

**From:** [Jane Laidlaw](#)  
**To:** [2002 Act Review](#)  
**Subject:** Submission letter  
**Date:** 22 March 2016 16:06:13

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Dear Lord Bonomy

I am concerned that the Scottish Government is looking at possibly changing the hunting legislation in Scotland. I have hunted with three packs of Scottish foxhounds in my life, with the Lauderdale in the 80s, pre-ban and most recently with the Fife and Lanarkshire and Renfrewshire. In my experience both hunts stick rigidly to the current legislation which allows fox control to be carried out efficiently and effectively whilst also providing much needed extra income and jobs to rural areas.

The current legislation allowing a full pack of foxhounds to be used to flush fox to waiting guns works well. By their very nature, foxhounds work best in larger groups and in my view, passing legislation which would reduce the number of hounds to two, would make the job far harder to do as efficiently and humanely as it is currently being done in Scotland.

As a hen keeper who lives next door to a sheep farm I am in no doubt that it is vital to control the fox population of Scotland. Of course there are other methods of catching and destroying foxes available but it makes no difference to the fox, for whom the end result is the same. I hope that you will bear in mind when making your deliberations that it also makes no difference to a fox that is being hunted with hounds whether the followers of the hounds are on foot, on quad bikes or on horseback. Everyone who uses dogs to flush animals towards guns is engaged in the same activity. I also enjoy hunting on foot and have been out more days this season on my feet than on a horse.

The SSPCA have said that they are not opposed to dogs being used for the purpose of flushing foxes towards guns and the former chief executive of the LACS, Douglas Batchelor was quoted in August 2005 as saying that 'pairs of dogs are utterly useless in flushing to guns'. He is right. Foxes live in large areas and they think and move quickly. Two foxhounds would have no chance of flushing a fox from even quite a small wooded area. They need to work as a team. A study carried out by the Federation of Welsh Farmers in 2012-2013 showed that the time between a fox being found and flushed and it being shot was reduced if a pack of hounds as opposed to a pair was used to find and flush.

The current act banned foxes being chased and killed by a pack of foxhounds. That is already illegal and we don't do it any more. The law as it stands in Scotland works and is vastly superior to the legislation in England and Wales. The Scottish act is being adhered to by Scottish hunts and in my view you will make fox control less efficient if you legislate to further limit what people who are, after all, professionals in the field of fox control can do in their line of work.

I hope you will give my thoughts on this subject consideration.

Yours sincerely

Jane Hutchison

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