



Dear Lord Bonomy

I am a practitioner within the Scottish borders, running a large hunt country. My whole life I have been around and also taken part in following packs of hounds.

My Role up in the Borders is to run a hunt country, manage kennels and staff, breed hounds and over the see their training and education.

A great deal of my time is spent liaising with landowners, farmers, shoot managers and their keepers, clearing ground for the mounted field to enjoy a cross country ride, whilst also providing a free fox control service.

I also identify, train and instruct guns on days that we are out and in the off time, test their marksmanship.

I believe that a full pack of hounds, and only a full pack, is a tremendous asset to farmers and keepers, where we can work closely to help maintain a manageable fox population.

Country that we cover varies immensely, open hill, forestry and enclosed farmland. A full pack of hounds for example, 16 and a half couple, locates a fox quicker and flushes it towards the gun far easier, than 2 hounds. Foxes are a canny species and if they sense only a few hounds, they will elude and be less inclined to leave cover, thus prolonging the flushing.

In this day and age so many people go shooting at night, with lamps, night sights and thermal imagery. We supply a service to work in conjunction with all these other methods of control, locating and flushing foxes in areas that are difficult or often dangerous for these other methods to access and be effective.

I have a very good relationship within the farming community to which we offer a free service all year round, running a call out service at lambing time and also for keepers when releasing young game birds to wood.

The fox population within the borders areas seems very high, and with the Scottish government wanting more and more woodland, this is set to increase. This is one reason why I believe full packs of hounds will play a part in controlling foxes in the future.

We have been open, public and accountable. We have worked in close co-operation with Police Scotland, along with their assistance, setting up a detailed working protocol, of which we all work within.

I strongly believe that a full pack of hounds flushing to guns, is an integral part of the method for fox control in Scotland going forward.

Yours sincerely  
Mr Tim Allen