

[Redacted]

Our Reference: 202000086463  
Your Reference: Culling of Badgers  
1 October 2020

Dear [Redacted]

Thank you for your email of 8 September 2020 to the First Minister regarding the cull of badgers in England.

As you may be aware, both badgers and their setts are protected under the Protection of Badgers Act 1992 as amended by the Wildlife and Natural Environment (Scotland) Act 2011.

I would like to reassure you that there are no plans to carry out a badger cull in Scotland.

I hope this is helpful.

Yours sincerely

[Redacted]  
NATRES : Wildlife and Flood Management



T: 0300 244 4000  
E: scottish.ministers@gov.scot

Mr Peter Chapman MSP  
The Scottish Parliament  
EDINBURGH  
EH99 1SP

Our ref:2018/0005747

February 2018

Dear Mr Chapman MSP

**Aberdeen Western Peripheral Route/Balmedie to Tipperty (AWPR/B-T) Project**

Thank you for your letter received 13 February 2018 regarding concerns raised by your constituent, [Redacted].

[Redacted – Out of Scope]

[Redacted], the contractor for the project has confirmed that the position of the badger proof fence cannot be altered as this fence designates the land boundary of the project, and it provides the necessary area in order for [Redacted] to meet the environmental commitments set out in the Environmental Statement.

If [Redacted] would benefit from a meeting, the AWPR/B-T Managing Agent [Redacted] can be contacted on [Redacted] or at [Redacted] and would be happy to make mutually convenient arrangements with [Redacted] and officers from Transport Scotland.

I hope this information is helpful.

**Keith Brown**

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E: scottish.ministers@gov.scot

Mr John Swinney MSP  
The Scottish Parliament  
EDINBURGH  
EH99 1SP

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Your ref: JS3334WS  
Our ref: 2018/0012744  
April 2018

Thank you for your letter dated 19 March 2018 highlighting concerns raised by your constituent, [Redacted] in relation to badger culling and potential changes to Scotland's policy on tackling bovine tuberculosis (TB) in cattle.

As I am sure you already know, control measures for TB are a devolved policy area and, as such, I can comment on this issue only in so far as it relates to Scotland.

I am aware however that the badger cull in England is a highly emotive topic and that Defra recently announced a review of their TB strategy including two consultations on badger control which closed on 15 April 2018. This review is in part driven by the reported detection of TB infection in three badgers in eastern Cumbria (Shap) last summer and Defra's subsequent consideration of extending the badger cull to that area.

Scotland has in recent years been successful in controlling TB and our Officially Tuberculosis Free (OTF) status is recognition of that. The Scottish Government routinely monitors the disease situation for any evidence of wildlife involvement in the spread of TB across the country and currently there is no identifiable threat to Scotland's OTF status or cattle.

Over the years there has been significant research carried out into the links between the spread of bovine TB and badgers, but veterinary advice here is that there is still no evidence of any significant wildlife vectors of TB in Scotland, and that Scottish wildlife does not currently represent a risk in terms of the spread of bovine TB to cattle.

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Consequently, there are no plans to introduce controls for badgers or any other wildlife, as there is no evidence to suggest that cattle resident in Scotland are being infected from that source, but we continue to keep a close watch for any emerging change in the pattern of disease.

Scottish Government recently consulted on proposals to introduce changes to the Tuberculosis (Scotland) Order 2007 but only in relation to requirements for post movement cattle testing and to the way we pay TB compensation in Scotland. Badger culling did not feature in any part of that consultation.

I hope this clarifies the Scottish Government's position on badger culling and reassures your constituent that a badger cull is not something that is being considered for Scotland.

**FERGUS EWING**

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T: [Redacted]  
E: [Redacted]

[Redacted]

Our ref: 2018/0014595  
2 October 2018

Dear [Redacted],

Thank you for your letter of 17 April 2018 to the Cabinet Secretary for Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform, Roseanna Cunningham. I have been asked to respond, and please accept my apologies for the delay in doing so.

