

Seannaird / Chairperson airson Cùisean Dùthchail agus na h-Àrainneachd  
 Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and the Environment  
 Richard Lochhead BPA  
 Richard Lochhead MSP



The Scottish  
 Government  
 Rìghaltas na h-Alba

Mr Rob Gibson MSP  
 The Scottish Parliament  
 EDINBURGH  
 EH99 1SP



LEGACY 2014  
 NO BARRIERS TO THE FUTURE

Ar faidhle/Our ref: 2013/0019771  
 19<sup>th</sup> August 2013

*Dear Rob,*

Thank you for your recent letter on behalf of your constituents on the issue of taildocking of working dogs, and the University of Glasgow study.

The Scottish Government takes the issue of animal welfare very seriously. As your constituents may be aware, tail docking has been prohibited in Scotland since 2007. This decision was not taken lightly. The issue of tail docking is both controversial and difficult and has been the subject of considerable consultation. Outline proposals on new animal welfare legislation were first issued in March 2004 and again in May 2005 when the draft Animal Health and Welfare (Scotland) Bill was published. The Animal Health and Welfare (Scotland) Act 2006 effectively banned tail docking in Scotland when it came into force in 2006; however, the issue of tail docking again received high profile consideration when the consultation for the Prohibited Procedures (Exemptions) (Scotland) Regulations was undertaken in October 2006.

Consultation responses relating to tail docking were received from a wide number of organisations representing the farming industry, animal welfare, countryside sports, veterinary surgeons and dog societies. Strong views were held by both sides of the issue, and robust arguments were presented for and against tail docking for all dogs and whether any exception should be made for working dogs. Much of the evidence provided was anecdotal, however, and following a detailed analysis of the arguments for and against, the Scottish Government decided to uphold the decision not to exempt working dogs.

Nevertheless, the Scottish Government has previously agreed that should evidence come to light which suggests that the ban on tail docking compromises the welfare of working dogs, the policy would be reviewed.

/To...

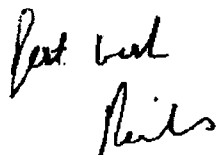
Taigh Naomh Anndrais, Rathad Regent, Dùn Èideann EH1 3DG  
 St Andrew's House, Regent Road, Edinburgh EH1 3DG  
 www.scotland.gov.uk



To this end, we contributed towards the funding of a case control study by the University of Bristol and the Royal Veterinary College; the aims of the study were to document the risks of tail injuries in dogs in Great Britain, to evaluate whether tail docking reduces the risk of tail injury and to identify other major risk factors for tail injury. The research was conducted during 2008/2009, and the resultant report was published in the Veterinary Record on 26 June 2010. Unfortunately, the study was not suitably robust enough to provide guidance on whether or not working dogs should be exempted from the ban. This was due to the limited number of available undocked working dogs at that time.

As the ban on tail docking has now been in place in Scotland for several years, significant numbers of undocked dogs have been trained and worked. To obtain clearer insight into the situation, the Scottish Government commissioned further research from the University of Glasgow in 2011, which you refer to in your letter. The study has now been completed and papers from the research are currently being prepared. It should provide clear evidence regarding the impact of the ban on tail docking on working dogs in Scotland and should, therefore, enable an objective review of the current policy. However, until the research papers have been peer reviewed and published, it would not be appropriate to take forward the policy review. Drafts of the two papers intended for submission have been seen by the project steering group, which includes representatives from the Scottish Gamekeepers Association and the British Association for Shooting and Conservation. It is expected that the papers will be submitted for publication by the researchers in the near future.

I hope this is helpful.



**RICHARD LOCHHEAD**

From: Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and the Environment  
Sent: 02 August 2013 18:07:04  
To: Ministerial Correspondence Unit  
Subject: Fw: tail docking letter from Mr Rob Gibson

Attachments: tail docking-lothead-3-02-08-13.doc

Maccs.

