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

**30<sup>th</sup> March 2016**

**Dear Lord Bonomy,**

**Review of the Protection of Wild Mammals (Scotland) Act 2002**

I write to make representation to you and to urge you to retain the status quo as far as concerns the use of hounds to flush foxes to guns in your review of the above Act.

I was brought up in a fairly ordinary family in the city of Perth and only became involved in fox hunting in my late 20's since when I have hunted until my 72nd year some 6 some years ago with the Fife Foxhounds and also on a fairly regular basis with the Duke of Buccleuch's Hunt.

I have therefore experienced hunting both prior to and subsequent to the Protection of Wild Mammals Scotland Act 2002.

In the first place I am convinced that the farming community in livestock rearing areas does genuinely require a potent means of controlling foxes. When I use the expression 'potent' I am concerned to distinguish the use of hounds to flush foxes to guns from alternative methods such as 'lamping, snaring or random shooting. The latter methods all involve either a degree of cruelty or uncertainty and often both whereas flushing foxes from cover to guns is a much more organised method with all parties fully aware of each participant's role in the prescribed exercise. In the event of a fox being wounded the hound pack is on hand to put the fox out of its misery – as required of the Hunt by the terms of the Act.

This latter point is one of considerable difference between the activity by a recognised Hunt and any other form of fox control whether it be lamping where by virtue of it being carried out at night the marksman cannot be sure of whether or not he has wounded the fox if there is no carcass at the site; snaring where in spite of the so called 'humane snares' the fox is held in considerable pain both physical and mental for what can be many hours or what I call 'random shooting' where a wounded fox will set off having been badly shot or shot with too light a load of shot (peppered) outpacing any human pursuit - if attempted.

In other words, fox control using a pack of hounds has a greatly enhanced surety of outcome than any other method carrying with it a much reduced degree of pain or suffering on the part of the fox. I have always believed this to be a major factor in my

support of foxhunting over a period of 48 years. Foxes are vermin and do require to be controlled, in some areas more than others, and it is incumbent on those so involved in that control activity to do so as efficiently and effectively as humanely possible.

The situation in England and Wales where only two dogs may be used to hunt the fox is ridiculous and has led to all sorts of practices which hardly address the question of 'fox control' at all leaving that requirement in the dubious hands of the snarers, the lampers or the random shooters a situation which I regard as totally unsatisfactory.

I therefore urge you with the greatest degree of respect for your position and your allotted task to maintain the status quo.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Colin J Campbell'.

Colin J Campbell  
(Formally FRICS- now retired)