

From: [REDACTED]
To: [2002 Act Review](#)
Subject: Submission for Review of the Protection of Wild Mammals (Scotland) Act 2002
Date: 31 March 2016 13:32:02

Please find below response from one of our members for the Fox Hunting review.

Dear Lord Bonomy

With regard to the current review of the Protection of Wild Mammals (Scotland) Act 2002. I am Chairman of the Three Straths Fox Control Association, a footpack based in Inverness-shire and as such I would like you to consider the following in support of the use of hounds to control foxes.

1. Ourselves and a handful of other footpacks in the Highlands operate mainly in large Forestry plantations many of them state owned. These plantations are a safe haven and breeding ground for foxes. The use of hounds to remove foxes from these plantations is a quick and effective method with very little disturbance to other wildlife in the forest, or members of the public with the added benefit of no by-catch.
2. These Forestry plantations are invariably neighbouring ground that is valuable breeding areas for many species of waders and other ground nesting birds, whose populations are becoming increasingly vulnerable due to the rising populations of predators including foxes. Very often on the same ground are livestock i.e. sheep or lambs which also need protection from foxes.
3. Our hunting days are attended by between 20 – 40 experienced marksmen, comprised mostly of professional gamekeepers who are there to do a job of work and all foxes found are shot at the earliest opportunity and any that may be wounded (it occasionally happens) are quickly dispatched by the hounds so there are no long, lingering deaths. I would also add that there has never been a complaint made or any police investigation.

The Scottish Government have always recognised that this is a necessary worthwhile form of Pest Control and have provided grants to help with costs. To remove this method would leave a gaping hole in our ability to protect vulnerable wildlife and hill farmers fragile viability where there is nothing that can be offered which would or could replace this method in this geographical area.

By enlarge the government has created these ideal conditions for the fox by placing alien tree stands either by planting itself or by encouragement with grants it has a duty to allow the only method of control that works in these conditions to continue.

I do hope that you will give this due consideration and would be happy to answer any questions.

Yours faithfully

Allan Hodgson

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Kind Regards

Carol Anderson

Scottish Gamekeepers Association
Inveralmond Business Centre
6 Auld Bond Road
Perth
PH1 3FX

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Web www.scottishgamekeepers.co.uk

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