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

Sent: Friday, August 02, 2013 05:00 PM  
To: Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and the Environment  
Subject: tail docking letter from Mr Rob Gibson

Good evening,

please find Mr Gibson s letter to Mr Lohead.

best wishes,

[Redacted]

Parliamentary Assistant to Rob Gibson MSP (Caithness Sutherland and Ross)

[Redacted]

\*\*\*\*\*  
\*

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]



The Scottish Parliament  
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

# ROB GIBSON MSP

Member of the Scottish Parliament for

CAITHNESS, SUTHERLAND AND ROSS

4 Grant Street, Wick, KW1 5AY

Room M4.06, Scottish Parliament, Edinburgh EH9 1SP

Dear Richard,

## Tail docking of working dogs – Glasgow University study

I have had been contacted by several constituents who want to know if there is likely to be a law change.

Have you come to any conclusions about the impact of the tail docking ban on the health of working dogs?

I look forward to your thoughts.

Yours Sincerely,

Rob Gibson MSP



Rùnaire a' Chaibineit airson Cùisean Dùthchail agus na h-Àrainneachd  
Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and the Environment  
Ridseard Lochhead BPA  
Richard Lochhead MSP



Mr Adam Ingram MSP  
The Scottish Parliament  
EDINBURGH  
EH99 1SP



LEGACY 2014  
XX COMMONWEALTH GAMES  
SCOTLAND

Ar faidhle/Our ref: 2013/0006493

28<sup>th</sup> March 2013

*Dear Adam,*

Thank you for your email of 4 March 2013 on behalf of your constituent  concerning the tail docking of working dogs.

The issue of tail docking is both controversial and difficult, with strong views held by those on both sides of the argument. As your constituent will be aware, the Scottish Government commissioned research in 2011 from the University of Glasgow to look at the incidence of tail injuries in working dogs in Scotland, specifically spaniels, hunt point retrievers and terriers. The University of Glasgow study should provide clear evidence regarding the impact of the ban on tail docking on working dogs in Scotland, and should therefore enable an objective review of the current legislation.

I understand that the study has now been completed and papers from the research are currently being prepared. The papers should be submitted to a peer review journal soon; however the Scottish Government has no control over the timing of publication, or of the publication process. It would not be appropriate to propose changes to the current legislation until the research papers have been peer reviewed and published.

I hope this is helpful.

*Best with  
Richard*

**RICHARD LOCHHEAD**



From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: 07 March 2013 16:44:28  
To: Ministerial Correspondence Unit  
Subject: FW: Tail Docking

For maccs please

[REDACTED]  
Deputy Private Secretary - Richard Lochhead MSP - Cabinet Secretary for Rural  
Affairs and the Environment

[REDACTED]  
From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: 07 March 2013 16:42  
To: Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and the Environment  
Cc: [REDACTED]  
Subject: FW: Tail Docking

Richard

Can you let me know when this research will be available to the public please?

Thanks

Adam

From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: Thursday, March 07, 2013 2:06 PM  
To: Ingram A (Adam), MSP  
Subject: Tail Docking

Adam

Just a quick email to ask when the research on tail docking for working dogs in  
Scotland will be made available?

I'm led to be believe that it should have been available January 2013 but still no sign?

Clearly this issue is one of animal welfare, these dogs are bred for a purpose and it is  
a crying shame that many aren't able to fulfill that purpose due to the fact that it would  
subject them to horrible suffering and will cost their owners a vast sum of money by  
the time vets have taken their pound of flesh.

As the SGA said only last week, action needs to be taken to introduce a working dogs  
exemption or it's liable to cost SNP a lot of rural votes.

Yours for Scotland

**2 lines redacted exempt.**

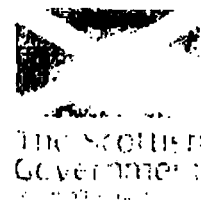
Scottish Government  
The Scottish Government

Ridseard Lochhead BPA  
Richard Lochhead MSP

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

By email: [Redacted]



Ar faidhle/Our ref: 2013/0009641  
14 April 2013

Thank you for your email of 14 February 2013 on the issue of tail docking of working dogs.

The Scottish Government takes the issue of animal welfare very seriously, and I am very sorry to hear that both of your spaniels have suffered tail injuries. I appreciate the stress this must have caused you and them. I wish them both a full recovery, and hope they will be able to resume their duties next season.

