti-hunting Jackie Ballard. She went on to be Director General of the anti-hunting RSPCA.



ANNOUNCING THE WILD MAMMALS (HUNTING WITH DOGS) BILL AT THE MILLBANK OFFICES IN PARLIAMENT (L-R) KEVIN MCNAMARA MP (BILL SPONSOR, AND LACS VICE-PRESIDENT); PROFESSOR STEPHEN HARRIS (WILDLIFE EXPERT); MICHAEL FOSTER MP; JACKIE BALLARD MP (BILL SPONSOR)

1997 – November, and again Professor Harris has journeyed from Bristol to London to be present at the second reading of the hunting bill supported by 411 MPs, he can be seen applauding Michael Foster, the bill's sponsor. (He has subsequently told a judge under oath he was just passing and thought it polite to clap)



1999 - Professor Harris, P. Baker and C. Webbon start a research project funded by IFAW to count fox numbers by using the controversial faecal count method. Starting in 1999 the research had nothing whatsoever to do with hunting and was a feasibility study to see if fox numbers could be estimated. The study was due to finish in 2000 but was extended for a further two years once it was established the findings could be used to give hunting bad publicity.

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/1406293/Hunting-ban-will-not-lead-to-fox-boom-says-study.html>

2000 - Professor Harris and his team receives substantial amounts of money for research from IFAW '*Modelling the impact of a ban on hunting*' and a further £40,000 for '*Dynamics of the fox population*'. (Fig 1)

2000 - While conducting the IFAW/RSPCA funded faecal count study Professor Harris gets rejected by Jack Straw (Home Secretary 2000) for a position on the Government inquiry team to investigate hunting with dogs. Labour MPs forced the Chairman of the inquiry to award a research contract to Professor Harris and others, however such was the concern over his impartiality, Lord Burns, the chairman of the inquiry, awarded the very same contract to Professor David MacDonald to counter bias. Of the five contracts covering various aspects of the debate only the one which Professor Harris was awarded had a counter research contract awarded to validate the research.²

2000 - Professor Harris faces huge embarrassment, the all-important data on cruelty contained in the review he wrote '*How a ban will affect the fox population*' written in 1997 and used to provide the scientific vehicle for politicians to push for a ban on cruelty gets exposed as corrupt. The data had been manipulated to fit the anti-hunting agenda in America and was available via a website. Professor Harris copied the corrupt data directly into his report without validating first. This dereliction of academic duty came to light when the original author of the research, a man called Terry Kreeger, got to hear of how his data was being misrepresented at such a high level in the UK. He wrote to the Government inquiry to set the record straight. (Appendix C)

'This has been a continuing problem with misinterpretation of my data that apparently began with an anti-hunting group in the U.S. That group's web page attributed changes recorded in trapped foxes to changes in foxes chased by dogs. This is blatantly incorrect and, I suspect, wilfully done.'

'I personally have no stake in this issue in the U.K. other than trying to ensure that the objective truth is disseminated. If you have any questions or require additional information, please feel free to contact me.' – Terry Kreeger

2002 – Professor Harris and his team receive a further payment of £9,800 from the anti-hunting group, the RSPCA. The report into establishing fox numbers through faecal count started in 1999 is finally complete and published in the science journal Nature. (Fig1)

Serious concerns over the peer review process were echoed to the scientific journal Nature by various academics and knowledgeable professionals. They question Professor Harris' non-scientific reliance on assuming other methods are not used instead to replace the moratorium on hunting over the foot and mouth period. The study was only ever shoe-horned to give hunting as much bad publicity against hunting as possible. Naturally Professor Harris' research findings were announced to the press just before the portcullis hunting hearings were due to take place. This angered the minister in charge, after seeking advice from other impartial academics he called the research by Professor Harris inconclusive.

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/1406619/Some-hunting-is-necessary-says-rural-minister.html>

2002 – At the Portcullis hunting hearings Professor Harris is asked to represent the anti-hunting groups as their expert, he duly obliges.

2002 – At the Portcullis hearing Professor Harris made the astonishing claim

'I have already demonstrated in my earlier evidence that hunting makes no contribution to regulating fox numbers, that there is no case for widespread fox control, that there is no evidence that widespread fox control has any significant impact on fox numbers...'

Very astonishing as it was Professor Harris who submitted the below information to the Burns inquiry showing widespread fox control accounting for 43.5% of all fox mortality making deliberate culling by man the biggest single factor in fox mortality.

