

From: [REDACTED]
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Beaully Beavers
Date: 15 September 2017 10:42:58

Hugh,

Just a very short note to advise you that [REDACTED] went up to Beaully yesterday with doors for the traps with a view to starting active trapping. I understand that by Monday next all relevant paperwork; licence, FCS permissions will be in place. RZSS are prepared to receive caught animals (over the weekend if necessary).

As a result of the delayed start caused by finessing the licence and landowner permission we are investigating the additional use of a boat to try and make best use of the trapping window we have available.

Regards

[REDACTED]

~~~~~

[REDACTED] | [REDACTED] | Tayside and Grampian Area | Scottish Natural Heritage |  
Battleby | Perth PH1 3EW  
Direct Dial [REDACTED] Switchboard 01738 444177

~~~~~

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From: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Subject: Beaully beavers to be trapped
Date: 12 July 2017 12:15:28
Attachments: [Biodiversity - News release - Beaully beavers - 7 July 2017.doc](#)

All,

Please find attached a press release which is going out to local news today regarding a family of beavers found in the Beaully area. This is embargoed until later today so please treat this as confidential.

[REDACTED] is responsible for organising the trapping work and [REDACTED] has been contracted to undertake the work. In the meantime there will be further discussion as to where the animals will be re-located.

Regards,

[REDACTED]

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



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From: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Subject: Beaully Trapping Effort - update (Friday) New information about Wednesday's animal
Date: 13 October 2017 15:55:03

This animal has died overnight.

A post mortem will be carried out.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] 13 October 2017 08:41
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Beaully Trapping Effort - update (Friday)

[REDACTED]

The team successfully captured 2 animals last night. Early indications are that one is an adult (sex not determined when I heard during the night) and a kit. Some slight logistical issues in Edinburgh but shouldn't hold up screening.

Wednesday night's animal was screened yesterday at the Royal Dick and is recovering now. Although in good overall health and condition, there is some question about its genetic fitness – it has a malformed eyelid which prevents it from closing one eye. Scottish Beavers' veterinary experts will I expect make an assessment before committing to release at Knapdale.

[REDACTED] who have flights home on Saturday and commitments in Norway on Monday, may be able to trap again tonight, although heavy rain overnight will have raised water levels. I'll be discussing the work including animal welfare, screening and receptor site logistics with [REDACTED] and others today and into the weekend with the intention of continuing with whatever trapping we can for as long as we are able.

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 12 October 2017 09:40
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Beaully Trapping Effort - update (Thursday)

[REDACTED]

A beaver was successfully captured last night. It is crated up and being brought down to Edinburgh for screening before transport to Knapdale if it is deemed fit. Early examination last night suggests it is a 2 year old. There was a second animal present at the same site but was not trapped.

It seems clear that the earlier locus at [REDACTED] has been abandoned with only occasional visits from a single animal being captured on a camera trap. Fresh field signs are thinly distributed over a large area. That [REDACTED] and the Norwegian team have found the location of a lodge is a good step forward and will increase their efficiency as the team are able to get to that area of the river without a long travel in. Two different animals were seen by the lodge last night so we can be more confident the team have located a new centre of activity. Which can only help in further trap efforts.

The Bavarian traps were moved to new more active locations yesterday. These are set, so there remains hope that we may capture animals in these now that they are better located.

Encouraging progress I think.

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 11 October 2017 08:38
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Beaully Trapping Effort - update

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] were out on the water in the boat last night from 8pm until 2am. An unsuccessful attempt to catch one beaver was made and it is believed two separate animals were seen. More hopefully, a new lodge and food cache was found in the same area as the catching attempt was made so its hopeful that the team have found the new location. This should make the trapping effort more focussed and consequently efficient and ultimately successful. I will catch up with [REDACTED] later this morning after their longer lie in and if there's any more of substance following that de-brief I will let you know.

In the end we didn't have a WMO on the boat. It was felt that this early in the work it would allow the trapping team to function more effectively with just the three of them in the boat. We'll keep that under review.

In the meantime it was in my view, a good night's work.

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 10 October 2017 15:21
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Beaully Trapping Effort - update

Thanks [REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED] [@snh.gov.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@snh.gov.uk)
Sent: 10 October 2017 14:44
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Beaully Trapping Effort - update

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] and the team were out in the boat last night from about 9:30pm through to 1am – looking for beaver, but mostly getting a good idea of the river and what it is like in different places so that they are better placed to react safely when it comes to finding beavers.

The team are out in the boat in daylight today to move two of the traps to what [REDACTED] thinks may be more favourable locations and then are intending to be out earlier this evening for longer. We have a wildlife management officer on the boat this evening for some of the time to see if the night vision equipment we use in deer management is of value, either now or in the future.

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED] [@gov.scot](mailto:[REDACTED]@gov.scot)
Sent: 09 October 2017 11:28
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Scottish beaver forum - key points of discussion

[REDACTED]

Thanks. Please keep me informed of progress throughout the week.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] | Wildlife and Protected Areas | Natural Resources | Environment and Forestry Directorate | Scottish Government | Victoria Quay | EH6 6QQ | [REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED] [@snh.gov.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@snh.gov.uk)
Sent: 09 October 2017 09:48
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Scottish beaver forum - key points of discussion

Morning [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] has gone down with some bug and is off today, and the signs aren't great for Tuesday so I thought it worthwhile getting in touch directly about the access at Beaully.

We carried out an effective and efficient a boat based reconnaissance last week which has identified some potential sites to move traps to. The land over the river from [REDACTED] which the owner was not willing to grant access to is at [REDACTED] but the recent river based survey has not flagged this land up as somewhere we want to put traps at present.

It is owned by [redacted] and the adjacent land owned by [redacted]
[redacted] When I spoke to [redacted] about access he was concerned about disturbance to his stock, but as I indicate above, we are not looking to put a trap or trap(s) on this land, and this week we will be making every effort to trap from a boat with the Norwegian team arriving Monday.

As a result of the boat based reconnaissance and the move to active trapping from a boat, we do not at present need the cooperation of [redacted].

Norwegian team and boat kit arriving today and expect to be active tonight through to Saturday.

[redacted]

From: [redacted] [mailto:[redacted]@gov.scot]
Sent: 06 October 2017 16:47
To: [redacted]
Subject: RE: Scottish beaver forum - key points of discussion

[redacted]

Thanks. We can discuss in more detail next week.

Two things though: you were going to let me have the name of the landowner who is currently denying permission to trap so we can see if we have any contacts. [redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted] | Wildlife and Protected Areas | Natural Resources | Environment and Forestry Directorate | Scottish Government | Victoria Quay | EH6 6QQ | [redacted]

From: [redacted] [mailto:[redacted]@snh.gov.uk]
Sent: 06 October 2017 16:00
To: [redacted]
Subject: Scottish beaver forum - key points of discussion

[redacted]

[redacted]
[redacted]

[redacted]
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[redacted]

[redacted]
[redacted]
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[redacted]
[redacted]
[redacted]

[Redacted]

Regards

[Redacted]



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Tha am post-d seo (agus faidhle neo ceanglan còmhla ris) dhan neach neo luchd-ainmichte a-mhàin. Chan eil e ceadachtaiche a chleachdadh ann an dòigh sam bith, a' toirt a-steach còraichean, foillseachadh neo sgaoileadh, gun chead. Ma 's e is gun d'fhuair sibh seo gun fhiosd', bu choir cur às dhan phost-d agus lethbhreac sam bith air an t-siostam agaibh agus fios a leigeil chun neach a sgaoil am post-d gun dàil.
Dh'fhaodadh gum bi teachdaireachd sam bith bho Riaghaltas na h-Alba air a chlàradh neo air a sgrùdadh airson dearbhadh gu bheil an siostam ag obair gu h-èifeachdach neo airson adhbhar laghail eile. Dh'fhaodadh nach eil beachdan anns a' phost-d seo co-ionann ri beachdan Riaghaltas na h-Alba.

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Thoiribh an aire airson adhbharan gnothaich, 's dòcha gun tèid sùil a chumail air puist-dealain a' tighinn a-steach agus a' dol a-mach bho SNH.

J M

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 30 October 2017 12:40:19
To: scottish.ministers@gov.scot
Cc: [REDACTED]@gov.scot
Subject: Strathglass Beavers, FAO Cabinet Secretary for Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform

Attachments: Trees for Life letter to Cab Sec, Strathglass Beavers, 30 Oct 17.pdf

Hi,

Please see the attached letter about beavers in Strathglass, also sent in hard copy.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

t. [REDACTED] m. [REDACTED]

<<https://treesforlife.org.uk/support/caledonian-pinewood-recovery/>>

<<https://www.treesforlife.org.uk/>>

Trees for Life

Tel: [REDACTED]

Fax: [REDACTED]

<<https://www.treesforlife.org.uk/>> treesforlife.org.uk

<<http://facebook.com/treesforlifeuk>> <<http://twitter.com/treesforlifeuk>>

<<http://youtube.com/dundreggan>>

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office is:

The Park, Findhorn Bay, Forres, Moray, Scotland, IV36 3TH.

Our VAT registration number is 605 0796 49



Roseanna Cunningham MSP
Cabinet Secretary for the Environment,
Climate Change and Land Reform
The Scottish Government
St. Andrew's House
Regent Road
Edinburgh
EH1 3DG

