

From: [REDACTED]
To: [2002 Act Review](#)
Subject: Comments on the Review of Protection of Wild Mammals (Scotland) 2002 Act.
Date: 30 March 2016 10:08:02

Dear Lord Bonomy,

I would respectfully wish you to consider my comments during your current review of the Protection of Wild Mammals (Scotland) Act 2002.

I believe that this was a well-intentioned piece of legislation, drafted to bring Scotland's law into line with the democratic wishes of her people, 85% of whom do not wish to see packs of hounds racing across the countryside pursuing foxes to a cruel death.

Most people view with repugnance the prospect that in the twenty-first century there are still people who take enjoyment from a small animal being subjected to unimaginable terror and torn to pieces. This is a perversion, and one which has no place in any society which lays claim to civilisation.

Scotland's government quite obviously agreed with this view when the current legislation was brought in, and quite clearly it was intended to bring an end to Hunting with hounds.

However, it did include exemptions, which allow "hunts to use hounds to drive foxes from cover and towards waiting gunmen". These exemptions are being exploited by the Hunts in Scotland, used as loopholes to allow them to continue hunting foxes with hounds and thereby flout the law.

The Countryside Alliance has even boasted that the effect of the exemptions is to allow "business as usual". There are many, many videos and reports which clearly show hunts contravening the Act, and show packs of hounds chasing a wild mammal across the countryside. In some cases, they are chasing them through people's gardens and through housing estates, through woods and parks to which the public has access. This is clearly against the intentions of the current legislation, but if pulled up, the Hunts cite the exemption, and claim they were merely "using the hounds to drive foxes from cover towards waiting gunmen".

This is in clear contravention of the intentions of the Act. A prosecution has just successfully convicted the Jed Forest hunt of breaking the law, but only after a charity extensively videoed what was happening, and the BBC used its considerable resources to prove that the data on the video was genuine. Quite obviously, resources are not available for this to happen at every hunt meet.

I would therefore respectfully suggest that the exemption which allows "hounds to be used to drive foxes from cover and towards waiting gunmen" be removed from the Act, thereby allowing the legislation to be strong enough and clear

enough to do what it was intended to do; to do what the government of Scotland wished it to do; and to do what the people of Scotland overwhelmingly wished their government's legislation to do; which is to have law which prevents packs of hounds chasing wild mammals across the Scottish countryside.

I wish you and your team well with your review.

Yours sincerely,

Pauline Salvarli

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