Tail docking, as you will be aware has been prohibited in Scotland since 2007. This decision was not taken lightly, and has been the subject of considerable consultation, in March 2004, when outline proposals on new animal welfare legislation were first issued; again in May 2005 when the draft Animal Health and Welfare (Scotland) Bill was published, and again in October 2006, after the Animal Health and Welfare (Scotland) Act 2006 came into force, when draft Regulations (The Prohibited Procedures (Exemptions) (Scotland) Regulations) were consulted on.

Responses relating to tail docking were received from a wide selection of organisations representing the farming industry, animal welfare, countryside sports, veterinary surgeons and dog societies. Strong views were held by both sides and robust arguments were presented for and against tail docking for all dogs. However, much of the evidence provided was anecdotal and, following a detailed analysis of the arguments for and against, the Scottish Government decided to uphold the decision not to exempt working dogs. However, the Scottish Government agreed that should evidence come to light which suggests that the ban on tail docking compromises the welfare of working dogs, we would review the position.

/To...





To this end we helped fund a case control study by the University of Bristol and the Royal Veterinary College, aiming to document the risks of tail injuries in dogs in Great Britain, to evaluate whether tail docking reduces the risk of tail injury, and to identify other major risk factors for tail injury.

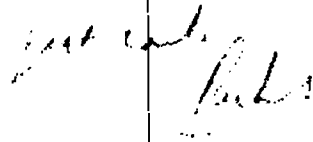
The research was conducted during 2008/2009, and the resultant report was published in the Veterinary Record on 26 June 2010. Unfortunately, the study was not suitably robust enough to provide guidance on whether or not working dogs should be exempted from the ban. This was due to the limited number of available un-docked working dogs at that time.

As the ban on tail docking has been in place in Scotland for several years now, significant numbers of undocked dogs have now been trained and worked. To obtain clearer insight into the situation, the Scottish Government commissioned a further research project from the University of Glasgow. The research project sought to examine the incidence of tail injuries in working dogs in Scotland, specifically spaniels, hunt point retrievers and terriers.

The project steering group included representatives from the Scottish Gamekeepers Association and the British Association for Shooting and Conservation, as well the British Veterinary Association and the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons.

The study was completed in 2012, and papers from the research are currently being prepared. The papers should be submitted to a peer review journal soon; however the Scottish Government has no control over the timing of publication, or of the publication process itself. The University of Glasgow study should provide clear evidence regarding the impact of the ban on tail docking on working dogs in Scotland and should, therefore, enable an objective review of the current legislation. It would not be appropriate to propose changes to the current legislation until the research papers have been peer reviewed and published.

I hope this is helpful.



**RICHARD LOCHHEAD**

From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: 16 April 2013 08:55:40  
To: Ministerial Correspondence Unit  
Subject: FW: tail docking

For MACCS, urgent Ministerial response required.

Thanks,

On 15 Apr 2013, at 21:27, "[REDACTED]" <[REDACTED]>  
> wrote:  
I m forwarding my letter of the 14th February to which I m still awaiting a response.

From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: Thursday, February 14, 2013 2:52 PM  
To: [REDACTED]

Subject: tail docking

Dear Richard Lochhead

I am writing to you, as the Minister responsible, to register my views on the subject of tail docking for dogs. I own two working cocker spaniels (mother and son) which I shoot over on a rough shoot and I also work them extensively on a regular basis on a sizeable driven pheasant shoot. Neither of the dogs were docked at birth due to the present legislation and they are now both suffering extensive injuries to their tails. Now, at the end of the shooting season, my vet has agreed to carry out a surgical amputation on both dogs for their own welfare. The amputation on the younger dog has already been carried at great expense and considerable trauma for both dog and owner and when I can face it I ll have the mother s tail amputated as well. These dogs will have had to suffer because of a misguided law that has nothing to do with animal welfare. They both could have been simply snipped at birth and all this subsequent suffering and expense could have been avoided. The anecdotal evidence for a change in the law is now overwhelming and would be even more compelling were it not for the fact that many dog owners are now going to England to buy their working dogs which is also having a negative impact on Scottish breeders. I believe that a report has been commissioned through The Glasgow Vet school and I would like to know when this report will in fact be available and whether there are any plans to reverse this bad law.