*'It is estimated that in Britain 285,000 foxes are killed annually by people (Pye-Smith 1997). Dividing this figure according to the different culling methods the numbers killed are estimated as follows: 100,000 killed on the roads, 80,000 shot, 50,000 dug out with terriers, 30,000 snared, 15,000 killed by fox-hunts and 10,000 killed by lurchers.'*³

2003 – Professor Harris receives £2,000 (Fig1) from the anti-hunting group IFAW to research wounding rates from shooting foxes. The research is based on checking old records and X-rays for wounds unrelated to shooting to see if a previous wound from shooting has occurred. Professor Harris announced his research will be peer reviewed at the Labour party conference 2003 to counter a peer reviewed study showing higher than expected wounding rates by Dr Nick Fox. The announcement was greeted with tremendous applause by Labour MPs, convinced of his claim they went on to ban hunting. However the methodology Harris intended to use was fundamentally flawed and the paper never saw the light of day.

2004 - A deliberate smear campaign is launched against hunting by the Sunday Mirror, on the October 3rd as the hunting bill ping-pongs between the Houses of Commons and Lords, typical fake news tactics writing of 'learned letter' that nobody to this day has ever seen. No surprise to find Professor Harris is available for comment.

'This admission reveals the hypocrisy of the pro-hunt lobby. They don't manage the fox population and they don't control it'.⁵

2004 - Another report by Professor Harris seeking bad publicity for hunting and funded by IFAW gets published in the Journal of Applied Ecology and claims to provide the most accurate number of foxes in Britain. The resultant publicity involves proving the Countryside Alliance claims are wrong, only they make up what the CA are claiming, they now claim to have proven them wrong.

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk/2004/jul/28/hunting.ruralaffairs>

'This research demolishes arguments by the hunting lobby that foxes need to be killed to prevent a population explosion.'

A falsehood, the Countryside Alliance argued the exact opposite consistently and stated to this effect in their submission to the Burns inquiry.

'3.11.5 Accordingly, the Alliance submits that there are real grounds for concern that, if hunting with dogs were to be banned, the fox population in lowland areas would decline. Such a decline would be likely to take place with a corresponding decline in the welfare of the species'

2006 - One year after the ban and farmers in upland sheep rearing now start complaining about the ineffectiveness of using just two hounds to find a fox. Professor Harris & P. Baker counter with another IFAW funded paper, this appears in the European Journal of Wildlife Research and was again used to generate bad publicity in the newspapers. The conclusion on the report naturally suggests fox culling had no impact on fox numbers in the forestry plantations and woodland areas surrounding the upland lambing fields. Another calculated bluff, stating the obvious as the culling takes place to remove the foxes from the surrounding lambing fields, Harris' research rather conveniently did not cover these areas.

A table showing the substantial amounts of money from the RSPCA and IFAW Professor Harris and others received for various projects during and shortly after the drive to ban fox hunting.

(Fig1)

Title	Start date	Amount	Sponsor
MODELLING THE IMPACT OF A BAN ON HUNTING	01/12/2000	£110,000.00	Internal Fund 4 Animal Welfare
DYNAMICS OF A FOX POPULATION	01/12/2000	£40,000.00	Internal Fund 4 Animal Welfare
ETHICS AND IMPLEMENTATION OF WILDLIFE REHABILITATION	01/01/2002	£174,250.00	RSPCA
MAMMAL MONITORING PROJECT	01/10/2001	£10,000.00	Mammal Society
ANNUAL FOX CENSUS	01/02/2002	£9,800.00	RSPCA
GROUP LIVING IN FOXES: AN EVALUATION OF SATELLITE TRACKING TECHNIQUES	01/01/2003	£30,000.00	NERC
THE IMPACT OF GUN PACKS ON FOX NUMBERS	01/09/2003	£25,000.00	Int Fund 4 Animal Welfare Ltd
WOUNDING IN FOXES	17/06/2003	£2,000.00	Int Fund 4 Animal Welfare Ltd
WOUNDING IN WILDLIFE	18/08/2003	£5,000.00	RSPCA
MANAGING FOX PREDATION HUMANELY	01/01/2004	£149,975.00	Int Fund 4 Animal Welfare Ltd
POTENTIAL EFFECT ON REHABILITATION SUCCESS	01/05/2004	£5,000.00	RSPCA
ARE FOX NUMBERS DECLINING?	01/02/2005	£16,114.00	RSPCA
2006 NATIONAL FOX SURVEY	01/02/2006	£30,000.00	Internal Fund 4 Animal Welfare
RESTRAINING TRAPS IN MAMMALS	01/11/2007	£75,000.00	Respect for Animals Educ Trust
STRESS RESEARCH	01/07/2006	£10,000.00	Internal Fund 4 Animal Welfare
Roost selection in the lesser horseshoe bat - Nathan Robinson	27/04/2009	£3,960.00	Petpals Trst for Endangered Spec
Upper Lea Riparian Quality Assessment	31/08/2010	£4,000.00	Environment Agency
Total		£699,000.00	

