

From: [Jamie Blackett](#)
To: [2002 Act Review](#)
Subject: Submission to Bonomy Review
Date: 17 March 2016 21:19:09

Dear Lord Bonomy,

I am a farmer near Dumfries. We always try to control the numbers of foxes and crows on the farm to allow a wide diversity of other species to thrive. Because I don't believe the land is safe to use a rifle at night, lamping foxes is not an option. I also wouldn't want to wound a fox. And because we do not have the labour to check snares regularly, and I do not like the idea of an animal being snared, snaring is not an option either. Hunting under the 2002 Act is for me the best option for controlling foxes. Unlike other forms of control it is binary – at the end of the day foxes are either 100% alive or 100% dead. If any foxes are wounded by the guns they can be tracked down by the hounds and despatched quickly and humanely.

It would simply not be possible to use anything less than a full pack to flush foxes from large areas of thick cover towards guns. I also believe that it would lead to foxes being chased for far longer as they would go round and round in circles without breaking cover.

The local Hunt provides 2 full time jobs directly and several more indirectly in a countryside where milking and tractor driving jobs are rapidly being robotised. The people who follow the Hunt are from all walks of life and all ages. It gives them a community and many old people rely on it to stop them being lonely. Politicians destroy these things at their peril. The Act seems to have worked very well and changing it to appease an ignorant and politically motivated animal rights lobby would diminish trust in the Scottish Government among country people. It would only lead to more foxes being killed by less humane methods.

Jamie Blackett

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