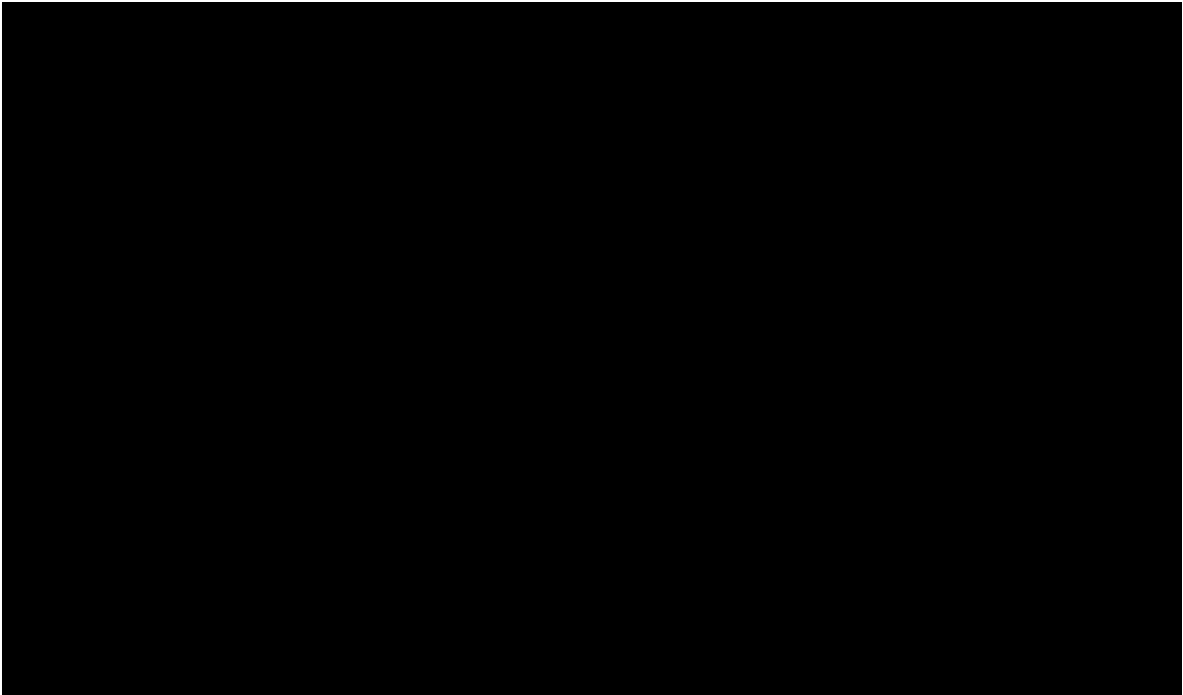
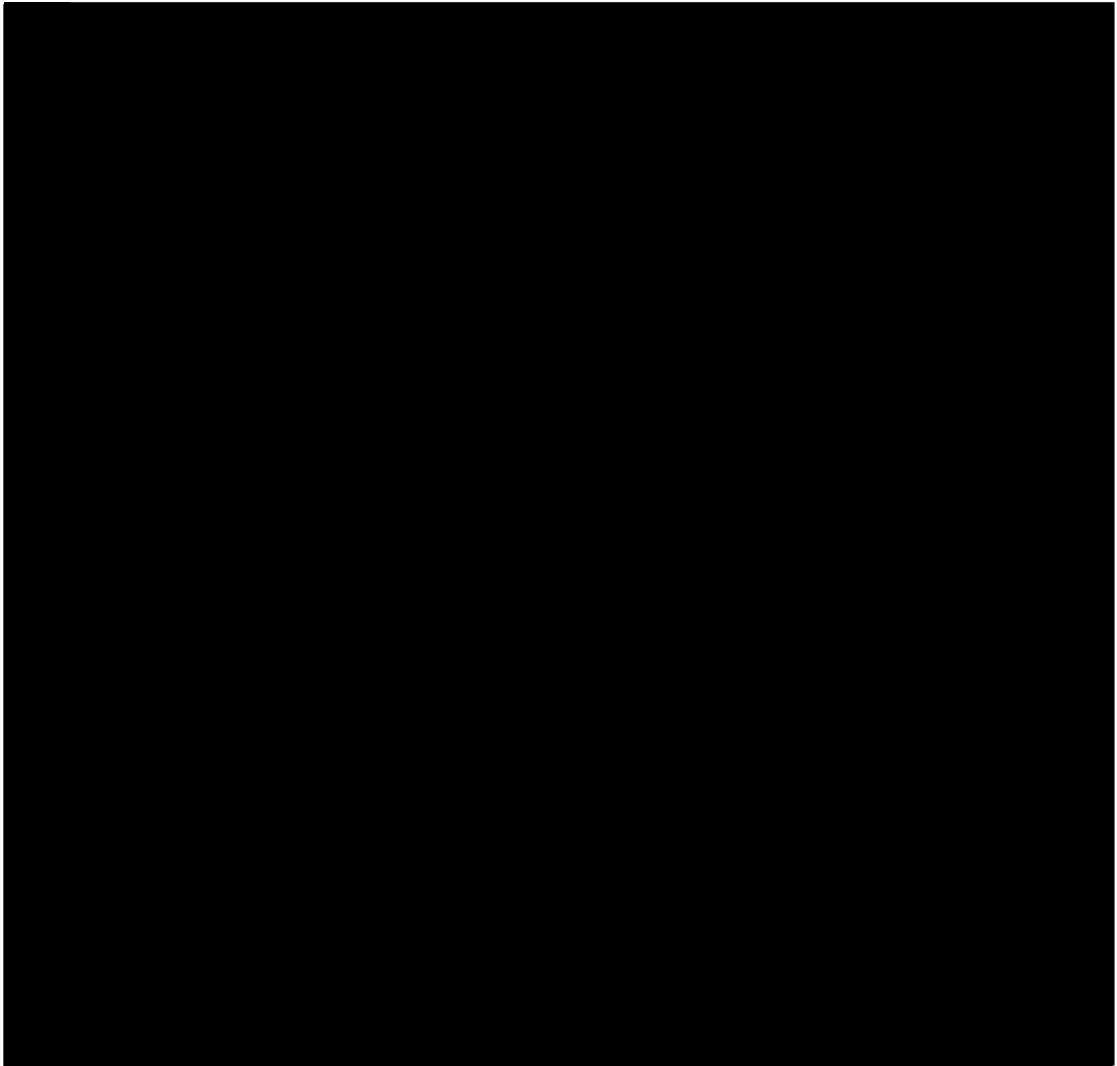
Your ref: 2017/0024319
30 October 2017

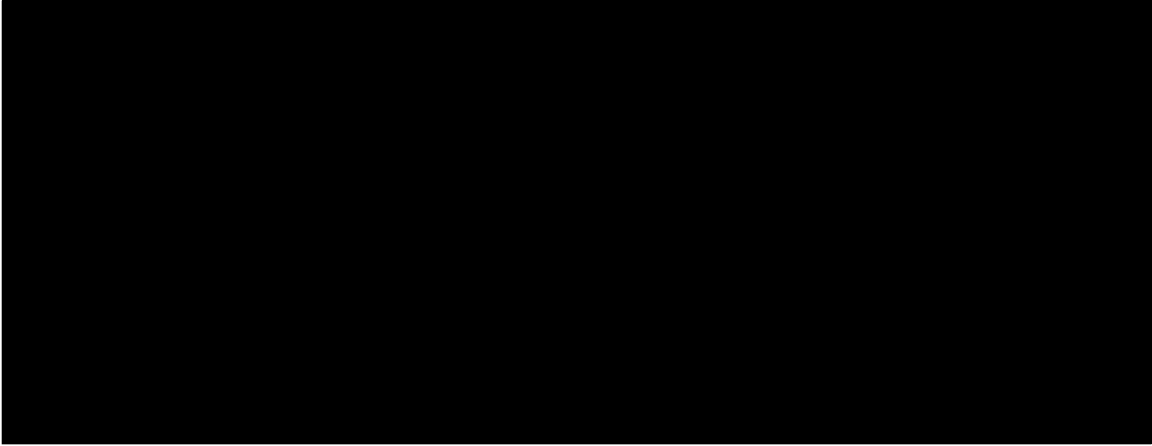
Dear Roseanna,

Beaver trapping in Strathglass

I write to you following my previous letter of 14 September and the events that have unfolded since then. I am sure you share our sadness and disappointment at the deaths in captivity of two of the beavers trapped from Strathglass. As you might imagine, the fact that we initiated the chain of events that led to these deaths when we reported our discovery of this beaver family to SNH has attracted criticism from various quarters, including our own supporter base. In light of this, and as you have still not replied to my previous letter about the potential welfare implications of trapping this family at this time of year, I hope that you will address the following questions with some urgency.

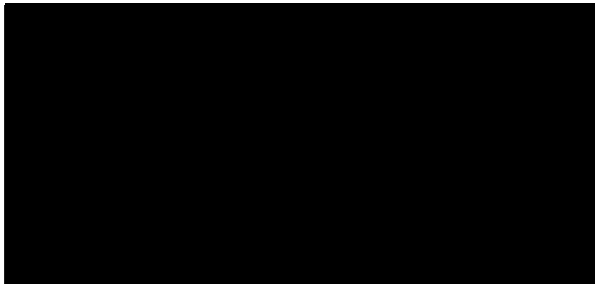
1. *Will you investigate the causes of death of the beavers which have died in captivity and make the findings of this investigation publicly available?*





Meanwhile, our discussions with local people in Strathglass are ongoing and continue to draw constructive engagement with a range of interests. We held a drop-in day in Beauly earlier this week and will have two open discussion forums on 2nd and 3rd November. I understand that someone from SNH is hoping to attend one of these discussion forums and I hope that this will provide you with some feedback on the nature of the discussion with the local community.

Yours sincerely,



Cabinet Secretary for the Environment,
Climate Change and Land Reform
The Scottish Government
St. Andrew's House
Regent Road
Edinburgh
EH1 3DG

Public Engagement Unit
14 NOV 2017
Received



RECEIVED
15 NOV 2017

Your ref: 2017/0039711
13 November 2017

Dear Roseanna,

Beavers in Strathglass

We have learned that the beaver kit, trapped from Strathglass last month, has now died in captivity so that all three animals trapped from the wild are now dead. Whilst the precise cause of death is unknown to us, we are confident that these deaths would not have happened had they been left on the river and monitored.

My previous letter of 30 October sets out why I believe that your instruction to trap this beaver family was unnecessarily hasty and why we think you should review your decision to resume trapping the remaining Strathglass beavers in the New Year. I hope you will reply to the questions I ask in that letter, but in light of this third beaver death, I am writing with renewed urgency to request a meeting to discuss the potential to find a better way forward.

