

From: [Hazel Brown](#)
To: [2002 Act Review](#)
Subject: Bonomy Review of Hunting Act
Date: 01 April 2016 00:11:44

Dear Sir,

I wish to submit my support for the continuing use of a pack of dogs for the control of foxes on the following grounds ; -

It is essential that the legal use of a pack of dogs for flushing foxes from forestry areas and other types of cover is maintained. There are many areas where other forms of fox control are impractical and restricting the number of dogs would make it impossible to flush foxes from cover.

My family and I farm at Toxside and Moorfoot Farms at the southern tip of Midlothian. We farm 4,000 acres (1400ha) on the Rosebery Estate. The farms run 2,000 ewes producing over 3,000 lambs. Every year we lose Blackface lambs, born outside to foxes. There is nothing more heart breaking than observing a ewe running around a field calling on her lamb which has “disappeared” – most likely taken by a fox if no remains of the lamb are in evidence.

Gamekeepers and ourselves use all legal means of fox control including flushing foxes from cover on many occasions each year. We are bounded to the south and west by thousands of acres of Leithenwater Forest. On the west side of Toxside there is some 600 acres of commercial plantation and now, to the South, Westloch Farm is to be planted with 1,500 acres of trees. Forestry plantations are heaven for foxes. Populations of foxes are fluid and constantly on the move and in these huge blocks of forestry the most effective means of control is by flushing with a pack of dogs. A reduced number of dogs would be completely ineffective in these massive areas of tree cover.

Bearing in mind the Scottish Government’s policy to hugely increase the area of Scotland put down to commercial forest , it is imperative that this vital form of fox control is maintained. Increased areas of forest mean greatly increased populations of foxes which must be kept under control.

The public, the SSPCA and the animal rights groups accept that flushing with dogs is an important form of fox control. I do not believe they have changed their opinion since the passing of the 2002

Act.

My understanding is that this issue only resurfaced after proposals at Westminster to amend the Hunting Act in England and Wales to bring their law in line with the law in Scotland.

There is close co-operation between the keepers, huntsmen and farmers with Police Scotland and there have been no local issues with hunting with dogs in this area.

The public support farmers in their quest to protect their livestock from fox predation and the majority of people find it acceptable to shoot foxes as a humane method of control. There is no appetite for changing the law and I respectfully ask that you retain the status quo.

Yours sincerely

Hazel Brown , [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] [REDACTED]
Gordon Pate , [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

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