

From: [Redacted]
Sent: 11 July 2019 11:42:41
To: Public Engagement Unit
Cc: Cabinet Secretary for the Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform, [Redacted]
Subject: FW: Joint letter sent on behalf of BASC, SCA and SLE

Attachments: Letter to CABSec ECCLR from BASC SCA SLE.pdf

[Redacted]

For MACCS please, diary.

Copied to relevant policy colleagues for early awareness.

[Redacted]

[Redacted]@gov.scot> | Private Secretary to Roseanna Cunningham MSP | Tel: 0131 244 1556 | 07917 052 285

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

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

From: [Redacted]@scottishlandandestates.co.uk<mailto:[Redacted]@scottishlandandestates.co.uk>>
Sent: 11 July 2019 10:57
To: Cabinet Secretary for the Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform <CabSecECCLR@gov.scot<mailto:CabSecECCLR@gov.scot>>
Subject: Joint letter sent on behalf of BASC, SCA and SLE

Good Morning

Please find attached letter for attention of Ms Cunningham sent on behalf of BASC, SCA and SLE

Appreciate if you could confirm receipt

Thank you

Regards

[Redacted] Chairman and Executive Team
Scottish Land & Estates

Stuart House, Eskmills Business Park, Musselburgh EH21 7PB

T: 0131 653 5400 W: scottishlandandestates.co.uk Twitter:

@ScotLandEstates<<https://twitter.com/ScotLandEstates>>

Join today...<<https://www.scottishlandandestates.co.uk/membership>>

all information in this email and any files attached to it are intended solely for the person or organisation to whom it is addressed. If you are not the intended recipient please notify us and delete it from your computer system and on no account copy, distribute, disclose or take any action in reliance on it. Any opinions expressed in this message are not necessarily those of Scottish Land & Estates. Any information provided reflects information reviewed at the time of its publication. Accordingly, account must always be taken of any relevant changes in the law, policy or circumstances since that time. It is for general information only, and must never be relied upon as any substitute for professional advice, which should always be taken in any situation in which financial or other interests may be at stake. No liability can be accepted by Scottish Land & Estates or any of its staff for any misstatement in it or omission from it. The Scottish Land & Estates accepts no responsibility for loss or damage arising from the use of this e mail transmission, including damage from virus. Scottish Land & Estates Limited is registered in Scotland No. SC257726. Registered Office as above.

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

—



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

11 July 2019

Dear Cabinet Secretary

We are writing to ask for your help to resolve an increasingly contentious situation around satellite tagged birds of prey which is undermining collaborative efforts to address this issue.

You will be aware that this issue has been thrown into sharp focus again last week following the emergence of information through REVIVE that the satellite tags on two golden eagles in Perthshire ceased working on April 18.

For the avoidance of doubt, we would once again underline our condemnation of wildlife crime. We are committed to measures to prevent wildlife crime through PAW Scotland and also to supporting Police Scotland in the work they undertake to detect and investigate crimes when they occur.

On this occasion, Police Scotland commenced a comprehensive investigation and we understand that [Redacted] is not under suspicion. However, the estate has been named and allegations of criminality by 'grouse moors' have been made in the media, including by Andy Wightman MSP.

This is a significant escalation in an already difficult situation where self-declared anti grouse shooting campaigners hold all the satellite tag data and only reveal publicly what suits their purpose, without either the Police or Scottish Natural Heritage seeming to have control over how it is used.

Attempts have been made to tackle this through the formal PAWS Raptor Group channels but it is now 18 months since the first submission from Scottish Land & Estates and we are not aware of any substantive change. We understand that SNH is looking at this matter but we have not seen anything concrete. In addition, it is only recently that the chair of the PAW Science Group has been able to determine from BTO some basic information; that 171 raptors or owls were tagged between 2013 and 2017.

