Dear Lord Bonomy,

I am writing as a retired Field Master of the Duke of Buccleuch"s Foxhounds. I was in the position at the time of the new changes from the Protection of Wild Animals Act in 2002.

My job certainly required many changes in a days work. Instead of galloping behind the hounds I had to amuse the followers by taking circuitous routes involving various jumps and gallops over the countryside. This then encouraged the followers to find the day still attractive thereby paying their subscriptions towards the running of the hunt. We were now a pest control pack and this required some help from the members in tasks such as sending hounds back to the cover to flush the foxes out and towards the guns. They were also helpful in keeping the hounds off roads and unwanted areas.

From the hours spent watching the hounds in a cover it became obvious that to reduce the number to the proposed 2 hounds would not have the required solution in the reduction of foxes. The full pack is needed to send the foxes out to the waiting guns. There are many farms and estates where we have been called in to help with the pest control of foxes.This is especially relevant on hill farms with lambing being imminent. We have been operating this new system successfully within the law for the last 14 years with no prosecutions so it must be working and can see no reason to change the status quo .

I hope this has been helpful.

Yours sincerely

Carolyn Innes