Yours Sincerely

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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DOC 43

Rùnaire a' Chaibineit airson Cùisean Dùthchail agus na h- Arainneachd  
Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and the Environment  
Ridseard Lochhead BPA  
Richard Lochhead MSP



Mr Dennis Robertson MSP  
The Scottish Parliament  
EDINBURGH  
EH99 1SP

Ar faidhle/Our ref: 2013/0008506  
16<sup>th</sup> April 2013

Thank you for your correspondence of 27 March 2013 on behalf of your constituent  on the issue of tail docking of dogs.

The Scottish Government takes the issue of animal welfare very seriously. Tail docking has been prohibited in Scotland since 2007; this decision was not taken lightly. The issue of tail docking is both controversial and difficult, and has been the subject of considerable consultation, in March 2004, when outline proposals on new animal welfare legislation were first issued; again in May 2005 when the draft Animal Health and Welfare (Scotland) Bill was published, and again in October 2006, after the Animal Health and Welfare (Scotland) Act 2006 came into force, when draft Regulations (The Prohibited Procedures (Exemptions) (Scotland) Regulations) were consulted on.

Responses relating to tail docking were received from a wide selection of organisations representing the farming industry, animal welfare, countryside sports, veterinary surgeons and dog societies. Strong views were held by both sides, and robust arguments were presented for and against tail docking for all dogs. However, much of the evidence provided was anecdotal and, following a detailed analysis of the arguments for and against, the Scottish Government decided to uphold the decision not to exempt working dogs. However, the Scottish Government agreed that should evidence come to light which suggests that the ban on tail docking compromises the welfare of working dogs, we would review the position.

/To...



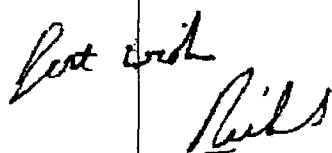
To this end, we helped fund a case control study by the University of Bristol and the Royal Veterinary College, aiming to document the risks of tail injuries in dogs in Great Britain, to evaluate whether tail docking reduces the risk of tail injury, and to identify other major risk factors for tail injury.

The research was conducted during 2008/2009 and the resultant report was published in the Veterinary Record on 26 June 2010. Unfortunately, the study was not suitably robust enough to provide guidance on whether or not working dogs should be exempted from the ban. This was due to the limited number of available un-docked working dogs at that time.

As the ban on tail docking has been in place in Scotland for several years now, significant numbers of undocked dogs have now been trained and worked. To obtain clearer insight into the situation the Scottish Government commissioned a further research project from the University of Glasgow. The research project sought to examine the incidence of tail injuries in working dogs in Scotland, specifically spaniels, hunt point retrievers and terriers.

I understand that the study has now been completed, and papers from the research are currently being prepared. The papers should be submitted to a peer review journal soon; however, the Scottish Government has no control over the timing of publication or of the publication process. The University of Glasgow study should provide clear evidence regarding the impact of the ban on tail docking on working dogs in Scotland and should, therefore, enable an objective review of the current legislation. However, it would not be appropriate to propose changes to the current legislation until the research papers have been peer reviewed and considered robust.

I hope this is helpful.



**RICHARD LOCHHEAD**

From: [Redacted]  
Sent: 27 March 2013 13:02:18  
To: Ministerial Correspondence Unit  
Subject: FW: Letter from Dennis Robertson MSP

Attachments: Letter to Richard Lochhead MSP 27.03.13.pdf

For maccs please

[Redacted]

Deputy Private Secretary - Richard Lochhead MSP - Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and the Environment

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

Sent: 27 March 2013 12:59  
To: Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and the Environment  
Subject: Letter from Dennis Robertson MSP

Good Afternoon,

Please find attached a letter from Dennis Robertson in regards to a constituency case.