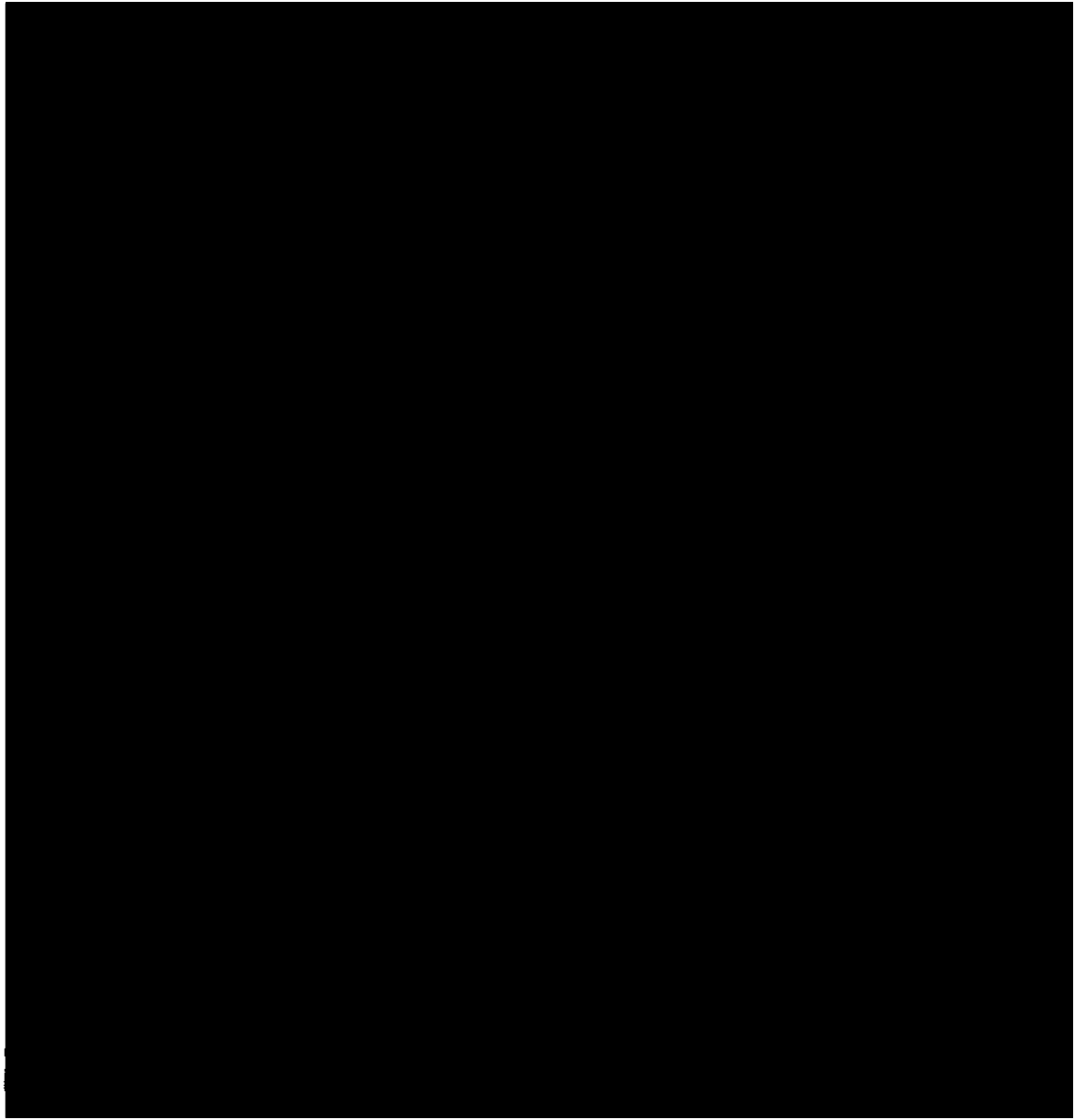


treesfor

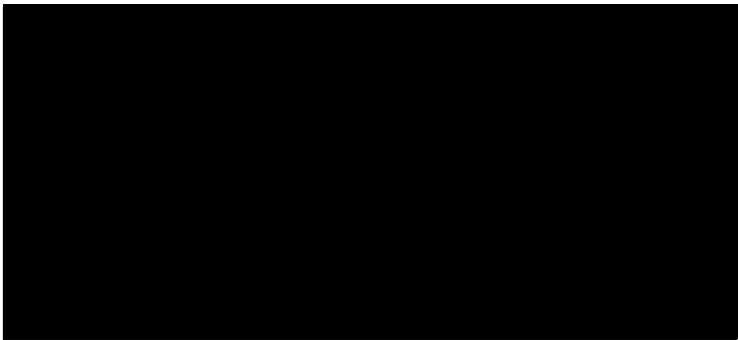
Tel. [REDACTED]
Email: info@treesforlife.org.uk
The Park, Forres, Moray, IV36 3TH

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Yours sincerely,



XX July 2017

Family of beavers discovered in Beaully to be moved

A family of beavers discovered living on a river in the Beaully area will be captured and moved, Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) reported today.

As this group is well away from the two current beaver populations in Scotland, in Tayside and Argyll, it's clear they haven't arrived by natural means.

The intention to capture the beavers accords with Environment Secretary Roseanna Cunningham's decision last November that she was minded to allow beavers to remain in Tayside and Argyll and expand their range naturally, but that it would remain an offence for beavers to be released without a licence.

Environment Secretary Roseanna Cunningham said:

"We have been clear that we are minded that beavers can remain in Scotland and that their range can expand naturally. But the unauthorised release of beavers is a criminal offence and will damage the beaver reintroduction project.

"That is why I am asking SNH to take swift action in the Beaully area. We must avoid a repeat of the experience on Tayside."

SNH said it is taking immediate steps to trap this family group, adding that the work will be carried out in accordance with the Scottish Code for Conservation Translocations. The code is an approved and agreed approach to reintroducing species that takes into account their biological needs but also the views and interests of local people. The aim of such an approach is to reduce conflict, and increase conservation success.

The first stage, underway this week, will be to habituate the animals to tried and tested beaver traps before capturing them later this summer, once the young beavers are more independent. The priority is to capture the animals; they will then be held until a suitable release location is found.

ENDS

Media queries - contact SNH media & public relations officer [REDACTED] on [REDACTED]

NOTES TO EDITOR

Beavers were hunted to extinction in Scotland about 400 years ago. In May 2008, the Scottish Government gave permission to the Royal Zoological Society of Scotland and the Scottish Wildlife Trust for a five-year, scientifically-monitored, trial reintroduction of Eurasian beavers to Knapdale Forest in mid-Argyll. SNH coordinated the independent scientific monitoring of the trial.

Beavers have been in Tayside since at least 2006, and are thought to originate either from escapes or illegal releases from private collections. In March 2012, Scotland's Minister for Environment, Stewart Stevenson, opted to allow the Tayside

beavers to remain in the wild for the duration of the official trial reintroduction of beavers in Knapdale, Argyll.

In November 2016, Cabinet Secretary for the Environment, Roseanna Cunningham, announced that both the Tayside and Knapdale beaver populations would remain in Scotland. The SNH 'Beavers in Scotland' report, and other background beaver information, is available via www.snh.gov.uk/beavers-in-scotland

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T: [REDACTED]
E: [REDACTED]@gov.scot

Mr Steve Micklewright
Chief Executive Officer
Trees for Life
The Park
FORRES
Morayshire
IV36 3TH

Our ref: 2017/0024319
26 July 2017

Dear Mr Micklewright

Thank you for your letter of 10 July to Roseanna Cunningham, Cabinet Secretary for the Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform, regarding the beavers in Strathglass and the Beaully area. I have been asked to respond.

The Cabinet Secretary announced on 24 November 2016 that the Scottish Government is minded that the European beaver populations in Knapdale in Argyll and in the Tay and Earn catchments can remain in Scotland, and that their range can expand naturally. We are learning to manage those populations. The Cabinet Secretary also made it clear in her statement that any further illegal releases or escapes would not be tolerated as we have seen the problems such releases can cause, both for local stakeholders and for the long term interests of properly managed species reintroductions.

As the family group of beavers discovered living on the River Beaully is a considerable distance away from the beaver populations in Tayside and Argyll, it is clear that they have not arrived by natural means. Scottish Natural Heritage is therefore taking steps to trap the family group in the Beaully area, in accordance with the decision taken by Scottish Ministers outlined above.

This work will be done in accordance with the Scottish Code for Conservation Translocations. The Code is an approved and agreed approach to reintroducing species that takes into account their biological needs, and also the views and interests of local people. The aim of such an approach is to reduce conflict and increase conservation success. The priority is to capture the animals and hold them until a suitable release site can be found.

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]
Policy Officer

Victoria Quay, Edinburgh EH6 6QQ
www.gov.scot



T: [REDACTED] F: 0131-244
E: [REDACTED]@gov.scot

Mr Steve Micklewright
Trees For Life
The Park
FORRES
Moray
IV36 3TH

Our ref: 2017/0024648
8 August 2017

Dear Mr Micklewright

Thank you for your email of 13 July 2017 to Roseanna Cunningham, Cabinet Secretary for the Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform, regarding the beavers in the Beauly area. I have been asked to respond.

The Cabinet Secretary announced on 24 November 2016 that the Scottish Government is minded that the European beaver populations in Knapdale in Argyll and in the Tay and Earn catchments can remain in Scotland, and that their range can expand naturally. We are learning to manage those populations. The Cabinet Secretary also made it clear in her statement that any further illegal releases or escapes would not be tolerated as we have seen the problems such releases can cause, both for local stakeholders and for the long term interests of properly managed species reintroductions. As the family group of beavers discovered living on the River Beauly is a considerable distance away from the beaver populations in Tayside and Argyll, it is clear that they have not arrived by natural means. Scottish Natural Heritage are therefore taking steps to trap the family group in the Beauly area, in accordance with the decision taken by Scottish Ministers outlined above.

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Yours sincerely





T: [REDACTED] F: 0131-244
E: [REDACTED]@gov.scot

[REDACTED]

Our ref: 2017/0024667
8 August 2017

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email of 13 July 2017 to Roseanna Cunningham, Cabinet Secretary for the Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform, regarding the beavers in the Beauly area. I have been asked to respond.

The Cabinet Secretary announced on 24 November 2016 that the Scottish Government is minded that the European beaver populations in Knapdale in Argyll and in the Tay and Earn catchments can remain in Scotland, and that their range can expand naturally. We are learning to manage those populations. The Cabinet Secretary also made it clear in her statement that any further illegal releases or escapes would not be tolerated as we have seen the problems such releases can cause, both for local stakeholders and for the long term interests of properly managed species reintroductions. As the family group of beavers discovered living on the River Beauly is a considerable distance away from the beaver populations in Tayside and Argyll, it is clear that they have not arrived by natural means. Scottish Natural Heritage are therefore taking steps to trap the family group in the Beauly area, in accordance with the decision taken by Scottish Ministers outlined above.

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Yours sincerely





T: [REDACTED] F: 0131-244
E: [REDACTED]@gov.scot

Mr [REDACTED]

Our ref: 2017/0024720
8 August 2017

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email of 13 July 2017 to Roseanna Cunningham, Cabinet Secretary for the Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform, regarding the beavers in the Beauly area. I have been asked to respond.

The Cabinet Secretary announced on 24 November 2016 that the Scottish Government is minded that the European beaver populations in Knapdale in Argyll and in the Tay and Earn catchments can remain in Scotland, and that their range can expand naturally. We are learning to manage those populations. The Cabinet Secretary also made it clear in her statement that any further illegal releases or escapes would not be tolerated as we have seen the problems such releases can cause, both for local stakeholders and for the long term interests of properly managed species reintroductions. As the family group of beavers discovered living on the River Beauly is a considerable distance away from the beaver populations in Tayside and Argyll, it is clear that they have not arrived by natural means. Scottish Natural Heritage are therefore taking steps to trap the family group in the Beauly area, in accordance with the decision taken by Scottish Ministers outlined above.

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Yours sincerely



T: [REDACTED] F: 0131-244
E: [REDACTED]@gov.scot

Mr [REDACTED]

Our ref: 2017/0024732
8 August 2017

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email of 13 July 2017 to Roseanna Cunningham, Cabinet Secretary for the Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform, regarding the beavers in the Beauly area. I have been asked to respond.

The Cabinet Secretary announced on 24 November 2016 that the Scottish Government is minded that the European beaver populations in Knapdale in Argyll and in the Tay and Earn catchments can remain in Scotland, and that their range can expand naturally. We are learning to manage those populations. The Cabinet Secretary also made it clear in her statement that any further illegal releases or escapes would not be tolerated as we have seen the problems such releases can cause, both for local stakeholders and for the long term interests of properly managed species reintroductions. As the family group of beavers discovered living on the River Beauly is a considerable distance away from the beaver populations in Tayside and Argyll, it is clear that they have not arrived by natural means. Scottish Natural Heritage are therefore taking steps to trap the family group in the Beauly area, in accordance with the decision taken by Scottish Ministers outlined above.

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Yours sincerely



T: [REDACTED] F: 0131-244
E: [REDACTED] gov.scot

[REDACTED]

Our ref: 2017/0024757
8 August 2017

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email of 14 July 2017 to Roseanna Cunningham, Cabinet Secretary for the Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform, regarding the beavers in the Beauly area. I have been asked to respond.

