

**From:** [Judy Gilbert](#)  
**To:** [2002 Act Review](#)  
**Subject:** Submission by POWA - Scottish Review Hunting  
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Protect Our Wild Animals (POWA) is a group of very experienced anti hunt campaigners, including, amongst others, an ex League Against Cruel Sports Joint Chief Executive, ex League Against Cruel Sports Directors, wildlife experts, hunt monitors and legal and political experts.

For many years POWA was alone in highlighting the inadequacy of the Hunting Act 2004 (England & Wales) to control the determined defiance of the hunting fraternity, and we have called for a strengthening of the ban from its very inception. Everything we have said has been fully borne out by events. All the large anti hunt groups in England & Wales have now fallen in behind POWA and have publicly stated that the restrictions of the ban are far too weak and that illegal hunting is routinely taking place behind the cover of so called "trail hunting".

POWA would like to ask that those reviewing the Scottish hunting ban accept our advice that the Scottish law is also much too weak and contains far too many exemptions, with wording so loosely phrased that it is open to wide exploitation. A particular concern is the fact that the law allows for a pack of hounds to flush a fox from a covert after which the fox is supposed to be shot. It seems that this provides hunts in Scotland with their main cover for illegal hunting without fear of prosecution, whilst in England and Wales the same cover is provided by the convenient although almost certainly non-existent "trail hunting" (which has been called by one astute judge a "cynical subterfuge"). The law also contains far too many unnecessary exemptions which are easy for hunts to exploit.

POWA recommends that the evidence of hunt monitors and hunt saboteurs, which we are sure has been submitted to the reviewing body, be taken closely into account, as these are the people on the ground who are witnessing what is happening in the hunting field. They are seeing shocking and clear evidence of wholesale lawbreaking, at considerable danger to themselves as they are met with hostility and violence by hunt supporters. Much evidence of this can be found on You Tube.

We think the best guidance we can offer the Review is to refer you to our detailed recommendations for strengthening the ban in England & Wales, as much of this can also be applied to the Scottish law. This can be found here: <http://www.powa.org.uk/id88.html> and <http://campaigntostrengthenethehuntingact.com/build-on-the-ban.php>

Judy Gilbert -  
On behalf of Protect Our Wild Animals (POWA)

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