Kind Regards,

[Redacted]

Office Manager for Dennis Robertson MSP

A: Units 10-11 Craigearn Business Park - Morrison Way Kintore Aberdeenshire - AB51 0TH

[Redacted]

E:

[Redacted]

\*\*\*\*\*  
\*

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

Our Ref: DR/GP

**Dennis Robertson MSP**  
**Aberdeenshire West**

**Richard Lochhead**  
**Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and**  
**the Environment**  
St. Andrew's House  
Regent Road  
Edinburgh  
EH1 3DG

27-03-2013

Dear Richard,

[REDACTED]

My above-named constituent recently contacted my constituency office with a query about the total ban of tail docking of dogs which currently applies in Scotland.

[REDACTED] tells me that, at a meeting of the Scottish Gamekeepers Association five years ago, representatives of the Scottish Government said that they would reconsider this ban if evidence was provided to merit it.

My constituent would like to know whether this matter is still being considered by the Scottish Government and, if it is, when a decision will be taken in regards to whether or not to overturn the ban.

I would be grateful for any information which you could provide in regards to this matter and I look forward to your response, the contents of which I will share with [REDACTED]

Yours sincerely,



Dennis Robertson MSP  
Aberdeenshire West

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Dennis Robertson MSP  
Units 10-11 Craigeam Business Park  
Morrison Way  
Kintore  
AB51 0TH

[REDACTED]

**Working For A Better Scotland**

Rùnaire a' Chaibneit airson Cùisean Dùthchail agus na h-Arainneachd  
Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and the Environment  
Ridseard Lochhead BPA  
Richard Lochhead MSP



[Redacted]

[Redacted]

Hon Sec, Scottish Field Trials Association

[Redacted]



LEGACY 2014  
XX COMMONWEALTH GAMES  
SCOTLAND

Ar faidhle/Our ref: 2013/0009600

24 April 2013

[Redacted]

Thank you for your letter of 9 April 2013 on the issue of tail docking of working dogs.

The Scottish Government takes the issue of animal welfare of very seriously. As you will be aware, tail docking in Scotland has been prohibited since 2007. This decision was not taken lightly, and has been the subject of considerable consultation. In March 2004, when outline proposals on new animal welfare legislation were first issued; again in May 2005 when the draft Animal Health and Welfare (Scotland) Bill was published, and again in October 2006, after the Animal Health and Welfare (Scotland) Act 2006 came into force, when draft Regulations (The Prohibited Procedures (Exemptions) (Scotland) Regulations) were consulted on.

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The Scottish Government agreed that should evidence come to light which suggests that the ban on tail docking compromises the welfare of working dogs, we would review our position. To this end, we helped fund a case control study by the University of Bristol and the Royal Veterinary College, aiming to document the risks of tail injuries in dogs in Great Britain, to evaluate whether tail docking reduces the risk of tail injury, and to identify other major risk factors for tail injury.

/The...



The research was conducted during 2008/2009, and the resultant report was published in the Veterinary Record on 26 June 2010. Unfortunately, the study was not suitably robust enough to provide guidance on whether or not working dogs should be exempted from the ban. This was due to the limited number of available un-docked working dogs at that time.

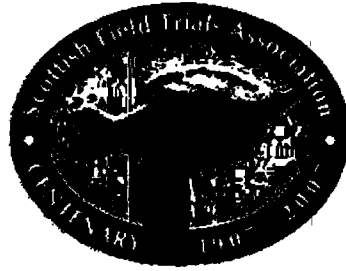
As the ban on tail docking has been in place in Scotland for several years now, significant numbers of undocked dogs have now been trained and worked. To obtain clearer insight into the situation, the Scottish Government commissioned a further research project from the University of Glasgow. The research project sought to examine the incidence of tail injuries in working dogs in Scotland, specifically spaniels, hunt point retrievers and terriers. The project steering group included representatives from the Scottish Gamekeepers Association and the British Association for Shooting and Conservation, as well as the British Veterinary Association and the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons. The study was completed in 2012, and papers from the research are currently being prepared. The papers should be submitted to a peer review journal soon, and it would not be appropriate to propose changes to the current legislation until the research has been peer reviewed and published.