A FOI request for funding of projects from 2010 to 2017 involving Professor Harris was rejected despite an earlier request for 2000 – 2010 being granted. Where payments appear to cover just expenses giving the impression of a 'disinterested' study, payments can be made through other outlets. For instance the RSPCA played a pivotal role in getting the Welsh Government to agree a ban on wild animals in circuses, for his review Harris received £9,000. However at the same time Harris received sponsorship from them for a fox website started in 2010, as stated in the disclaimer.

<http://www.thefoxwebsite.net/disclaimer>

Professor Stephen Harris' Other Animal Rights Activities

2013 - Harris co-authors a report funded by the animal rights group 'The Born Free Foundation', this called into question welfare standards at zoos. It was not until March 2017 that the Zoo associations became aware of the document and responded accordingly:-

'As the regional and national zoo associations with strong commitment to ensuring their members have the highest levels of welfare, we are concerned that the report groundlessly conflates the keeping of animals at zoos with the exotic pet trade and travelling circuses.'

<https://www.eaza.net/assets/Uploads/EAZA-Documents-Other/2017-03-EAZA-and-BIAZA-response-to-the-release-of-the-Born-Free-Foundation-report-on-wild-animal-welfare-in-the-United-Kingdom-FINAL.pdf>

2015 - The League Against Cruel Sports want to show a pack of hounds in Scotland is cruel and ineffective, so they turn to Professor Harris with funding. He writes a report to accommodate their narrative called 'The utility of killing foxes in Scotland'⁶. Harris sees fit to reference a study (Hewson 1990) however in 2000 Professor David Macdonald advised the Government inquiry 'Overall we consider the study scientifically weak, and not to allow strong conclusions drawn by Hewson and LACS,

2015 - On the same day Professor Harris arranges the scope for his review into the use of wild animals in circuses with the Welsh Government his report against the fur industry was presented in the European Parliament and drew immediate criticism for its bias.

'The report, The Case against Fur Factory Farming, claims to be a scientific review, but fails on a number of factual errors and misinterpretations. The report is political rather than scientific.'

http://www.fureurope.eu/wp-content/uploads/2015/12/Fur_Europe_Answer_to_the_Case_Against_Factory_Fur_Farming_2015.pdf

The case against the Lamerton hunt collapses when Professor Harris' links to animal rights groups are revealed in court.

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/law-and-order/12034496/Hunting-convictions-thrown-into-doubt-after-court-case-collapses.html>

2016 - The review into the use of wild animals in circuses is complete and handed to the Welsh Government on the December 15th 2016, by the 23rd it has been severely criticised by the researcher who has published the most refereed journal articles on animals in circuses in the world for the USDA, Professor Ted Friend :-

'The Welfare of Wild Animals in Traveling Circuses by Dorning, Harris and Pickett also cited my studies many times, and their use of my studies and the literature is similarly biased.'

<https://www.nextquotidiano.it/wp-content/uploads/2017/06/Wales-ban-2016-rev.pdf>

2017 - The letter Dr. Friend sent to Bristol University and Lesley Griffiths Rural and Environmental Minister for Wales led to the forced early retirement of Professor Harris in February 2017. This forced retirement appears to have caught both Professor Harris and his students by complete surprise and some even held a petition for him to return, but were told he was not coming back.

<https://www.change.org/p/conserved-our-lecturer-conserved-our-quality-of-teaching>

2017- In March, just one month after his forced retirement, the CPS are using Professor Harris in the trial against the Grove & Rufford hunt, a guilty verdict was obtained largely on the evidence of Professor Harris.

2017 - Professor Ted Friend's critique of the Welsh review is translated for the Italian senate causing them to step back from an elimination of animals from circuses.

'I am concerned that very few people have actually read my scientific publications and discovered that Harris' spin is 180 degrees from what we found.'

