

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [2002 Act Review](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Review of Protection of Wild Mammals (Scotland) 2002 Act  
**Date:** 31 March 2016 13:52:31

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Dear Lord Bonomy

With regards to the above I wish to submit the following to the review.

I have been involved in fox control in Scotland since 2003 and specifically with the [REDACTED] to provide fox control services to farmers and landowners in [REDACTED]. We have used packs of dogs to flush foxes from cover where they are shot by competent marksmen using shotguns. For my submission I will refer to hounds as dogs as foxhounds are not the only dogs used in Scotland to flush foxes from cover to waiting guns.

The use of packs of dogs to flush foxes from cover towards waiting guns has been in use in Scotland before by gun packs and since the 2002 act became law by registered packs of foxhounds. The act recognised that there is a need to control fox populations throughout Scotland and makes no distinction between flushing to guns with a mounted pack, on motorbikes or on foot,; mounted packs do use motorbikes or flush on foot if the terrain or weather is not safe or suitable. There are areas where the use of other means such as lamping and snares are not possible such as in large woodland blocks or on steep hills and mountains.

The use of a pack of dogs to flush foxes to waiting guns is a very efficient and effective way of controlling foxes. The greater the number of dogs allowed to flush the fox in turn reduce the time the fox spends in cover, any limit or reduction in the number of dogs allowed to flush foxes to guns would increase the time spent in cover before the fox is shot. The Federation of Welsh Farmers Packs carried out research into the number of dogs used in 2012-2013. This research showed that the more dogs used was not only more efficient but the time between a fox being found and flushed to be shot was reduced.

Any limit or reduction in the number of dogs could also incriminate other field sports for example beaters on a shoot day using dogs to flush game birds to waiting guns, there are cases where foxes are driven from cover towards the waiting guns who are sometimes encouraged to shoot foxes on a shoot day. The use of dogs to flush game for birds of prey where they may flush a fox whilst searching for their target quarry would also be another example.

I would be grateful if could withhold all names including any organisations and contact details mentioned above and as part of this email from publication.

Yours sincerely,



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