The Cabinet Secretary announced on 24 November 2016 that the Scottish Government is minded that the European beaver populations in Knapdale in Argyll and in the Tay and Earn catchments can remain in Scotland, and that their range can expand naturally. We are learning to manage those populations. The Cabinet Secretary also made it clear in her statement that any further illegal releases or escapes would not be tolerated as we have seen the problems such releases can cause, both for local stakeholders and for the long term interests of properly managed species reintroductions. As the family group of beavers discovered living on the River Beauly is a considerable distance away from the beaver populations in Tayside and Argyll, it is clear that they have not arrived by natural means. Scottish Natural Heritage are therefore taking steps to trap the family group in the Beauly area, in accordance with the decision taken by Scottish Ministers outlined above.

This work will be done in accordance with the Scottish Code for Conservation Translocations. The Code is an approved and agreed approach to reintroducing species that takes into account their biological needs, and also the views and interests of local people. The aim of such an approach is to reduce conflict, and increase conservation success. The priority is to capture the animals and hold them until a suitable release site can be found.

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]





T: [REDACTED] F: 0131-244
E: [REDACTED]@gov.scot

[REDACTED]

Our ref: 2017/0024983
8 August 2017

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email of 14 July 2017 to Roseanna Cunningham, Cabinet Secretary for the Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform, regarding the beavers in the Beauly area. I have been asked to respond.

The Cabinet Secretary announced on 24 November 2016 that the Scottish Government is minded that the European beaver populations in Knapdale in Argyll and in the Tay and Earn catchments can remain in Scotland, and that their range can expand naturally. We are learning to manage those populations. The Cabinet Secretary also made it clear in her statement that any further illegal releases or escapes would not be tolerated as we have seen the problems such releases can cause, both for local stakeholders and for the long term interests of properly managed species reintroductions. As the family group of beavers discovered living on the River Beauly is a considerable distance away from the beaver populations in Tayside and Argyll, it is clear that they have not arrived by natural means. Scottish Natural Heritage are therefore taking steps to trap the family group in the Beauly area, in accordance with the decision taken by Scottish Ministers outlined above.

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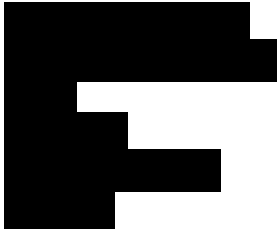
Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]





T: [REDACTED] F: 0131-244
E: [REDACTED]@gov.scot



Our ref: 2017/0024991
8 August 2017

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your letter of 14 July 2017 to Roseanna Cunningham, Cabinet Secretary for the Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform, regarding the beavers in the Beauly area. I have been asked to respond.

The Cabinet Secretary announced on 24 November 2016 that the Scottish Government is minded that the European beaver populations in Knapdale in Argyll and in the Tay and Earn catchments can remain in Scotland, and that their range can expand naturally. We are learning to manage those populations. The Cabinet Secretary also made it clear in her statement that any further illegal releases or escapes would not be tolerated as we have seen the problems such releases can cause, both for local stakeholders and for the long term interests of properly managed species reintroductions. As the family group of beavers discovered living on the River Beauly is a considerable distance away from the beaver populations in Tayside and Argyll, it is clear that they have not arrived by natural means. Scottish Natural Heritage are therefore taking steps to trap the family group in the Beauly area, in accordance with the decision taken by Scottish Ministers outlined above.

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Yours sincerely



Victoria Quay, Edinburgh EH6 6QQ
www.gov.scot



T: 0131- [REDACTED] F: 0131-244
E: [REDACTED]@gov.scot

[REDACTED]

Our ref: 2017/0025992
8 August 2017

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email of 13 July 2017 to Roseanna Cunningham, Cabinet Secretary for the Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform, regarding the beavers in the Beauly area. I have been asked to respond.

The Cabinet Secretary announced on 24 November 2016 that the Scottish Government is minded that the European beaver populations in Knapdale in Argyll and in the Tay and Earn catchments can remain in Scotland, and that their range can expand naturally. We are learning to manage those populations. The Cabinet Secretary also made it clear in her statement that any further illegal releases or escapes would not be tolerated as we have seen the problems such releases can cause, both for local stakeholders and for the long term interests of properly managed species reintroductions. As the family group of beavers discovered living on the River Beauly is a considerable distance away from the beaver populations in Tayside and Argyll, it is clear that they have not arrived by natural means. Scottish Natural Heritage are therefore taking steps to trap the family group in the Beauly area, in accordance with the decision taken by Scottish Ministers outlined above.

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Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]

Victoria Quay, Edinburgh EH6 6QQ
www.gov.scot





T: [REDACTED] F: 0131-244
E: [REDACTED]@gov.scot

[REDACTED]

Our ref: 2017/0026018
8 August 2017

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your letter of 20 July 2017 to Roseanna Cunningham, Cabinet Secretary for the Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform, regarding the beavers in the Beauly area. I have been asked to respond.

The Cabinet Secretary announced on 24 November 2016 that the Scottish Government is minded that the European beaver populations in Knapdale in Argyll and in the Tay and Earn catchments can remain in Scotland, and that their range can expand naturally. We are learning to manage those populations. The Cabinet Secretary also made it clear in her statement that any further illegal releases or escapes would not be tolerated as we have seen the problems such releases can cause, both for local stakeholders and for the long term interests of properly managed species reintroductions. As the family group of beavers discovered living on the River Beauly is a considerable distance away from the beaver populations in Tayside and Argyll, it is clear that they have not arrived by natural means. Scottish Natural Heritage are therefore taking steps to trap the family group in the Beauly area, in accordance with the decision taken by Scottish Ministers outlined above.

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Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]



T: [REDACTED] F: 0131-244
E: [REDACTED]@gov.scot

[REDACTED]

Our ref: 2017/0026560
August 2017

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email of 27 July 2017 to Roseanna Cunningham, Cabinet Secretary for the Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform, regarding the beavers in the Beauly area. I have been asked to respond.

The Cabinet Secretary announced on 24 November 2016 that the Scottish Government is minded that the European beaver populations in Knapdale in Argyll and in the Tay and Earn catchments can remain in Scotland, and that their range can expand naturally. We are learning to manage those populations. The Cabinet Secretary also made it clear in her statement that any further illegal releases or escapes would not be tolerated as we have seen the problems such releases can cause, both for local stakeholders and for the long term interests of properly managed species reintroductions. As the family group of beavers discovered living on the River Beauly is a considerable distance away from the beaver populations in Tayside and Argyll, it is clear that they have not arrived by natural means. Scottish Natural Heritage are therefore taking steps to trap the family group in the Beauly area, in accordance with the decision taken by Scottish Ministers outlined above.

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Yours sincerely



T: [REDACTED] F: 0131-244
E: [REDACTED]@gov.scot

[REDACTED]

Our ref: 2017/0026568
August 2017

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email of 27 July 2017 to Roseanna Cunningham, Cabinet Secretary for the Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform, regarding the beavers in the Beauly area. I have been asked to respond.

The Cabinet Secretary announced on 24 November 2016 that the Scottish Government is minded that the European beaver populations in Knapdale in Argyll and in the Tay and Earn catchments can remain in Scotland, and that their range can expand naturally. We are learning to manage those populations. The Cabinet Secretary also made it clear in her statement that any further illegal releases or escapes would not be tolerated as we have seen the problems such releases can cause, both for local stakeholders and for the long term interests of properly managed species reintroductions. As the family group of beavers discovered living on the River Beauly is a considerable distance away from the beaver populations in Tayside and Argyll, it is clear that they have not arrived by natural means. Scottish Natural Heritage are therefore taking steps to trap the family group in the Beauly area, in accordance with the decision taken by Scottish Ministers outlined above.

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Yours sincerely



T: 0131- [REDACTED] F: 0131-244
E: [REDACTED]@gov.scot

[REDACTED]

Our ref: 2017/0026591
8 August 2017

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email of 28 July 2017 to Roseanna Cunningham, Cabinet Secretary for the Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform, regarding the beavers in the Beauly area. I have been asked to respond.

The Cabinet Secretary announced on 24 November 2016 that the Scottish Government is minded that the European beaver populations in Knapdale in Argyll and in the Tay and Earn catchments can remain in Scotland, and that their range can expand naturally. We are learning to manage those populations. The Cabinet Secretary also made it clear in her statement that any further illegal releases or escapes would not be tolerated as we have seen the problems such releases can cause, both for local stakeholders and for the long term interests of properly managed species reintroductions. As the family group of beavers discovered living on the River Beauly is a considerable distance away from the beaver populations in Tayside and Argyll, it is clear that they have not arrived by natural means. Scottish Natural Heritage are therefore taking steps to trap the family group in the Beauly area, in accordance with the decision taken by Scottish Ministers outlined above.

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Yours sincerely



T: [REDACTED]
E: scottish.ministers@gov.scot

Mr Graeme Dey MSP
The Scottish Parliament
EDINBURGH
EH99 1SP

Our ref: 2017/0037618
November 2017

Thank you for your email of 12 October 2017 raising the concerns of your constituent regarding the plans to trap beavers in the Beauly area.

When I announced on 24 November 2016 that the Scottish Government was minded that the beaver populations in Knapdale in Argyll and in the Tay and Earn catchments could remain in Scotland, and that their range could expand naturally I also made it clear that any further illegal releases or escapes would not be tolerated. We have seen the problems such releases can cause on Tayside, both for local stakeholders and for the long term interests of properly managed species reintroductions.

As the family group of beavers discovered living on the River Beauly is a considerable distance away from the beaver populations in Tayside and Argyll, it was clear that they had not arrived by natural means. Scottish Natural Heritage were therefore taking steps to remove the beavers family group before a new population could establish. The aim of the work was to capture the animals, check their health status, and then release them at the Knapdale site in Argyll.

The work was done in accordance with the Scottish Code for Conservation Translocations. The Code is an approved and agreed approach to reintroducing species that takes into account their biological needs, and also the views and interests of local people. The aim of such an approach is to reduce conflict, and increase conservation success.

As you may be aware 2 of the 3 beavers that were caught died following health check procedures carried out by veterinarians. Post mortems are currently being carried out on the 2 beavers and it would be inappropriate to comment further until the results of those tests have concluded. On this basis, a decision was taken by Scottish Natural Heritage to

suspend trapping efforts for the winter and to try and catch the remaining beavers next Spring.

Roseanna Cunningham

T: [REDACTED] F: 0131-244
E: [REDACTED]@gov.scot

Mr [REDACTED]

Our ref: 2017/0039317
30 November 2017

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email of 25 October 2017 regarding the plans to trap beavers in the Beauly area.

When the Cabinet Secretary announced on 24 November 2016 that the Scottish Government was minded that the beaver populations in Knapdale in Argyll and in the Tay and Earn catchments could remain in Scotland, and that their range could expand naturally she also made it clear that any further illegal releases or escapes would not be tolerated. We have seen the problems such releases can cause on Tayside, both for local stakeholders and for the long term interests of properly managed species reintroductions.