<http://www.sivelp.it/wp-content/uploads/2017/07/TED-FRIEND-PDF.pdf>

2017 - Professor Harris writes a report with reference to the National Trust giving the impression it was somehow linked to them and coincided with the vote on whether to ban fox hunting on their land. The National Trust were contacted about the report and, until that point, were unaware of its existence.

<https://www.league.org.uk/Handlers/Download.ashx?IDMF=1ffe56d3-1494-4b69-af0a-d4380e39d564>

2017 - Although Harris' commission was for a broad review for the Welsh Government into the use of wild animals in circuses, he reveals in an open letter (29/07/2017) that Gaia Angelini (Lega Anti Vivisezione, Italy's anti-vivisection league) is distributing his strategy for twisting the science that has found the welfare of circus animals to be at least comparable to other widely-accepted animal keeping systems.

2018 - At the appeal in April of the Grove & Rufford hunt the prosecution pull out just as Professor Harris is about to give evidence, not surprising really as most of information in this report is known by the prosecution. Subsequently £60,000 pounds in costs is returned to those subject to a serious injustice.

2018 - Despite the CPS knowing of Professor Harris' bias they still use him in a trial involving the Fitzwilliam Hunt. Professor Harris attempts to set up the accused and secure bad publicity against hunting by suggesting the fox is not a pest and hunting does not affect their numbers. Why the CPS think a debunked argument pitched at non-experts, designed to take money from charities and only ever likely to work with their cooperation is beyond reasoning for most individuals.

2018 – 4th June. A debate on fur imports in Westminster and Professor Harris' debunked report *'The case against fur farming'* surfaces as scientific justification for a ban given by Patricia Gibson MP – *'All lucrative endeavours bring with them powerful lobbyists such as we have seen with the tobacco industry. The latest example in the fur industry is an organisation called WelFur. I am sure the Minister is aware of the comprehensive and rigorous "Scientific Review of Animal Welfare Standards and 'WelFur"', which concluded:*

"WelFur is not able to address the major welfare issues for mink and foxes farmed for fur...or the serious inadequacies in current labelling and regulation"

The claimed comprehensive and rigorous scientific review was debunked 3 years previously (See **2015**)

'Mr. Harris fails to fulfil the report's objective of doing a scientific review of WelFur'

2018 - No doubt more stupidity and misinformation to follow at tax payer's expense.

Conclusion: It appears Professor Harris is deliberately providing misinformation to satisfy the narrative of the animal rights groups. A service for which he has been handsomely rewarded financially. This is a clear perversion of science and a corruption of both the law and political process.

Given so much of the 'evidence' provided by Professor Harris is, at best, highly inaccurate the public will be perplexed as to why the Police and Crown Prosecution Service are using him as an expert against a backdrop of disingenuous public and political manipulation.

Appendices

Appendix A - (RSPB figures produced in 2013/14 showing 293 foxes killed on 23 reserves)

Vertebrate control by RSPB for conservation reasons

Species	No. of reserves	Total killed in 2013/14	Reason
Feral/ Barnacle Goose (eggs)	1	60	To protect ground-nesting birds
Brown Rat	2	No. not recorded	To protect nesting seabirds
Grey Squirrel	1	104	To protect Red Squirrels
Rabbit	1	10	To protect regenerating heather
Carrion-Hooded Crow	4	117	To protect ground-nesting birds
Fallow Deer	5	167	To restore woodland
Muntjac	1	8	To restore woodland
Red Deer	9	476	To restore woodland & heathland
Roed Deer	7	311	To restore woodland
Sika Deer	2	161	To restore heathland & woodland
Fox	23	293	To protect ground-nesting birds
Feral Goat	1	20	To restore woodland
Large gulls (adults)	1	0	To protect ferns
Large gulls (eggs)	3	162	To protect ferns
Forrest	2	6	To protect breeding waders, Cormorants, Mink, Shannwaters & Puffins
Mink	16	63	To protect Water Voles
Stoat	1	1	Where recently introduced onto a naturally Stoat-free island (on Orkney)

Vertebrate control by RSPB for other reasons

Species	No. of reserves	Total killed in 2013/14	Reason
Brown Rat	5	No. not recorded	Hygiene around buildings
Mouse	2	No. not recorded	Hygiene around buildings
Rabbit	1	No. not recorded	Protection of hydrological infrastructure
Feral Canada Goose (eggs)	1	16	Air safety
Feral Greylag Goose (eggs)	1	31	Air safety
Carrion-Hooded Crow	1	13	Animal welfare during lambing

Appendix B - The Wildlife Guardian reports on 'How a hunting ban will affect the fox population' *'The members of the committee will be encouraged to accept the hard evidence produced by wildlife academics and campaigners, rather than the myths and anecdotes of the blood sports fraternity.'*

How will a ban on hunting affect the British fox population?