[Redacted – Out of Scope]

Badgers are a protected species, and the unauthorised killing or harming of badgers is a criminal offence. The Scottish Government has no plans to licence a cull of badgers, as has been trialled in some parts of England. Additionally, there are no records of TB being found in the Scottish badger population at present.

I hope this information has been helpful in illustrating that the Scottish Government is serious in its determination to look after its protected wildlife.

Yours sincerely,

[Redacted]  
Policy Officer – Wildlife and Protected Areas



T: 0300 244 4000  
E: scottish.ministers@gov.scot

Mr Willie Rennie MSP  
The Scottish Parliament  
EDINBURGH  
EH99 1SP

Your ref: A10310/2019/CK  
Our ref: 2019/0020173  
July 2019

Thank you for your letter of 25 June 2019 to Mairi Gougeon, Minister for Rural Affairs and the Nature Environment, raising the concerns of the [Redacted] and the [Redacted] regarding the predation of certain species by badgers and ravens. I am responding as this falls under my portfolio responsibility.

Previously published reports concerning badgers and hedgehogs confirms that badgers predate hedgehogs and they also compete with hedgehogs for food, primarily worms and beetles. Research has also shown that hedgehogs will avoid areas where badgers are present. With badger densities on the increase in many parts of the UK, in areas where rural habitats are unfavourable high densities of badgers are likely to exclude hedgehogs from patches of land. However, it should be noted that hedgehogs and badgers have coexisted in farmland landscapes for thousands of years and some farmland landscapes continue to support both species.

The extent of badger predation on hedgehogs in Scotland is unclear, but studies of badger diet in Scotland in the late 1970s (before any decline in hedgehogs was apparent) showed that while badger scats analysed contained remains of earthworms, hedgehogs were not specifically identified in any of the scats analysed. Other studies elsewhere have found only occasional hedgehog remains, suggesting that they are infrequent prey. These studies also found evidence of bumblebees in a small percentage of badger scats, but these were estimated to comprise less than 1% of the diet by volume.

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While there is evidence that badgers can cause local extinction of hedgehogs in certain circumstances, the badger population density over the vast majority of Scotland is insufficient to result in this and even in the highest density areas we are unaware of any empirical evidence to support claims that badgers are causing local hedgehog extinctions.

You also question the impact badgers have on wild bees. The primary cause of bumblebee declines remains the intensification of farming practices. We have no information on the impact of badgers on other wild bees (i.e. solitary bees).

We are aware that there have been some concerns about the impact of badgers amongst the farming community.

In a case in Dumfriesshire in 2015, Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) worked with the Scottish Government to set up night time cameras and check the local setts for signs of badger impact on a sheep farm where fox control was said to be tight. The cameras demonstrated minimal interaction between badgers and livestock, and there was no definitive evidence of lambs being taken to setts. However foxes were active and remained in greater numbers than expected. If evidence is available that badgers are causing problems, such as predated livestock, then an application to SNH for a licence can be made.

In terms of wider impacts of Badgers, SNH will shortly be commissioning work to pull together a literature review of the existing evidence base for the impacts of badgers of agricultural and conservation interests.

[Redacted Out of Scope]

**Roseanna Cunningham**

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Accredited  
Until 2020



From: [Redacted] on behalf of First Minister  
Sent: 08 September 2020 11:42  
To: Public Engagement Unit  
Subject: FW: Culling of Badgers

Categories: MICASE

AO - [Redacted]

For Micase for OR

Thanks

[Redacted]  
Deputy Private Secretary  
Private Office to the First Minister  
5th Floor| St Andrew's House | Regent Road | Edinburgh | EH1 3DG | T: 0131 244 [Redacted]  
| [Redacted]

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-----Original Message-----

From: [Redacted]>  
Sent: 08 September 2020 10:50  
To: First Minister <[firstminister@gov.scot](mailto:firstminister@gov.scot)>  
Subject: Culling of Badgers

Good Morning First Minister.