As the family group of beavers discovered living on the River Beauly is a considerable distance away from the beaver populations in Tayside and Argyll, it was clear that they had not arrived by natural means. Scottish Natural Heritage were therefore taking steps to remove the beavers family group before a new population could establish. The aim of the work was to capture the animals, check their health status, and then release them at the Knapdale site in Argyll.

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Yours sincerely



From: [REDACTED]
Subject: Initial Trap Plan
Date: 04 July 2017 15:35:56

Hi [REDACTED],

This is the frame of my plan for dealing with the beavers found recently a Beaulieu. There are details not given in all of these actions, but for simplicity I've kept just headings and expected timescales.

There is other work to be timetabled once there is a clearer picture of the animals' destination. The trapped animals will need to be held somewhere suitable, they will need to be health checked and checked for EM. The RZSS will do this I expect, and then they need to be transported to and released at the chosen destination.

As I say, this is a timetable for the immediate few weeks and dates given are my best estimates at present.

Please let me know if this is adequate for your needs at present. I should be able to provide a more detailed document towards the end of the week if you wish.

I will update you on actions weekly or as they happen, unless you advise me otherwise.

Regards

[REDACTED]

Action	When is this happening
Get access and trapping permission from landowner and riparian owner	Done
Gather traps, transport to Beaulieu, and put traps out	Underway and likely towards the end of W/C 10 July
Bait and monitor traps	From W/C 17 July to trap activation
Put camera traps in place (to determine level and location of beaver activity and use of traps. This will enable more targeted trapping)	W/C 17 July
Monitor camera trap outputs	From W/C 17 July
Further full survey of Beaulieu and Glass	Towards end July
Activate Traps	Towards end August depending on information on kit development from camera traps.

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Tha am post-dealain seo agus fiosrachadh sam bith na chois
dìomhair agus airson an neach no buidheann ainmichte a-
mhàin. Mas e gun d' fhuair sibh am post-dealain seo le
mearachd, cuiribh fios dhan manaidsear-siostaim no neach-
sgrìobhaidh.

Thoiribh an aire airson adhbharan gnothaich, 's dòcha gun tèid
sùil a chumail air puist-dealain a' tighinn a-steach agus a' dol a-
mach bho SNH.

From: [PASC ADMIN SUPPORT](#)

To: [Redacted]

Cc: [Redacted]

Subject: National Species Reintroduction Forum - Update and date options for next meeting

Date: 17 July 2017 08:59:32

Attachments: [National Species Reintroduction Forum - Meeting 9 May - note of meetingobr](#)
[National Species Reintroduction Forum - Meeting 9 May - note of meeting ...docx](#)
[Biodiversity - News release - Beaulieu beavers - 7 July 2017.doc](#)

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

Please see the press release regarding a family of beavers found in the Beauly area. Some of you will be aware of this already through your membership of the Scottish Beavers Forum.

Also see a new SNH publication entitled “Feasibility study: translocation of species for the establishment or protection of populations in northerly and/or montane environments” at <http://www.snh.gov.uk/publications-data-and-research/publications/search-the-catalogue/publication-detail/?id=2466> , more details below.

Publication Detail

SNH Commissioned Report 913: Feasibility study: translocation of species for the establishment or protection of populations in northerly and/or montane environments

Climate change is predicted to have substantial impacts on biodiversity, in some cases driving species to extinction when they are unable to track suitable climatic conditions. This is a particular threat for alpine species, given both the strong control on them exerted by climatic conditions and the increasing isolation of alpine species at higher altitudes. Translocations have been proposed as a technique for helping to conserve such species, if threatened during climate change.

This study explored whether it is possible to develop a model to predict the location of suitable habitat for the arctic-alpine lichen *Flavocetraria nivalis* both within its current range and also at sites outside of its range. Although it was possible to develop a model with some predictive ability, the power of the model was relatively limited, not least because of the strong impact of small-scale micro-environmental variability which was hard to encompass in the modelling process. The work showed that the fit of the model improved through time, as the distribution of transplanted lichens came to more closely match the distribution of suitable environmental conditions for this species, and with the inclusion of data from data loggers recording micro-climatic conditions.

FREE

Format : 28 pages; 5.55MB

Published in 2017

-
Best regards,



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From: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Beauly Trapping Effort - update (Thursday)
Date: 12 October 2017 14:22:59

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]@gov.scot]
Sent: 12 October 2017 13:44
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Beauly Trapping Effort - update (Thursday)

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] |Wildlife and Protected Areas|Natural Resources|Environment and Forestry Directorate|Scottish Government|Victoria Quay|EH6 6QQ|[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]@snh.gov.uk]
Sent: 12 October 2017 09:40
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Beauly Trapping Effort - update (Thursday)

[REDACTED]

A beaver was successfully captured last night. It is crated up and being brought down to Edinburgh for screening before transport to Knapdale if it is deemed fit. Early examination last night suggests it is a 2 year old. There was a second animal present at the same site but was not trapped.

It seems clear that the earlier locus at [REDACTED] has been abandoned with only occasional visits from a single animal being captured on a camera trap. Fresh field signs are thinly distributed over a large area. That [REDACTED] and the Norwegian team have found the location of a lodge is a good step forward and will increase their efficiency as the team are able to get to that area of the river without a long travel in. Two different animals were seen by the lodge last night so we can be more confident the team have located a new centre of activity. Which can only help in further trap efforts.

The Bavarian traps were moved to new more active locations yesterday. These are set, so there remains hope that we may capture animals in these now that they are better located.

Encouraging progress I think.

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 11 October 2017 08:38
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Beauly Trapping Effort - update

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] were out on the water in the boat last night from 8pm until 2am. An unsuccessful attempt to catch one beaver was made and it is believed two separate animals were seen. More hopefully, a new lodge and food cache was found in the

same area as the catching attempt was made so its hopeful that the team have found the new location. This should make the trapping effort more focussed and consequently efficient and ultimately successful. I will catch up with [REDACTED] later this morning after their longer lie in and if there's any more of substance following that de-brief I will let you know.

In the end we didn't have a WMO on the boat. It was felt that this early in the work it would allow the trapping team to function more effectively with just the three of them in the boat. We'll keep that under review.

In the meantime it was in my view, a good night's work.

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED] [@gov.scot](mailto:[REDACTED]@gov.scot)
Sent: 10 October 2017 15:21
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Beaully Trapping Effort - update

Thanks [REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED] [@snh.gov.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@snh.gov.uk)
Sent: 10 October 2017 14:44
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Beaully Trapping Effort - update

[REDACTED],

[REDACTED] and the team were out in the boat last night from about 9:30pm through to 1am – looking for beaver, but mostly getting a good idea of the river and what it is like in different places so that they are better placed to react safely when it comes to finding beavers.

The team are out in the boat in daylight today to move two of the traps to what [REDACTED] thinks may be more favourable locations and then are intending to be out earlier this evening for longer. We have a wildlife management officer on the boat this evening for some of the time to see if the night vision equipment we use in deer management is of value, either now or in the future.

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED] [@gov.scot](mailto:[REDACTED]@gov.scot)
Sent: 09 October 2017 11:28
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Scottish beaver forum - key points of discussion

[REDACTED]

Thanks. Please keep me informed of progress throughout the week.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] | Wildlife and Protected Areas | Natural Resources | Environment and Forestry Directorate | Scottish Government | Victoria Quay | EH6 6QQ | [REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED] [@snh.gov.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@snh.gov.uk)
Sent: 09 October 2017 09:48
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Scottish beaver forum - key points of discussion

Morning [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] has gone down with some bug and is off today, and the signs aren't great for Tuesday so I thought it worthwhile getting in touch directly about the access at Beaully.

We carried out an effective and efficient a boat based reconnaissance last week which has identified some potential sites to move traps to. The land over the river from [REDACTED] which the owner was not willing to grant access to is at [REDACTED] but the recent river based survey [has not flagged this land](#) up as somewhere we want to put traps at present.

It is owned by [REDACTED] and the adjacent land owned by [REDACTED] is tenanted by [REDACTED]. When I spoke to [REDACTED] about access he was concerned about disturbance to his stock, but as I

indicate above, we are not looking to put a trap or trap(s) on this land, and this week we will be making every effort to trap from a boat with the Norwegian team arriving Monday.

As a result of the boat based reconnaissance and the move to active trapping from a boat, we do not at present need the cooperation of [REDACTED].

Norwegian team and boat kit arriving today and expect to be active tonight through to Saturday.

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED] @gov.scot]
Sent: 06 October 2017 16:47
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Scottish beaver forum - key points of discussion

[REDACTED]

Thanks. We can discuss in more detail next week.

Two things though: you were going to let me have the name of the landowner who is currently denying permission to trap so we can see if we have any contacts. [REDACTED].

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] | Wildlife and Protected Areas | Natural Resources | Environment and Forestry Directorate | Scottish Government | Victoria Quay | EH6 6QQ | [REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED] @snh.gov.uk]
Sent: 06 October 2017 16:00
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Scottish beaver forum - key points of discussion

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Regards

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]



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Tha am post-d seo (agus faidhle neo ceanglan còmhla ris) dhan neach neo luchd-ainmichte a-mhàin. Chan eil e ceadichte a chleachdadh ann an dòigh sam bith, a' toirt a-steach còraichean, foillseachadh neo sgaoileadh, gun chead. Ma 's e is gun d'fhuair sibh seo gun fhiosd', bu choir cur às dhan phost-d agus lethbhreac sam bith air an t-siostam agaibh agus fios a leigeil chun neach a sgaoil am post-d gun dàil.

Dh'fhaodadh gum bi teachdaireachd sam bith bho Riaghaltas na h-Alba air a chlàradh neo air a sgrùdadh airson dearbhadh gu bheil an siostam ag obair gu h-èifeachdach neo airson adhbhar laghail eile. Dh'fhaodadh nach eil beachdan anns a' phost-d seo co-ionann ri beachdan Riaghaltas na h-Alba.

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From: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Beaully Trapping Effort - update (Thursday)
Date: 12 October 2017 12:04:06
Attachments: [image001.jpg](#)

Sorry [REDACTED], it was captured in the river from the boat.

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 12 October 2017 11:50
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: Beaully Trapping Effort - update (Thursday)

Good news. Well done to all. Was it in one of the Bavarian traps or netted from the river?

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] | Wildlife and Protected Areas | Scottish Government | [REDACTED]

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 12 October 2017 09:40
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Beaully Trapping Effort - update (Thursday)

[REDACTED]

A beaver was successfully captured last night. It is crated up and being brought down to Edinburgh for screening before transport to Knapdale if it is deemed fit. Early examination last night suggests it is a 2 year old. There was a second animal present at the same site but was not trapped.

It seems clear that the earlier locus at [REDACTED] has been abandoned with only occasional visits from a single animal being captured on a camera trap. Fresh field signs are thinly distributed over a large area. That [REDACTED] and the Norwegian team have found the location of a lodge is a good step forward and will increase their efficiency as the team are able to get to that area of the river without a long travel in. Two different animals were seen by the lodge last night so we can be more confident the team have located a new centre of activity. Which can only help in further trap efforts.

The Bavarian traps were moved to new more active locations yesterday. These are set, so there remains hope that we may capture animals in these now that they are better located.

