



Lord Bonomy,

**PROTECTION OF WILD MAMMALS (SCOTLAND) ACT 2002**

I write in support of the 2002 act as it currently stands . I am a private individual who has observed hunting in Scotland since 2008 . I believe that a change to the act would have a detrimental effect on the effective and humane control of fox numbers in many parts of Scotland .

This applies not just to the Borders where the well known packs are based but throughout the Highlands where farmers and gamekeepers use packs of hounds to flush foxes onto guns as the only effective way of humanely controlling numbers in large and inaccessible places .

Organised packs of hounds have operated for many years within the current law and to my knowledge there have been no breeches of the law and no difficulties or problems expressed by the police associated with its effectiveness or difficulty of enforcement .

It has been suggested by some that there should be a restriction in the number of hounds used in flushing . This would make the process of fox control ineffective as flushing is used because large and inaccessible areas are involved and this requires a large number of hounds.

In summary I would submit that if a current law is effective in what it set out to do , that the environment in which it operates has not changed , that there are no difficulties in enforcement , and there is no evidence of successful flouting of the law then there is no reason to change anything .

Yours sincerely,

Simon Winpenny