

Title of meeting: Meeting with the SGA Scotland regarding the Wildlife Management and Muirburn (Scotland) Bill

Date: 07 November 2023

Attendees

- Minister for Energy and Environment
- [Redacted – regulation 11(2) - personal info], Scottish Gamekeepers Association
- [Redacted – regulation 11(2) - personal info], Scottish Gamekeepers Association
- [Redacted – regulation 11(2) - personal info], Wildlife Management Unit
- [Redacted – regulation 11(2) - personal info], Nature Division Bill Unit

Items discussed

The following items were discussed:

Wildlife Management and Muirburn (Scotland) Bill (WM&M Bill)

- The SGA set out their concerns about the lack of a specific criminal offence of tampering with lawfully set traps and snares. The discussion included:
 - How trap tampering is currently handled
 - Consequences of trap tampering, including a safety risk to people, domestic animals and wildlife in particular from more power traps now in use such as DOC traps.
 - Difficulties prosecuting trap tampering
 - A bespoke offence for trap tampering
- The SGA set out their arguments for retaining snaring as a means of predator control, including:
 - Potential impacts on biodiversity
 - Welfare improvements offered by “humane cable restraints”
 - Loss of alternative methods of predator control, including the potential impact of the Hunting with Dogs (Scotland) Act 2023

Agreed actions/next steps

- There were no action points arising from the meeting.