PROFESSOR STEPHEN HARRIS
FROM THE SCHOOL OF
BIOLOGICAL SCIENCE AT
BRISTOL UNIVERSITY

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

How will a ban on hunting affect the British fox population? was compiled by Professor Stephen Harris and Dr Phil Baker at Bristol University.

The current fox population in Britain is around 240,000 adults, and 425,000 cubs are born each year. The fox is not the most abundant predator in Britain; there are more than three times as many feral cats, both stoats and weasels are twice as common, and even badgers are more common.

Fox populations regulate their numbers naturally. Territorial behaviour sets an upper limit on the number of fox social groups in an area, and each social group normally only produces a single litter of cubs. Fox numbers are in balance with their food supply; as food resources increase, the size of social groups, and hence fox numbers, will increase and vice versa.

Current levels of fox control are not effective in reducing overall fox numbers. Fox numbers can be temporarily reduced locally by intensive culling. However, it is unlikely that culling levels will ever again be sufficiently high to lead to a significant reduction in the total number of foxes in Britain, since they disperse over large areas to replace any local losses. Since there is a surplus of potentially breeding females in the population, any breeding females that are killed are quickly replaced. Thus, current levels of fox mortality are not having any effect on the overall size of the fox population in Britain.

There is no evidence to suggest that fox-hunts play any role in the control of fox populations. The activities of fox-hunts have a minimal impact on fox numbers.



THE LAST 'TALLY NO!' WILL NOT SIGNIFICANTLY AFFECT THE OVERALL FOX POPULATION, BUT WILL OFFER LEGAL PROTECTION TO OVER 100,000 ANIMALS THAT ARE KILLED FOR 'SPORT' EVERY YEAR.

Hunters, their supporters and their apologists constantly make wild and contradictory claims about foxes and hunting's role in 'controlling' fox numbers. Some say that an end to fox-hunting will lead to a dramatic increase in the numbers of foxes. Others say that a ban will lead to more foxes being killed and the numbers will dramatically decline.

As with all of the hunters' claims, there is little or no logic to these

numbers. Other reports looked at the natural mortality rate of foxes, others at the way a dog fox will breed with what would have been a barren vixen if the dominant vixen is killed.

Individual foxes are successful because they are biologically equipped

to be adaptable. The population benefits from this, but there are other factors involved too which make it extremely resilient. Even shooting, whilst it is certainly more humane, does not necessarily have the effect on fox numbers shooters may expect.

Once studied as a whole, the picture becomes clear and shows that the abolition of hunting with dogs is highly unlikely to have a negative or positive effect for the overall population. Tens of thousands every year will, however, gain legal protection from the intense suffering and unnecessary cruelty caused in the name of 'sport'.

Professor Harris's statement, which was first published through the Committee Stage, the members of the Committee will be encouraged to accept the main evidence produced by scientific research and to consider other factors in any final decision. The Committee will be asked to consider the evidence and to make a decision on the issue.



Appendix C - (Taken from the Government inquiry website – Terry Kreeger's letter to the inquiry team making them aware of the misuse of his data in the report 'How will a hunting ban affect the fox population' written by Professor Stephen Harris')

Committee of Inquiry into Hunting with Dogs in England and Wales

I recently received an e-mail appearing at the bottom of this message. Since this information refers to my research, I felt it important to set the record straight.

The statement, "a North American study showing that hunting a fox for five minutes in a ten acre enclosure causes as much physiological suffering as catching one in a leg-hold trap. On post-mortem the foxes showed haemorrhage of heart and lungs and congestion of adrenal glands and kidneys. Blood analyses showed high levels of enzymes reflecting tissue damage" is INCORRECT.

I have not published that chasing a fox with a dog causes changes that are less than/equal to/greater than being trapped. The post mortem changes that are quoted are applicable ONLY to TRAPPED foxes. We never published post mortem analyses on CHASED foxes. It appears that people are taking trapped fox data and applying it to chased foxes. The only published data referring to chased foxes are the elevated heart rates and body temperatures that appeared in the Canadian Journal of Zoology (see below).