I hope this is helpful.

*Yours sincerely,  
Richard Lochhead*

**RICHARD LOCHHEAD**





[Redacted]

RAE  
09 APR 2013  
PRIVATE OFFICE

Sunday, April 7, 2014

Dear Minister,

I have been instructed by the committee of the Scottish Field Trials Association to write to you regarding the issue of the ban on the docking of working dogs' tails.

Our Association believe that this ban should be lifted. We feel that Scotland is lagging behind the rest of the UK on animal welfare.

We know of many cases of working dogs who have suffered painful tail injuries since the ban was enforced. We would urge you to grant an exemption for working dogs. Scotland is the only country in the UK without exemptions for working breeds.

We support the Scottish Gamekeepers' Association renewed campaign for the ban on the docking of working dogs' tails to be lifted.

Yours sincerely

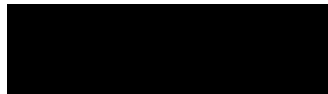
[Redacted signature]

Hon Secretary, SFTA.

M.C.U.  
Received

[Redacted]

Scottish Gamekeepers' Association.



BRIEFING NOTE FOR CABINET SECRETARY FOR RURAL AFFAIRS AND THE ENVIRONMENT

BRITISH VETERINARY ASSOCIATION ANNUAL SCOTTISH DINNER

18 JUNE 2013

Key Message	[REDACTED]
Who	BVA President - [REDACTED] Event Host - [REDACTED] Scottish BVA Branch President and Master of Ceremonies - [REDACTED] Event Organiser - [REDACTED]  Officers of the British Veterinary Association (BVA) in Scotland and UK, plus representatives from most livestock stakeholders.
What	Annual Scottish Dinner.
Why	[REDACTED]
Where	Members' Restaurant, Scottish Parliament building
When	7.00pm, Tuesday 18 June 2013
Running Order	[REDACTED]
Dress code	[REDACTED]
Supporting Official	Sheila Voas, Chief Veterinary Officer (Scotland). [REDACTED]
Attached documents	[REDACTED]

**DOG WELFARE**

**Tail Docking of Working Dogs;**

- Tail docking has been prohibited in Scotland since April 2007, including the tail docking of working dogs. In England and Wales, tail docking is also banned, but an exemption was included from the start for working dogs.
- The Scottish Government helped fund research by the University of Bristol and the Royal Veterinary College on the issue of tail injuries in working dogs during 2008/2009. Results were published in 2010, but did not provide sufficient information to justify a change in present policy.

[Redacted text block]

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[Redacted text block]

23 May 2013

[Redacted text block]

Rùnaire a' Chaibineit airson Cùisean Dùthchail agus na h- Àrainneachd  
Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and the Environment  
Ridseard Lochhead BPA  
Richard Lochhead MSP

[Redacted]

Mr John Swinney MSP  
The Scottish Parliament  
EDINBURGH  
EH99 1SP



Ar faidhle/Our ref: 2013/0018093  
August 2013

114

*John Swinney*

Thank you for your correspondence of 14 July 2013 on behalf of [Redacted] of the Scottish Gamekeepers Association on [Redacted] and the tail docking of working dogs.

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]



**1 page redacted exempt.**

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

As regard the issue of tail docking, [REDACTED] will be aware that tail docking has been prohibited in Scotland since 2007; this decision was not taken lightly. The issue is both controversial and difficult, and has been the subject of considerable consultation. Responses relating to tail docking were received from a wide selection of organisations representing the farming industry, animal welfare, countryside sports, veterinary surgeons and dog societies. Strong views were held by both sides and robust arguments were presented for and against tail docking for all dogs, and whether any exception should be made for working dogs. However, much of the evidence provided was anecdotal and, following a detailed analysis of the arguments for and against, the Scottish Government decided to uphold the decision not to exempt working dogs.

The Scottish Government has previously agreed that should evidence come to light which suggests that the ban on tail docking compromises the welfare of working dogs, we would review the position. To this end, we helped fund a case control study by the University of Bristol and the Royal Veterinary College, aiming to document the risks of tail injuries in dogs in Great Britain, to evaluate whether tail docking reduces the risk of tail injury, and to identify other major risk factors for tail injury.