Encouraging progress I think.

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 11 October 2017 08:38
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Beaully Trapping Effort - update

Hugh,

[REDACTED] were out on the water in the boat last night from 8pm until 2am. An unsuccessful attempt to catch one beaver was made and it is believed two separate animals were seen. More hopefully, a new lodge and food cache was found in the same area as the catching attempt was made so its hopeful that the team have found the new location. This should make the trapping effort more focussed and consequently efficient and ultimately successful. I will catch up with [REDACTED] later this morning after their longer lie in and if there's any more of substance following that de-brief I will let you know.

In the end we didn't have a WMO on the boat. It was felt that this early in the work it would allow the trapping team to function more effectively with just the three of them in the boat. We'll keep that under review.

In the meantime it was in my view, a good night's work.

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 10 October 2017 15:21
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Beaulieu Trapping Effort - update

Thanks [REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 10 October 2017 14:44
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Beaulieu Trapping Effort - update

[REDACTED] and the team were out in the boat last night from about 9:30pm through to 1am – looking for beaver, but mostly getting a good idea of the river and what it is like in different places so that they are better placed to react safely when it comes to finding beavers.

The team are out in the boat in daylight today to move two of the traps to what [REDACTED] thinks may be more favourable locations and then are intending to be out earlier this evening for longer. We have a wildlife management officer on the boat this evening for some of the time to see if the night vision equipment we use in deer management is of value, either now or in the future.

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 09 October 2017 11:28
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Scottish beaver forum - key points of discussion

Thanks. Please keep me informed of progress throughout the week.

[REDACTED] | Wildlife and Protected Areas | Natural Resources | Environment and Forestry Directorate | Scottish Government | Victoria Quay | EH6 6QQ | [REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@snh.gov.uk>
Sent: 09 October 2017 09:48
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Scottish beaver forum - key points of discussion

Morning [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] has gone down with some bug and is off today, and the signs aren't great for Tuesday so I thought it worthwhile getting in touch directly about the access at Beaulieu.

We carried out an effective and efficient a boat based reconnaissance last week which has identified some potential sites to move traps to. The land over the river from [REDACTED] which the owner was not willing to grant access to is at [REDACTED] but the recent river based survey [has not flagged this land](#) up as somewhere we want to put traps at present.

It is owned by [REDACTED] and the adjacent land owned by [REDACTED] [REDACTED] is tenanted by [REDACTED]. When I spoke to [REDACTED] about access he was concerned about disturbance to his stock, but as I indicate above, [we are not looking to put a trap or trap\(s\) on this land](#), and this week we will be making every effort to trap from a boat with the Norwegian team arriving Monday.

As a result of the boat based reconnaissance and the move to active trapping from a boat, we do not at present need the cooperation of [REDACTED].

Norwegian team and boat kit arriving today and expect to be active tonight through to Saturday.

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]@gov.scot]
Sent: 06 October 2017 16:47
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Scottish beaver forum - key points of discussion

[REDACTED]

Thanks. We can discuss in more detail next week.

Two things though: you were going to let me have the name of the landowner who is currently denying permission to trap so we can see if we have any contacts. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] | Wildlife and Protected Areas | Natural Resources | Environment and Forestry Directorate | Scottish Government | Victoria Quay | EH6 6QQ | [REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]@snh.gov.uk]
Sent: 06 October 2017 16:00
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Scottish beaver forum - key points of discussion

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

- [REDACTED]

- [REDACTED]

- [REDACTED]

- [REDACTED]

- [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Regards

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted] @snh.gov.uk

[Redacted]



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Dh'fhaodadh gum bi teachdaireachd sam bith bho Riaghaltas na h-Alba air a chlàradh neo air a sgrùdadh airson dearbhadh gu bheil an siostam ag obair gu h-èifeachdach neo airson adhbhar laghail eile. Dh'fhaodadh nach eil beachdan anns a' phost-d seo co-ionann ri beachdan Riaghaltas na h-Alba.

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From: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Trapping recommendation
Date: 13 October 2017 18:26:00

[REDACTED]

Thanks for all this info, and thanks again to all those who have been involved over the last few weeks. We will reflect on the points you make, discuss them here and get back to you early next week.

Have a good weekend

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] | Wildlife and Protected Areas | Natural Resources | Environment and Forestry Directorate | Scottish Government | Victoria Quay | EH6 6QQ | [REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]@snh.gov.uk]
Sent: 13 October 2017 17:47
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Trapping recommendation

[REDACTED]

That's a shame with the e-mails and that we weren't able to catch up about this earlier.

I think there's a lot of background in the earlier mails, but if you've just been deluged then here's the brief resume.

The 2yo disperser died overnight - there was some concern already about its genetic fitness. We can detail this later. PR lines to take are prepared.

The 2 captured last night are an adult female and a her kit. This means no risk of pregnancy holding up any trapping work in the spring. The male and a kit are presumed to be at liberty but we cannot say unequivocally that that kit is still alive because we've not seen it. These four animals are those in the Trees for Life video in the summer.

If there is a kit at liberty with an adult male then catching just the adult could in the eyes of the public (being a bit melodramatic) look like us leaving an orphan to look after itself over the harsh Highland winter. Biologically it has a reasonable chance of survival on its own; it is not unknown for single kits to overwinter alone in the wild. It is the perception.

We considered the scenarios around splitting the family and recognised the potential for leaving a kit to overwinter. This is still possible, but as above it is how this looks.

I'm not so familiar with beaver ecology to be able to answer about a father daughter pairing in spring 2018. Our intention would be to return with the boat trap method as soon as the receptor site is in condition and catch them up.

The family has moved from the original summer location to where they were caught last night. We found them, and with a much better knowledge of the river we should find them again if they do move. The intention would be to bait unset traps and monitor the site over the intervening period.

Yes, the Norwegians have flights home tomorrow and while I had intended for them to go out again tonight, the RZSS boat, or more accurately its engine, which we had to patch up earlier in the week, has become unreliable to the extent that I can't send them out in the boat. It was too short notice to source another steel boat that could be thrashed about in the shallows. I can't think of where we might source the same expertise here ([REDACTED] caught 1200 in the last 2 years and the student [REDACTED] 200), but I can ask [REDACTED] if she thinks with a serviced boat this is a realistic option.

The end date is driven by receptor site conditions and RZSS have said they don't want to release animals after the end of October for animal welfare reasons. I'm not sure we could insist, but the risk of bad publicity would be entirely ours. My week to 10 days is just a rough and ready work back from end of the month to allow transport, assessment, screening, holding, before transport and release.

The date for conditions in Knapdale being suitable is driven by [REDACTED], who is very familiar with the site from her years with the SBT there. Clearly there would be some negotiation with RZSS/SWT but surely nothing insurmountable. Harsh winter conditions may hamper late winter working at Beauly. The water rises and falls in response to HEP generation so is not too crazy, but it is possible that winter weather could delay a trapping week.

The only resource issue is the availability of the Norwegian team, and possibly the current (short-term) state of the boat engine. We have put everything we can into this in the past week or so from using our GIS staff and FCS staff for canoe reconnaissance to wildlife management staff to haul the boat from the central belt to Beauly. I myself have been

buddying the team by texting them at hourly intervals through the night when they have been out on the water to assure their safety. We are not trying to avoid action.

I felt with the right nuanced publicity, this is currently a position, with the female and a kit captured and going to the licensed reinforcement at Knapdale to consider presenting, with a strong animal welfare message a taking of breath to assure animal welfare and a strong commitment to return to trapping once conditions are suitable in the New Year. We are ready to continue with the Bavarian traps for as long as we can put animals to Knapdale. I just thought the moment we are at now worth your consideration.

If you wish us to continue with the Bavarians, we will commence that Wednesday next week. I have allowed [REDACTED] away for a few days after her 24hr efforts this past couple of weeks.

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]@gov.scot]
Sent: 13 October 2017 16:55
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]@gov.scot
Subject: RE: Trapping recommendation

[REDACTED]

For some reason all your emails on trapping from last night and today have only just come through – along with a pile of other emails from SNH.

Well done to the team on getting another couple of animals. It's a pity about the animal that died. I look forward to hearing more details about all three .

Can I clarify some aspects about your recommendation to stop trapping before taking this further.

- How sure are you that there is one other kit left?
- What would happen to it if the remaining male adult was caught?
- Was the possibility of a single kit being left behind anticipated when the work started?
- Is it not possible that the remaining male will pair up with the kit next year – if that kit is female? Or another female?
- Might the animals move to another location over the winter

- Are you saying that tonight is the last opportunity to use the Norwegian trappers?
- Can we use the same techniques without their assistance?

- The end date for trapping seems to be getting earlier – you mentioned end October, now you are saying potentially 20 October.
- You say conditions at Knapdale could permit trapping on the Beaully as early as January. But realistically how likely is it Knapdale will have sufficient new growth to support the animals in January?
- And how likely that conditions on the Beaully will allow trapping? I expect high water levels are common in the early part of the year. Is it not possible that there is no trapping window at all before kits might be born?
- [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] | Wildlife and Protected Areas | Natural Resources | Environment and Forestry Directorate | Scottish Government | Victoria Quay | EH6 6QQ | [REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED] [mailto:[REDACTED]]

To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Trapping recommendation

[REDACTED]

With the Norwegian team about to return home and some reasonable success with the work this week we'd like you to consider the following recommendation to call a temporary halt to trapping:

We have captured a 2 year old dispersing animal (which has since died) and an adult and kit from the group in the Trees for Life video. The adult has been confirmed as a female so whatever small risk of pregnancy there may have been in leaving her in the wild has now gone. So we currently have two kits with two adults which is a very good animal welfare position for the forthcoming weeks into winter. This we think would play well, or at least better in the public eye.

Practically, we can continue with the Bavarian traps for another week to 10 days depending on conditions at Knapdale, but would need to be cautious not to spoil the current 2 kits with 2 adults situation by leaving an 'orphan' kit should we capture the adult only. If we caught the kit only then that can go to Knapdale but if we did capture the adult only, or first, then there would be little option than to release it again. This seems resource and risk heavy when we have a reasonable solid defensible position at present.

We would suggest then, that we stop active attempts now, draw breath and spend time in the coming weeks as vegetation goes back, getting a better understanding of what we have left in terms of animals, where they are and what they are doing. Then, when conditions begin to improve at Knapdale, which can be as early as January, we come back with the boat and Norwegian team and catch up the remaining adult and kit hopefully in short order.

Could we have your view on this please.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

~~~~~  
[REDACTED] | Tayside and Grampian Area | Scottish Natural Heritage | Battleby | Perth PH1  
3EW  
Direct Dial [REDACTED] Switchboard 01738 444177  
~~~~~

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Thoiribh an aire airson adhbharan gnothaich, 's dòcha gun tèid sùil a chumail air puist-dealain a' tighinn a-steach agus a' dol a-mach bhò SNH.

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Dh'fhaodadh gum bi teachdaireachd sam bith bhò Riaghaltas na h-Alba air a chlàradh neo air a sgrùdadh airson dearbhadh gu bheil an siostam ag obair gu h-èifeachdach neo airson adhbhar laghail eile. Dh'fhaodadh nach eil beachdan anns a' phost-d seo co-ionann ri beachdan Riaghaltas na h-Alba.