I know you are very busy dealing with the Covid crisis and keeping us safe.

I am disturbed about the Badger Cull which I have read about this morning. I sincerely hope that this will not be happening in Scotland. It really upsets me reading that 100,000 of these animals are going to be culled.

Thank you in the hope that something can be done to stop this cull.

Kind Regards

[Redacted]

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From: [Redacted] on behalf of Cabinet Secretary for the Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform  
Sent: 01 April 2020 15:38  
To: Public Engagement Unit  
Cc: Cabinet Secretary for the Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform  
Subject: FW: Geese, Badgers, and moles

Categories: MICASE

[Redacted]

OR please

[Redacted] Assistant Private Secretary to Roseanna Cunningham MSP, Cabinet Secretary for Environment, Climate Change, and Land Reform

St. Andrews House  
EDINBURGH  
EH1 3DG  
0131 244 [Redacted]  
cabseccclr@gov.scot

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From: Cunningham R (Roseanna), MSP <Roseanna.Cunningham.msp@parliament.scot>  
Sent: 01 April 2020 08:43  
To: Cabinet Secretary for the Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform <CabSecECCLR@gov.scot>  
Subject: Fwd: Geese, Badgers, and moles

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: [Redacted]  
Date: 1 April 2020 at 07:59:32 BST  
To: "Cunningham R (Roseanna), MSP" <Roseanna.Cunningham.msp@parliament.scot>  
Subject: Geese, Badgers, and moles

Madam, as our farmlands are being inundated and ruined by the above, what is the Scottish government intending doing about this very serious matter. There was control over this problem some 30 years ago but now there is none. Massive amounts of geese now land here (Inverness). This is a very serious problem and

wish your scottish government would take some action and help our farmers eradicate this problem. Awaiting your early reply, [Redacted]

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The Scottish Parliament  
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PO received  
13/02

MR

Peter Chapman MSP  
Member of the Scottish Parliament for North East Region

Keith Brown MSP  
Cabinet Secretary for Economy, Jobs and Fair Work  
St Andrews House  
Regent Road  
Edinburgh  
EH1 3DG

13 FEB 2018  
Received

8<sup>th</sup> February, 2018

Dear Keith

I write on behalf of my constituent [Redacted] regarding the impact which the construction of the AWPR has had on his farm.

[Redacted] has contacted me again due to the consistent and ongoing problems he is having regarding the AWPR Construction.

[Redacted] is still unable to access the underpass which allow access to the Western side of his farm meaning he still has a 3-mile round trip to his fields. There are also ongoing fencing issues. Since your last meeting with [Redacted], the contractor has been removed and [Redacted] will be responsible for installing his own fencing, this would then be compensated for by the District Valuer.

[Redacted] is suggesting that the current Badger fencing put in place by the AWPR contractors could be moved back 4 metres which would enable [Redacted] to put in place his fencing without having to cut down the trees that are currently on his farm.

He also has contracts for the fencing he is required to do and for new roadworks which are needed for him to access the underpass from his farm buildings out to tender. He is concerned that he will be required to pay for these works on completion and to then reclaim the monies from ARL. He needs assurances that this money will be paid timeously and that he will not be out of pocket as a result.

At present [Redacted] is very concerned about the length of time his business can last given the impact this construction is having on his operations.