The statement "Red foxes caught in foothold traps developed classical stress responses characterised by increased HR (heart rate), increased HPA (hypothalamic-pituitary-adrenocortical) hormones, elevations of serum chemicals, and neutrophilia" is CORRECT as it refers only to TRAPPED foxes. However, if a reader is not reviewing the information critically, it may appear that these findings apply to chased foxes as well.

This has been a continuing problem with misinterpretation of my data that apparently began with an anti-hunting group in the U.S. That group's web page attributed changes recorded in trapped foxes to changes in foxes chased by dogs. This is blatantly incorrect and, I suspect, willfully done.

I personally have no stake in this issue in the U.K. other than trying to insure that the objective truth is disseminated. If you have any questions or require additional information, please feel free to contact me.

Terry J. Kreeger, DVM, PhD

Wildlife Veterinarian

Wyoming Game and Fish Department

ON MARCH 3, I RECEIVED THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION:

The publication 'How will a ban on hunting affect the British fox population?' cites a North American study showing that hunting a fox for five minutes in a ten acre enclosure causes as much physiological suffering as catching one in a leg-hold trap. On post-mortem the foxes showed haemorrhage of heart and lungs and congestion of adrenal glands and kidneys. Blood analyses showed high levels of enzymes reflecting tissue damage.

References

- 1, <http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/the-man-whose-pound1m-gift-keeps-blairs-mind-on-hunting-738229.html>
- 2, <https://www.theguardian.com/uk/2000/jan/24/hunting.ruralaffairs>
- 3, <http://web.archive.org/web/20050903165903/http://www.huntinginquiry.gov.uk/mainsections/huntingframe.htm>
Research contract 6 - REPORT ON CONTRACT 6 METHODS OF CONTROLLING FOXES, DEER, HARE AND MINK Piran White¹, Philip Baker², Geraldine Newton Cross¹, James Smart¹, Rebecca Moberly¹, Graeme McLaren³, Rachel Ansell², and Stephen Harris² (2.4.2.2)
- 4, <http://charliepyesmith.com/wp-content/uploads/2006/12/Rural-Rites-by-Charlie-Pye-Smith.pdf> p59-60
- 5, <https://www.thefreelibrary.com/BLOODY+LIARS%3B+Countryside+Alliance+email+reveals+plan+to+breed+foxes...-a0122742642>
- 6, <http://www.nfws.org.uk/The%20utility%20of%20killing%20foxes%20in%20Scotland.pdf>

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 07 January 2019 08:57:05
To: Public Engagement Unit
Cc: Minister for Rural Affairs and the Natural Environment
Subject: FW: The Protection of Wild Mammals Act

For MACCs please

[REDACTED] 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: 06 January 2019 15:42
To: Minister for Rural Affairs and the Natural Environment
<MinisterRANE@gov.scot>
Subject: Fwd: The Protection of Wild Mammals Act

Begin forwarded message:

From: [REDACTED]
Date: 5 January 2019 at 19:33:17 GMT
To: Mairi.Gougeon.msp@parliament.scot<mailto:Mairi.Gougeon.msp@parliament.scot>
Subject: The Protection of Wild Mammals Act
Dear Ms Gougeon

I am writing to you regarding hunting and The Protection of Wild Mammals Act. I understand that the Scottish legislation is not as extensive as the English and Welsh legislation, although both fall short of protecting wildlife and public wishes to see such activities terminated. I understood that the SNP and the Scottish Parliament were intending to tighten up this legislation but this has yet to occur. My reason for contacting you today is an increasing knowledge of what happens at these hunts and a lack of response when existing laws are breached.

I have an acquaintance who regularly monitors the hunts and the information passed on to me is horrific. The hunts act as they please. Even with police presence this does not deter them from breaching laws and acting aggressively towards any public who does not support them. Foxes, cubs and badgers are regularly dug out from their earths/setts. Deer chased in to barbed wire. Reports of domestic pets being chased and killed. Foxes ripped apart by hounds and shot after their death to look like they are within the laws. Today my acquaintance tells me that a fox was ripped to shreds in

front of her whilst the hunters were cheering and jeering, a man [REDACTED] then hauled the dead fox out and shot him in the head and flung him back to the hounds. She was there with other protestors/monitors but this did not prevent the dangerous use of a weapon, flaunting Scottish legislation and acting in an aggressive manner including grabbing one of them by the neck.

I would appreciate it if the matter of hunting could be investigated as soon as possible and the wildlife and public of Scotland given the protection that they deserve.

Yours faithfully

[REDACTED]

*

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

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