We have proposed a formal review to look at:

- An open public register of all satellite tags put on birds of prey in Scotland, type, date, location, ownership, who put on the tag and scientific purpose.
- Strict management of licensing for putting on tags by SNH/BTO, and public record.
- Transparency of data on movements of tagged birds (with a time delay if necessary)
- Improved protocols around searching for tags which have stopped transmission and publicity.

More transparency and fairness would be a step forward. Our organisations support the announcement by the Scottish Gamekeepers' Association that it is lodging a petition to the Scottish Parliament which calls for greater independence in monitoring of satellite tags.

Opponents of grouse shooting believe the only way forward is further restrictions on our sector. Such a negative outlook, in our view, is unlikely to achieve the common objective of eradicating raptor persecution completely.

We recognise that there is a very important principle underpinning this issue, namely that the public has a right to be reassured that the wildlife and environment of Scotland is cared for to the highest standards. In recent years, frameworks such as Wildlife Estates Scotland, the Principles of Moorland Management (PoMM) and SLE's Landowners' Commitment have been created for this very purpose to provide openness and transparency in our work.

However, it is abundantly clear that the monitoring of tag data does not fit this criteria and urgent action is required to restore trust in the system. We believe there is much more that can be achieved by greater co-operation and partnership and see transparency and fairness over the collection and monitoring of satellite tag data as an important and constructive step.

[Redacted - Out of Scope]

We ask for an urgent meeting with you to discuss these matters.

Yours sincerely

[Redacted]
BASC

[Redacted]
Scottish Countryside Alliance

[Redacted]
Scottish Land & Estates

Return address:
Scottish Land & Estates
Stuart House
Eskmills Business Park
Musselburgh EH21 7PB

info@scottishlandandestates.co.uk

Cabinet Secretary for Environment, Climate Change and
Land Reform

Roseanna Cunningham MSP



Scottish Government
Riaghaltas na h-Alba
gov.scot

T: 0300 244 4000

E: scottish.ministers@gov.scot

[Redacted]

Scottish Land & Estates

Stuart House

Eskmills Business Park

Musselburgh

EH21 7PB

Our ref: 2019/0020668

14 August 2019

[Redacted]

Thank you for your letter of 11 July inviting Roseanna Cunningham MSP, Cabinet Secretary for the Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform, to meet to discuss the issue of satellite tagged raptors.

Ms Cunningham wishes to accept your invitation subject to Parliamentary business, I would be grateful if you could contact the Cabinet Secretary's Diary Secretary, [Redacted], via email at cabsececlr@gov.scot to arrange a mutually convenient date.

[Redacted] PRIVATE
SECRETARY

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

St Andrew's House, Regent Road, Edinburgh EH1 3DG
www.gov.scot



INVESTORS
IN PEOPLE

Accredited
Until 2020



**Strict embargo:
00.01hrs on Wednesday 14 March**

**PRESS RELEASE
13 March 2018**

SMEARING OF GROUSE MOORS 'UNDERMINING' INVESTIGATIONS INTO SATELLITE-TAGGED BIRDS

Scottish Land & Estates has issued the following statement in response to a RSPB media release on the alleged disappearance of a satellite-tagged golden eagle in Inverness-shire.

David Johnstone, chairman of Scottish Land & Estates, said: "RSPB has stated today that a young golden eagle fitted with a satellite tag disappeared three months ago in the Northern Monadhliath mountains. We have no hesitation in urging anyone who can provide information on the matter to contact Police Scotland.

"We are, however, deeply concerned by the assumption by RSPB that this eagle is most likely the victim of a wildlife crime perpetrated on a grouse moor. Yet again, we see RSPB acting unilaterally as judge and jury without waiting for those professional experts in the police and the procurator fiscals' office to reach an informed decision as to the actual facts. We believe this continual smearing of grouse moors actually runs the risk of being counterproductive and directly impacting all the good, productive collaboration that has taken place in recent years.

"Incidents such as this absolutely do need to be investigated but it is for Police Scotland to lead investigations. They have very extensive powers to gather evidence as they see fit, and we would expect all our members to assist them in their enquiries.