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12 JUL 2017



Roseanna Cunningham MSP
Cabinet Secretary for the Environment,
Climate Change and Land Reform
The Scottish Government
St. Andrew's House
Regent Road
Edinburgh
EH1 3DG

RECEIVED 12 JUL 2017

REN

10 July 2017

Dear Roseanna

Beaver Issues in Strathglass

In response to the government's announcement that beavers are to be regarded as a Scottish native species, Trees for Life has been assessing the potential to establish a third population centre for the species by reintroducing them to the Highlands. During our investigations, we discovered a beaver population on the River Glass, near Beauly, including a breeding family unit.

It is our assessment that this population has been established on the river for at least five years and their presence is unlikely to result in any significant perceived damage by landowners. To the contrary, their presence has been known to and tolerated by the owner of the stretch of river where they have built their lodge. In view of the duration of this presence on the River Glass and the lack of any apparent cause for concern or controversy, we consider that it would be most appropriate for them to remain where they have established.

However, these beavers have clearly either escaped from captivity or been deliberately released. Trees for Life understands the difficulty this might cause in light of sensitivities regarding beavers at Tayside. We have discussed this with Scottish Natural Heritage and Hugh Dignon of the Scottish Government's Wildlife and Protected Areas team. We understand that it may be the government's intention to remove these animals to another location in response to these sensitivities.

We consider that there is an opportunity to deal with the situation in a constructive way that could help establish a third population of beavers in Scotland and move the debate forward to a more constructive dialogue with land managers. This would be to relocate this beaver population approximately 12 miles upstream to Glen Affric National Nature Reserve.

Restoring the Caledonian Forest

treesforlife.org.uk

Tel. [REDACTED]
Email. info@treesforlife.org.uk
The Park, Forres, Moray, IV36 3TH

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Part of Glen Affric has been assessed by a beaver specialist (Roisin Campbell Palmer), who concluded that there is considerable suitable habitat available. Furthermore, there is no intensive farming and our initial discussions with landowners here suggest they are amenable to the idea of a beaver release.

While we appreciate that establishing another wild population at Glen Affric could at first seem problematic for you, there are a number of advantages:

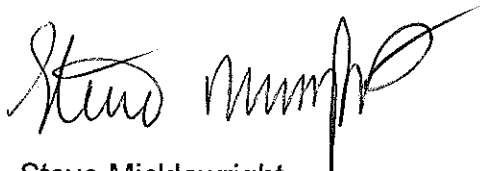
1. The short distance of translocation would reduce the animal welfare implications of the move, especially with young beavers involved;
2. The release site is upstream of a large hydro dam which will act as a significant barrier to beaver dispersal meaning that it is likely to be 10-15 years they look to move downstream;
3. A beaver presence, however small at first, would be established in an upland area where the benefits of having wild beaver populations for the wider environment can be demonstrated.

Additionally, proactively relocating the animals up-river would create a positive space in which to discuss the future of beavers with stakeholders downstream in Strathglass and on the River Beaully. We believe there is a unique opportunity here for constructive debate and a 'good news story' about beavers. This is because while farming and angling are prominent in the area, there is very little arable ground and therefore less potential for land use conflict.

Trees for Life is keen to apply trust-building techniques which could lead to genuine consensus on how to live with and manage a beaver population in Strathglass. If beavers were to be relocated upstream at Glen Affric, there would be momentum and a timeframe for the stakeholder dialogue to reach a conclusion, since they would eventually move into the area. Our hope would be that this could help inform the design of post-Brexit agri-environment support for riparian land management in Scotland and thus help ensure that Scotland's experience with beaver reintroduction is a positive one.

Please let me know if you would like any further information on anything I've outlined above, we would be happy to help.

Yours sincerely,



Steve Micklewright
Chief Executive Officer

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 13 July 2017 11:47:11
To: scottish.ministers@gov.scot
Subject: Scottish Beaver Population

To Whom It May Concern,

Please tell me this article is wrong?

<http://treesforlife.org.uk/news/article/threat-to-new-beaver-family-in-the-highlands-of-scotland/>

Regards

[REDACTED]

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From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 13 July 2017 16:07:08
To: Public Engagement Unit
Cc: Cabinet Secretary for the Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform
Subject: FW: Wild Beavers taken into captivity

HI,

One for MACCS please

Kind Regards

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
Assistant Private Secretary
Roseanna Cunningham, MSP Cabinet Secretary for Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform
2N.08 - St Andrews House - Regent Road ? Edinburgh - EH1 3DG

Tel: 0131 [REDACTED]
Email: CabsecECCLR@gov.scot<mailto:CabsecECCLR@gov.scot>

[cid:image001.png@01D2FBF2.13C6AA90]<http://home.scotland.gov.uk/home>

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 13 July 2017 15:53
To: Cabinet Secretary for the Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform
Subject: Wild Beavers taken into captivity

Dear Roseanna

See attached article, it claims you have decided to trap these beavers and keep them captive rather than either leave them where they are or consider relocating them further upstream.

You haven't been quoted in the article, can you confirm if this account is accurate and if so, what are the reasons for doing so?

<https://www.walkhighlands.co.uk/news/threat-to-new-beaver-family-in-the-highlands-of-scotland/0016619/>

I look forward to your response

Regards

[REDACTED]

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From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 13 July 2017 13:14:20
To: Public Engagement Unit
Cc: Cabinet Secretary for the Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform
Subject: FW: Decision to capture beavers near Beaully

Hi,

One for MACCS please.

Kind regards

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
Assistant Private Secretary
Roseanna Cunningham, MSP Cabinet Secretary for Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform
2N.08 - St Andrews House - Regent Road ? Edinburgh - EH1 3DG

Tel: 0131 244 5337

Email: CabsecECCLR@gov.scot<mailto:CabsecECCLR@gov.scot>

[cid:image001.png@01D2FBD9.F0009250]<<http://home.scotland.gov.uk/home>>

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 13 July 2017 12:20
To: Cabinet Secretary for the Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform
Subject: Fwd: Decision to capture beavers near Beaully

Dear Cabinet Secretary,

I am emailing regarding the recent news about your and SNH's apparent decision to capture beavers and take them away from their home near Beaully.

Should this go ahead, it would be an incredibly disappointing and depressing decision.

I was delighted when you decided to provide native status to beavers last year. This gave hope for the future of Scotland's animals and I genuinely thought this was a turning point in how we treat animals and our land in Scotland.

However, this recent news has given new cause for concern. The beavers are not known to the vast majority of local residents, and are having very little impact on the local environment. As you will be well aware, there are measures that can be taken to minimise the damage that beavers have to agricultural land. It appears that these options have not been considered and that the beavers will be kept captive instead.

It is also incredibly disappointing that you have not decided to relocate these beavers to suitable locations nearby. To name but one good location, the two lochs in Glen Affric would be a perfect location for these animals. Given that there is already a dam in this location, and no agricultural activity, there would be next to no negative repercussions on doing this. Indeed, it would instead bring many benefits for the health of the ecosystem in the area, as well as increased tourism to the area.

It appears to me that once again, this is testament to how the Scottish Government and SNH appear to view the lives of wild animals as a nuisance, rather than something that should be given as much respect as possible.

I would like you to address the reasons why the beavers are to be kept captive, frightened and confused instead of being able to be wild animals, as you promised last year when you gave beavers native status.

Kind regards,



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From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 14 July 2017 10:55:40
To: Public Engagement Unit
Cc: Cabinet Secretary for the Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform
Subject: FW: Beaully Beavers

Hi,

One for MACCS please.

Kind regards

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
Assistant Private Secretary
Roseanna Cunningham, MSP Cabinet Secretary for Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform
2N.08 - St Andrews House - Regent Road ? Edinburgh - EH1 3DG

Tel: [REDACTED]
Email: CabsecECCLR@gov.scot<mailto:CabsecECCLR@gov.scot>

[cid:image001.png@01D2FC8F.B980E200]<http://home.scotland.gov.uk/home>

From: Cunningham R (Roseanna), MSP
[mailto:Roseanna.Cunningham.msp@parliament.scot]
Sent: 14 July 2017 07:55
To: Cabinet Secretary for the Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform
Subject: Fwd: Beaully Beavers

Sent from my iPad

Begin forwarded message:

From: [REDACTED]

Date: 14 July 2017 at 07:47:57 BST

To:

"roseanna.cunningham.msp@parliament.scot<mailto:roseanna.cunningham.msp@parliament.scot>"
<roseanna.cunningham.msp@parliament.scot<mailto:roseanna.cunningham.msp@parliament.scot>>

Subject: Beaully Beavers

Dear Roseanna Cunningham

I am dismayed that not only have you failed to comply with our EU Treaty obligations (the EU Habitats Directive) in relation to the protection of beavers in Scotland (discrediting the Scottish Government's position on Brexit) but you are now once more actively pursuing the capture of beavers that have been in the Beaully area since at least 2010.

As the ecosystems of Scotland fall apart, not suddenly but incrementally over the

years and decades, it seems clear that the concept of ecological restoration is utterly alien to the Scottish Government. Beavers are agents of positive change. They are the missing link in our rivers and wet woodlands. They push back against the remorseless decline in biodiversity and they assist in the management of flood water at a watershed level.

There are conflicts with commercial interests to be resolved, of course, but the removal of the Beaulieu Beavers is being presented as a matter of principle based on the (false and irrelevant) premise that they were illegally dispersed there by human agency. In point of fact they have been there for years and years. It is ridiculous to single them out now.

The resolution of beaver-human conflicts is not helped by the Scottish Government's foot dragging and vacillating performance over the enactment of Scottish legislation to comply with the EU Habitats Directive.

This reflects very badly on the image of the Scottish Government as a progressive force.

Yours sincerely

[Redacted signature]

[Redacted line]

[Redacted block]

[Redacted block]

[Redacted block]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

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From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 17 July 2017 10:02:15
To: Public Engagement Unit
Cc: Cabinet Secretary for the Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform
Subject: FW: Beaulieu beavers comment

Hi,

One for MACCS please.

Kind regards

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Assistant Private Secretary
Roseanna Cunningham, MSP Cabinet Secretary for Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform
2N.08 - St Andrews House - Regent Road - Edinburgh - EH1 3DG

Tel: 0131 244 5337

Email: CabsecECCLR@gov.scot<mailto:CabsecECCLR@gov.scot>

[cid:image001.png@01D2FEE3.C4A05980]<<http://home.scotland.gov.uk/home>>

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 14 July 2017 16:03
To: Cabinet Secretary for the Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform
Subject: Beaulieu beavers comment

Dear Ms Cunningham,

In relation to your announcement in the Press yesterday that the beavers in the Beaulieu area are to be caught and relocated, these animals have been there from at least the time you announced that the Tay beavers would be captured in 2010. At the time, the instruction given was to capture all the beavers "in Tayside and in Inverness-shire.". So, while there has been a lot of attention on the Tayside situation since then, the Beaulieu beavers have been known about since at least 2010 by SNH and the Scottish Government, although there was never any obvious attempt to move against them. They are not therefore a group of animals that have been caught elsewhere and dropped off further north in the Highlands.

