

From: [Louise Aitken-walker](#)
To: [2002 Act Review](#)
Subject: 2002 act review
Date: 31 March 2016 08:15:48

Dear Lord Bonomy

I am writing to you as a subscriber to the Berwickshire hunt, from pony club to an adult subscriber for at least 25 years, a past master and indeed a master to be once again for the 2016/17 season, What is my main reason for hunting? It would have to be said that my reason is to gain access to the beautiful Scottish border countryside while doing a job that has to be done for the Scottish farmers, the countryside and the other the wildlife that also enjoys it, The hunt is only a small part of how foxes are controlled, Sporting estate I am sure will support our way to help control NOT eliminate the fox and they of course will have their own ways ,fully trained game keepers that will dispatch the fox humanly.

In 2002 the law was changed how we hunted the fox and since then we have adhered to making sure that all huntsman, masters, guns, terrier men and followers know about and adhere to the new protection of wild mammals act 2002 getting a pack of hounds to flush the fox out is the quickest and most effective way to do this. Guns are usually concealed so as not to turn the fox and therefore is dispatched quickly,as back up if you have an injured fox the pack is there again to dispatch it quickly and humanely, If you tried to do this with only two dogs there would become very lengthy periods of time before you move onto the next cover, and don't forget the hunt followers and field want to move on and cover ground not be frozen to the spot on a cold winters day, the job is to move to the next cover flush with a pack of hounds and dispatch the fox humanely. for me and my daughter who also hunts what comes with this is fantastic days out in the Scottish countryside controlling the fox and doing a job, seeing a Huntsman at work controlling hounds, and enjoying the bloodlines he has bred, puppy shows, point a points, social events and social fundraisers.

I am a farmers daughter one of eight and I have lived my life in the countryside and it is at its very best when it is controlled and not overrun by any one thing. I with my daughter run a busy livery yard, most of our customers will at some point through the year will be involved with activities that evolve from having a local hunt, Gina my daughter has horses in for breaking and bringing on for horse events that have an association with the hunt and pony club. I would fear for our own livery yards future and I would be very disappointed for my daughter, who we have actively encouraged her to try and make a living out of something she enjoys , and we appreciate how lucky we are if we can achieve that.

Why change something that's not broken, you have well run packs throughout scotland doing a fantastic job in helping control things in the countryside, you have put in place in 2002 a hunting bill that works and we are all enjoying working within that.

It's vitally important we all work together on this so I do hope our voice can be heard over other organisations using technology and trying to make things go viral against hunting on Twitter etc, and hoping volume will win the day against hunting.

Yours Sincerely Louise Aitken-Walker MBE and Gina Walker

Sent from my iPhone

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