

**From:** [Graham Hamilton](#)  
**To:** [2002 Act Review](#)  
**Subject:** Hunting review  
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**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)

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I write as a supporter of hunting in Scotland as the current legislation allows.

I understand that the Review has been triggered in part by allegations by the League Against Cruel Sports (LACS) that the Scottish Hunts have been operating illegally

Using a pack of dogs for flushing is a vital form of fox control, especially in areas where alternatives are impractical. Restricting the number of dogs would make it impossible to flush foxes from cover in many areas. Recently, when Welsh hill farmers argued that the limit on the number of dogs to two just didn't work in large areas of forestry, the UK Government sought to amend the law to mirror the Scottish legislation. The case was strengthened by a scientific study, which took place in Scotland, and showed using a larger number of dogs would be more efficient and reduce the duration of the flushing process. Indeed, the LACS had admitted such years previously when its then Chief Executive, Douglas Bachelor, had said in a leaked memo, "*Pairs of dogs are utterly useless in flushing to guns.*"

- The 2002 Act banned what the opponents of hunting objected to i.e. the chasing and killing of foxes with dogs. At the time the 2002 Act was passed, the SSPCA and animal rights groups such as LACS recognised that flushing was an important form of fox control. This has not changed in the time since the Act was passed.
- The activities of hunts in Scotland are open, public and accountable and there is close co-operation with Police Scotland. Until recently, everybody seemed happy with the law as it stands. Calls for the Act to be reviewed only began following proposals to amend the Hunting Act in England and Wales which would have brought their law in line with Scotland. *When it was revealed that money had been given to the SNP by an animal rights group*, no doubt even the Scottish Nationalists then felt it was time to save at least a degree of face, hence the Bonomy review.
- There is no public demand for change. Polling carried out in December showed that the majority of people thought it was acceptable for farmers to shoot foxes to protect their livestock. It also showed that most people did not think that the current law needed to be changed.
- The following extracts demonstrate the gross inconsistency of LACS's view.

# Amending the Hunting Act

(allowing an exemption to work)

The contradictory views of the  
League Against Cruel Sports

*“The Protection of Wild Mammals Act is a hugely important piece of legislation, as it seeks to protect foxes and other mammals from the sickeningly cruel blood sport of hunting.”*

**Jennifer Dunn, Senior Public Affairs Officer (Scotland)**  
13<sup>th</sup> February 2014

*“This is not some minor amendment, but would effectively legalise hunting again and would have driven a coach and horses through the current legislation, rendering it effectively useless and unenforceable.”*

**Ian Pendlington, Senior Public Affairs Officer (England & Westminster)**  
21<sup>st</sup> March 2014

When the Scottish Government is in so much debt it is a great waste of public time and money for such an enquiry to be carried out when funds so desperately need deployed elsewhere. I sincerely hope Lord Bonomy's enquiry is quick to dismiss any unnecessary change to the law.

Yours sincerely

Graham Hamilton

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