"To be clear, we as an organisation – and on behalf of our members - condemn all forms of wildlife crime. We are not saying that wildlife crime never occurs on land managed for grouse shooting and acknowledge that in the past, there were practices, including raptor persecution, that are simply unacceptable, but which have declined markedly in recent years and this trend is borne out by the [Scottish Government's own statistics](#). We also note that RSPB itself describes the area involved in this case as one where eagles have done well in recent years.

"Of course, more work needs to be done ensure the decline in wildlife crime continues and we are an enthusiastic member of the Partnership for Action Against Wildlife Crime Scotland (PAWS). It has been proven time and again that constructive collaboration gets the best results. Alongside this, we and numerous grouse shooting estates are active members of the Heads up for Hen Harriers project as well as being key drivers in the South of Scotland Golden Eagle reintroduction project.

"Instead, what we have is a sustained effort to blacken the name of grouse shooting without evidence. It is perhaps no coincidence this is happening when the Scottish Government has

instigated an independent review into grouse shooting which is ongoing at this very moment. Despite being a member in PAWS, we have seen absolutely no evidence or data from this eagle or from the recent case of Fred which disappeared in the Pentland Hills.

“We are fully supportive of the government review into grouse shooting as set up by the Cabinet Secretary, its practices, and the many environmental, economic and social benefits it provides across rural Scotland. We are also fully supportive of the proposals within the Poustie report that recommends the strengthening of penalties with regard to wildlife crimes.”

ENDS

[Redacted]
Media House
t: [Redacted]
e: [\[Redacted\]@mediahouse.co.uk](mailto:[Redacted]@mediahouse.co.uk)

[Redacted]
Media House
t: [Redacted]
e: [\[Redacted\]@mediahouse.co.uk](mailto:[Redacted]@mediahouse.co.uk)

NOTES TO EDITORS

Scottish Land & Estates is a membership organisation for landowners, rural businesses and rural professionals.

Scottish Land & Estates promotes the wide range of benefits land-based businesses provide: tourist attractions, leisure facilities and landscapes enjoyed by the public, as well as, housing, employment, tourism & enterprise and farming opportunities.

For more information, visit www.scottishlandandestates.co.uk

07 August 2020



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

Dear Minister,

[Redacted - Out of Scope]

We proactively encouraged a public appeal for information in relation to a stopped satellite tag on a golden eagle in Perthshire, with the support of local estates. These incidents did stimulate further debate in our sector over satellite tagging of birds. Our evidence to the Werritty Review called for greater transparency and independence in the use of tag data and we wrote along with two other organisations to the Cabinet Secretary ECCLR in July last year on this same issue, although action on it seems to have stalled at PAWS.

We are extremely keen to drive this forward to find new methods of handling tag data and involvement of land managers when tags stop working on their in order to give confidence to all parties with an interest.

At SLE, we would be very keen to explore with Scottish Government and Scottish Natural Heritage the prospects for a new system. Our members, who have many years of experience at ground level, are more than willing to play their part in the development of a system that would give greater clarity on tag information, reduce the manipulation of information and act as a further deterrent.

I would be very happy to form a delegation that could offer assistance to Scottish Government and its agencies.

[Redacted - Out of Scope]

I hope this update is useful and look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

[Redacted]

From: [Redacted]@scottishlandandestates.co.uk>
Sent: 13 March 2018 14:14
To: [Redacted]
Cc: [Redacted]
Subject: FW: Satellite tag
Attachments: SLE Golden Eagle statement 13 March 2018.docx

Dear All,

I attach the text of a statement from SLE to be sent out to media enquiries today, under embargo until 00:01 Wednesday 14th March 2018 as requested by RSPB.

[Redacted – Out of Scope]

[Redacted]

[\[Redacted\] @scottishlandandestates.co.uk](#)



Scottish Land & Estates
Stuart House, Eskmills Business Park, Musselburgh EH21 7PB
Office 0131 653 5400 / Home office [Redacted] / Mobile [Redacted]

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

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

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