The research was conducted during 2008/2009 and the resultant report was published in the Veterinary Record on 26 June 2010. Unfortunately, the study was not suitably robust enough to provide guidance on whether or not working dogs should be exempted from the ban. This was due to the limited number of available un-docked working dogs at that time.

The ban on tail docking has been in place in Scotland for several years now, and significant numbers of undocked dogs have now been trained and worked. In 2011, the Scottish Government commissioned a further research project from the University of Glasgow. The project sought to examine the incidence of tail injuries in working dogs in Scotland, specifically spaniels, hunt point retrievers and terriers. This study has now been completed and papers from the research are currently being prepared, which should provide clear evidence regarding the impact of the ban on tail docking on working dogs in Scotland. It would not be appropriate to propose changes to the current legislation until the research papers have been peer reviewed and considered robust. Drafts of the two papers intended for submission are currently being considered by the project steering group, which includes representatives from the Scottish Gamekeepers Association and BASC. It is expected that the papers should then be submitted for publication by the researchers in the near future.

I hope this is helpful.

*Best with  
Richard*

**RICHARD LOCHHEAD**

From: Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and the Environment  
Sent: 14 July 2013 22:57:23  
To: Ministerial Correspondence Unit  
Subject: Fw: votes - Tail Docking

Maccs please

[REDACTED]

Sent: Sunday, July 14, 2013 10:04 PM  
To: Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and the Environment  
Subject: FW: votes

Dear Mr Lochhead

John Swinney has been contacted [REDACTED] of the Scottish Gamekeepers Association, regarding tail docking.

Mr Swinney would appreciate your assistance in replying to [REDACTED] and looks forward to hearing back from you.

Kind regards

[REDACTED]

Assistant to John Swinney  
Perthshire North Constituency Office  
35 Perth Street  
Blairgowrie  
PH10 6DL

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: 12 July 2013 13:38  
To: Swinney J (John), MSP  
Subject: votes

Dear John [REDACTED] here... Scottish Gamekeepers Ass.  
Hope you and the family are well..  
I've been receiving many many communications regarding the state of play regarding tail docking..the reversal off..

[REDACTED]

taildocking

in regard to

[REDACTED]

the promises made by Alex Salmon over 5 years ago regarding tail docking.

[REDACTED]



[Redacted]

Best regards.

[Redacted] \*\*\*\*\*

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted] \*\*\*\*\*

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[Redacted]

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Ministère de l'Agriculture, des Forêts et de l'Environnement  
 Scottish Government for Rural Affairs and the Environment  
 Ridseard Lochhead BPA  
 Richard Lochhead MSP



The Scottish  
 Government  
 Rìghdhaas na h-Alba



COUNTRYSIDE ALLIANCE  
 AN ORGANISATION FOR RURAL COMMUNITIES

[REDACTED]  
 [REDACTED]  
 Countryside Alliance, Director for Scotland  
 [REDACTED]  
 [REDACTED]

Ar faidhle/Our ref: 2013/0027947  
 12th November 2013

Thank you for your letter of 16 October 2013 on the issue of the peer review and publication of the Glasgow University research into tail injuries in working dogs in Scotland.

The Scottish Government both recognises and values the importance of the role of the Scottish Countryside Alliance in representing the interests of Scotland's rural communities, and we would like to take this opportunity to thank the Alliance and its members for their contribution to the project steering group. I am confident that the researchers undertaking the study were grateful for the information and assistance that the Alliance and its members were able to provide.

With regard to the question of the timing of the peer review and publication of the research, this is not a process that the Scottish Government has any control over. I understand that the papers have been submitted for publication, and when they have been peer reviewed and published, the Scottish Government will undertake an objective review of our current policy.

I hope this is helpful.