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I will be meeting with [Redacted] in the coming week. I would be grateful for your suggestion about how we might resolve these issues and possibly have a member of Transport Scotland or the AWPR to also attend a site visit.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Yours sincerely,

**Peter Chapman MSP**

Member of the Scottish Parliament for the North East Region  
(Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party)

Local Office: 80 Rosemount Place, Aberdeen, AB252XN

Email: [peter.chapman.msp@parliament.scot](mailto:peter.chapman.msp@parliament.scot)

Phone: 01224 644432



The Scottish Parliament  
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba



John Swinney MSP  
Member of the Scottish Parliament for Perthshire North

Mr Fergus Ewing MSP  
Cabinet Secretary for Rural Economy & Connectivity  
Rural Economy & Connectivity  
St. Andrew's House  
Regent Road  
Edinburgh  
EH1 3DG



Our Ref: JS3334WS

19 March 2018

*J. Ewing*

[Redacted]

I have been contacted by the above-mentioned constituent, who has expressed concerns regarding potential changes to Scotland's current policy on tackling bovine tuberculosis.

Following recent news of the extension of England's badger cull, [Redacted] is worried that such measures will be extended to Scotland. She considers the badger cull to be unnecessary, cruel and an inefficient way of tackling bovine tuberculosis. Accordingly, she would be strongly against the implementation of any badger cull within Scotland.

I would be grateful if you could confirm the Scottish Government's position on badger culling, and would be interested in any thoughts you may have regarding how best to balance the rights of badgers with the need to combat bovine tuberculosis.

I look forward to your reply.

*J. Swinney*

*JS*

From: [Redacted]  
Sent: 18 April 2018 09:53:04  
To: Public Engagement Unit  
Cc: Cabinet Secretary for the Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform  
Subject: FW: Disappearing satellite tagged eagles

For MACCS please

[Redacted]  
Deputy Private Secretary to Roseanna Cunningham MSP | Cabinet Secretary for Environment, Climate Change & Land Reform | Scottish Government | 2N:08, St Andrew's House, Regent Road, Edinburgh, EH1 3DG | Tel: +44(0)131 244 [Redacted] | cabsececclr@gov.scot

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-----Original Message-----

From: [Redacted]  
Sent: 17 April 2018 19:20  
To: Cabinet Secretary for the Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform  
Subject: Disappearing satellite tagged eagles

Dear Roseanna Cunningham

It seems that every day on social media I see more and more evidence of our wildlife in the United Kingdom being targeted/persecuted. Whether it be badgers being culled because of authorities believing they are the cause of Bovine TB; our endangered hedgehogs being threatened by the introduction/licensing of the indiscriminate A24 trap or raptors such, as the White Tailed Eagle, being killed by indiscriminate Grouse shooters.

Many would say that there are far more important things to be concerned over in the United Kingdom, however these type of issues are important to me and I'm sure millions of others.

I am asking you, as Environment Cabinet Secretary, to bring this to the attention of the Scottish Parliament and other authorities as I feel that our environment and the wildlife within it needs to be cared for and protected and made much more of a priority than it currently is.

Kind regards

[Redacted]

For more information please visit <http://www.symanteccloud.com>

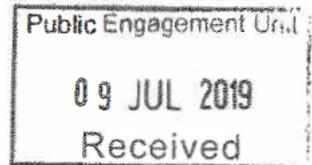
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The Scottish Parliament  
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

**Willie Rennie**  
**Member of Scottish Parliament, North East Fife**  
**Leader of the Scottish Liberal Democrats**



Mairi Gougeon  
Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and the Natural Environment  
St Andrew's House  
Regent Road  
Edinburgh  
EH1 3DG

25 June 2019

Ref: A10310/2019/CK

Dear *Mairi*

I recently met with the [Redacted] and the [Redacted] and discussed the impact of badgers and ravens on wild animals and farm livestock.

They told me that as a result of the growth in the badger population there has been a dramatic reduction in the wild bee, hedgehog and curlew population. Can you tell me whether you have investigated this matter and reached any conclusions?

They also say that the local population of Curlews has been impacted by the growth in the raven population. Do you have such evidence and action to address this?

Their final point is that both badgers and ravens are attacking farm livestock. This is incurring a considerable cost and impacting on animal welfare. I would also be interested in your view on this.

Yours sincerely

**Willie Rennie**  
Liberal Democrat Member of the Scottish Parliament for North East Fife