

2002 Act Review  
Natural Resources Division  
The Scottish Government  
1-C North, Victoria Quay  
Edinburgh, EH6 6QQ

**By Post & Email**

30 March 2016

Dear Sirs

## **REVIEW OF THE PROTECTION OF WILD MAMMALS (SCOTLAND) ACT 2002**

I am writing to you regarding your Review of the Protection of Wild Mammals (Scotland) Act 2002.

I own a decent sized farm in the Scottish Borders where the control of foxes is of great importance to the wildlife, including many species of ground nesting birds, which is attracted to the farm and has multiplied greatly over the last few years.

Greenlawdean has very recently been Accredited as one of Scotland's 35 Wildlife Estates by Wildlife Estates Scotland, a national version of the EU Wildlife Estates (WE) label, with advice from Scottish Natural Heritage, Game & Conservation Wildlife Trust and the Cairngorms National Park Authority, and is supported by the Scottish Government.

I am of the opinion that trying to find and flush foxes with only two hounds on our particular farm, and on the extensive adjoining properties, would be like to searching for a needle in a haystack. There is a huge amount of rough ground on this farm and on our adjoining farms where only a full pack of hounds can be expected to find and flush foxes. There is, for example, a 100 acre wood located on our boundary and history has shown that it is impossible to shoot or snare foxes effectively in or around this wood and that only a full pack of hounds can locate and flush the foxes out of the wood with any degree of efficiency. Two hounds by themselves, rather than a pack of 30 – 50 hounds, would be of no use whatsoever.

Whilst many will totally accept that killing foxes with hounds does not account for as many foxes as shooting, snaring, etc, hunting with hounds is an important part of the process of controlling foxes in this part of the world and, I hope, will not be weakened by the restriction to only two foxhounds.

I hope that the above will be of help to you and do hope that you will not affect the way in which our local packs of foxhounds do their excellent work. I would be very happy to enlarge on my views for you, if requested.

Yours faithfully

P J A Leggate