*Yours sincerely  
 Richard*

**RICHARD LOCHHEAD**

DOC 48

# SCOTTISH COUNTRYSIDE ALLIANCE

The voice of the countryside

Mr R Lochhead MSP  
Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and the Environment  
9 Wards Road  
Elgin  
Moray  
IV30 1NL

RAE  
28 OCT 2013  
PRIVATE OFFICE

RECEIVED  
21 OCT 2013

16/10/2013

Dear Sir

On the 28<sup>th</sup> Of July 2013 you answered a question from Alex Ferguson MSP in stating that the research commissioned from the University of Glasgow in 2011 has now been completed. Drafts of the two papers intended for submission were currently being considered by the project steering group, which included representatives from the Scottish Gamekeepers Association and the British Association for Shooting and Conservation. It is expected that the papers will be submitted for publication by the researchers in the near future.

I would first seek to remind you that the Scottish Countryside Alliance were equally involved in the project steering group and that many of our members generated evidence on behalf of the Glasgow University research team.

My question within this correspondence relates to publication and further peer view of the research papers.

I am keen to hear from you where we are with this research and if the government has a time scale for further action in relation to the research.

I look forward to your reply

Yours Sincerely



Countryside Alliance  
Director for Scotland

M.C.U.  
28 OCT 2013  
Received



Website [scottishcountrysidealliance.org](http://scottishcountrysidealliance.org)

DOC 49

Minister for Rural Affairs and the Environment  
Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and the Environment  
Ridseard Lochhead BPA  
Richard Lochhead MSP



LEGACY 2014  
THE COMMONWEALTH GAMES

Mr Bruce Crawford JP MSP  
The Scottish Parliament  
EDINBURGH  
EH99 1SP

Ur faidhle/Your ref: BC/cr  
Ar faidhle/Our ref: 2013/0030825  
13 January 2014

Dear Bruce

Thank you for your letter of 16 October 2013 requesting an update on the issue of tail docking for working dogs in Scotland. Please accept my apologies for the delay in my response.

As your constituent may be aware, the Scottish Government commissioned a research project from the University of Glasgow examining the incidence of tail injuries in working dogs in Scotland, specifically in relation to spaniels, hunt point retrievers and terriers. The project has now been completed and scientific papers have been submitted to the Veterinary Record for peer review and publication.

Although we do not have a definite date yet, we expect these papers to be published soon and, after which, we will undertake to review the legislation on tail docking of working dogs in Scotland.

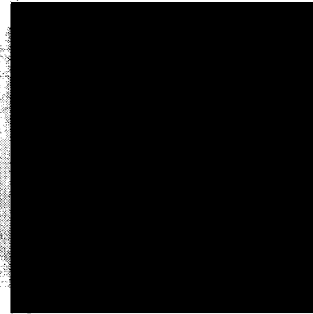
I hope this is helpful.

**RICHARD LOCHHEAD**

DOC 49



The Scottish Parliament  
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba



19 November 2013

BC/cr

Richard Lochhead MSP  
Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs  
St Andrews House  
Regent Road  
Edinburgh  
EH1 3DG

Dear Cabinet Secretary

I have recently been contacted by one of my constituents with regards to the issue of Tail Docking for working dogs.

My constituent would be grateful for an update on the current legislation around the Tail Docking of working dogs and any proposed changes to the legislation.

Thank you for your assistance with this matter.

Yours sincerely,

Bruce Crawford MSP

RAE  
22 NOV 2013  
PRIVATE OFFICE

M.C.U.  
22 NOV 2013  
Received

Bruce Crawford MSP Stirling constituency (SNP)  
Suite 3-3, Wallace House, Maxwell Place, Stirling, FK8 1JU

Email [REDACTED]

Stirling Constituency covers: Aberfoyle, Amprior, Ardeonaig, Balfour, Balquhiddar, Bannockburn, Blanehead, Brig O'Turk, Buchlyvie, Balmaha, Callander, Cambusbarron, Cowie, Crianlarich, Croftamie, Deanston, Doune, Drymen, Fallin, Fintry, Gargunnoch, Gartmore, Inveranald, Killearn, Killin, Kinlochard, Klippen, Lochearnhead, Milton of Buchanan, Plezan, Port of Menteith, Rowardennan, Stirling, Strathblane, Strathyre, Stronachlachar, Thornhill, Throsk, Tyndrum.