As with the Tayside beavers, these animals are most likely a result of escapes from the local private collection, although I have no way of knowing that for sure. This is what happened on Tayside with 3 X such collections here. The escape of these animals has been a failure of regulation. If we did not want these animals in the Scottish countryside, then it should not have been possible to keep them in the first place, certainly not in a situation where no-one had any oversight of the conditions in which they were being kept.

The door was left open to all this, and the beavers have long since bolted. If we are going to have beavers, and if the intention is to have a number of release points from which they can spread throughout the country, then I think the Beaulieu area is

probably as good a place as any, given there are a number of landowners in the area (private, public and NGO) who are sympathetic towards them, and a population there could then gradually disperse out gradually in to a number of Highland glens.

There is nothing to be gained from capturing the Beaully beavers, and a great deal to lose. The beaver reintroduction to Scotland has been a fiasco from the outset, but that is history now, and we should work with what we have got.

Regards,

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

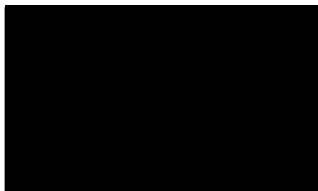
The Native Woods Cooperative (Scotland) Ltd
www.nativewoods.co.uk<<http://www.nativewoods.co.uk>>
Registered Office: Mamie's Cottage, Taybridge Terrace, Aberfeldy, PH15 2BS

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RECEIVED
17 JUL 2017
PEU



14th July 2017

Roseanna Cunningham MSP
Cabinet secretary for the environment etc.,
St. Andrew's House,
Edinburgh

RECEIVED 17 JUL 2017
PEU

Dear Ms. Cunningham

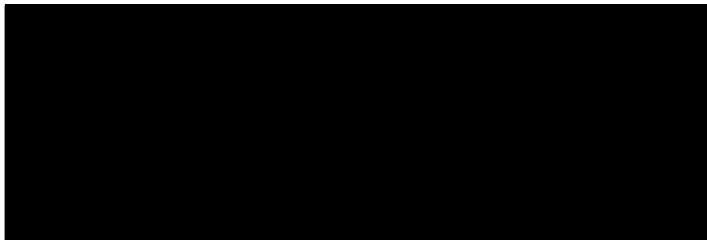
Ref: Beavers on the Beaully River.

I am disappointed that your organisation is involved in removing the family of beavers, which have apparently been quietly living on the river for the last 6 years. I live nearly opposite the site and can assure you that they have caused no trouble in their present location, which seems to me to be an ideal habitat for beavers. As far as I know, no person or organisation has had cause to complain about their presence and I think it is disgraceful that, once again, you are trying to correct a mistake by making an even bigger one.

Beavers were once indigenous to the highlands. Because of that, they are now currently protected on the River Tay and in the Knapdale Forest. I don't see how you can fairly treat this population differently to those and urge you to reconsider your decision.

I look forward to receiving your reply.

Yours sincerely



From: daniel.johnson.msp@parliament.scot
Sent: 21 July 2017 09:37:25
To: scottish.ministers@gov.scot
Subject: (Case Ref: DJ2775)

Dear Roseanna Cunningham,

I would be grateful if you could respond to on of my constituents who has passed on the following concerns:

I was delighted to read that a family of beavers have found their way in to the wilds of Invernesshire, but then horrified to read that Ms Cunningham intends to trap the animals and subject them to a life in captivity. I have seen the difference between beaver colonies in the wild and the miserable conditions they are kept in at RZSS sites.

If beaver activity is causing problems at a specific location then that should be dealt with but as far as I can tell there's no issues at Beaully.

The landscape created by these remarkable creatures is so much more diverse and beautiful than much of the temperate desert that Scotland has become. Please Ms Cunningham, have a heart and let the beavers of Beaully be.

I look forward to receiving a response.

Many thanks in advance for your help in this matter.

Kind regards,
Daniel

Daniel Johnson MSP
01 [REDACTED]
danieljohnson.org.uk
MG.03, The Scottish Parliament, Edinburgh, EH99 1SP

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John Finnie
Member of the Scottish Parliament
Highlands and Islands

PEU

The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

John Finnie
Ball Pàrlamaid na h-Alba
A' Ghàidhealtachd agus na h-Eileanan

Roseanna Cunningham MSP
Cabinet Secretary for Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform
St. Andrew's House
Regent Road
Edinburgh
EH1 3DG

20th July 2017

Dear Roseanna

Beaully Beavers

I have been contacted by constituents, concerned by reports that Beavers in the Beaully area are to be trapped and put into captivity following a decision taken by the Scottish Government.

Can you advise whether the Scottish Government considered any other options in relation to this group of beavers, such as relocation, or was trapping the only option considered.

I would appreciate if you could advise whether discussions took place with the both the local community and local landowners, while I understand there were concerns raised in Tayside the circumstances in this instance are clearly very different.

I note comments from the organisation *Trees for Life* which suggest beavers have been active in the area for the last five years, is there any reason these measures are being taken now?

Kind regards

John Finnie MSP

RECEIVED 25 JUL 2017

PEH

18-7-17

Dear Roseanna Cunningham.

Once again the SNP cause problems when they do not exist.

The family of Beavers have lived in the Beauty area.

Up until now the majority of the people of Beauty have not known the Beavers where there

As they have been on this site for around 5 yrs with no problems that is where they should stay.

Yours sincerely

RECEIVED 25 JUL 2017

PCU

Dear Environment Secretary,

I am very against any form of cruelty to humans or animals.

I understand that rules are rules - not always sensible - but sense can amend and change, as I ask to happen in the case of the wild beaver family who have been living peacefully near Beaulieu but now have to be trapped and put behind bars!! - why such cruelty? I and many others have read the article and ask you to consult with Alan McDonald to prevent such evil cruelty and find a better solution. Yours sincerely

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 31 July 2017 11:50:04
To: Public Engagement Unit
Cc: Cabinet Secretary for the Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform
Subject: FW: Beaully beavers

Hi,

One for MACCS please.

Kind Regards

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Assistant Private Secretary

Roseanna Cunningham, MSP Cabinet Secretary for Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform

2N.08 - St Andrews House - Regent Road ? Edinburgh - EH1 3DG

Tel: [REDACTED]

Email: CabsecECCLR@gov.scot<mailto:CabsecECCLR@gov.scot>

<<http://home.scotland.gov.uk/home>>

From: Cunningham R (Roseanna), MSP
[mailto:Roseanna.Cunningham.msp@parliament.scot]
Sent: 27 July 2017 10:12
To: Cabinet Secretary for the Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform
Subject: Fwd: Beaully beavers

Sent from my iPad

Begin forwarded message:

From: [REDACTED]
Date: 27 July 2017 at 09:31:50 BST
To: roseanna.cunningham.msp@scottish.parliament.uk<mailto:roseanna.cunningham.msp@scottish.parliament.uk>
Subject: Beaully beavers

Good Morning

I have always felt that the SNP government is a listening government with the interests of Scotland at heart. I recently wrote to you regarding the importance of animal crossings on the current A9 upgrade and was delighted to receive a reply outlining the intentions to provide such, all be it less than I would have hoped. I write today to ask how a government that recently recognised beavers as an important part of the Scottish ecosystem can, in the next breath propose to remove to captivity or possibly euthanise a group of beavers near Beaully that had the temerity to move to a new home before permission was granted. This seems to me to be one step forward and 2 back and I ask that you reconsider this action or at very least provide a sound justification.

I look forward to your reply

Kind Regards
[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPad

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From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 31 July 2017 12:18:34
To: Public Engagement Unit
Cc: Cabinet Secretary for the Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform
Subject: FW: The beavers of Beauly

HI,

One for MACCS please.

Kind Regards

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Assistant Private Secretary
Roseanna Cunningham, MSP Cabinet Secretary for Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform
2N.08 - St Andrews House - Regent Road ? Edinburgh - EH1 3DG

Tel: 0131 244 5337

Email: CabsecECCLR@gov.scot<mailto:CabsecECCLR@gov.scot>

[cid:image001.png@01D309F6.FAEEB8B0]<http://home.scotland.gov.uk/home>

From: Cunningham R (Roseanna), MSP
[mailto:Roseanna.Cunningham.msp@parliament.scot]
Sent: 27 July 2017 13:38
To: Cabinet Secretary for the Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform
Subject: Fwd: The beavers of Beauly

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: [REDACTED] >>
Date: 27 July 2017 at 13:04:52 BST
To: Roseanna.Cunningham.msp@parliament.scot<mailto:Roseanna.Cunningham.msp@parliament.scot>
Subject: The beavers of Beauly
Reply-To: [REDACTED]
Dear Ms Cunningham,

I m writing to ask you to institute a properly thought-out strategy for the Scottish Government to deal with the whole issue of beavers in Scotland. At present no such strategy exists and the response to the discovery of the beavers at Beauly is entirely wrong and inappropriate. I strongly object to the plan to trap out these beavers. I have it on good authority that they are not coming into any conflict with anyone and are popular with locals. They would make a good starting point for a licensed beaver project by Trees for Life who are keen to bring beavers, and their many benefits, to the NE Highlands.

This plan by SNH and the government seems particularly negative and pointless given that there is such a desire for beavers in that area. There is also always a risk of welfare issues where beavers are trapped, so why take this chance unnecessarily?

I include a link to a useful article written by Sir John Lister-Kaye which you have probably seen but which I think illuminates the whole issue well.

Very many thanks and kind regards,

[REDACTED]

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2015/jan/31/beavers-back-welcome-them-open-arms>

*

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From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 31 July 2017 12:24:19
To: Public Engagement Unit
Cc: Cabinet Secretary for the Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform
Subject: FW: Beaully Beavers

Hi,

One for MACCS please.

Kind Regards

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Assistant Private Secretary
Roseanna Cunningham, MSP Cabinet Secretary for Environment, Climate Change
and Land Reform
2N.08 - St Andrews House - Regent Road ? Edinburgh - EH1 3DG

Tel: [REDACTED]
Email: CabsecECCLR@gov.scot<mailto:CabsecECCLR@gov.scot>

[cid:image001.png@01D309F7.EEAA59F0]<http://home.scotland.gov.uk/home>

From: Cunningham R (Roseanna), MSP
[mailto:Roseanna.Cunningham.msp@parliament.scot]
Sent: 28 July 2017 11:26
To: Cabinet Secretary for the Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform
Subject: Fwd: Beaully Beavers

Sent from my iPad

Begin forwarded message:

From: [REDACTED] >>

Date: 28 July 2017 at 10:12:09 BST

To: [REDACTED]

"roseanna.cunningham.msp@scottish.parliament.uk<mailto:roseanna.cunningham.msp@scottish.parliament.uk>"
<roseanna.cunningham.msp@scottish.parliament.uk<mailto:roseanna.cunningham.msp@scottish.parliament.uk>>
Subject: Beaully Beavers

Good morning all,

It will be no surprise to you all that I support Trees For Life and their intention to

obtain a research licence in order to not only keep the beavers in situ but to gain valuable research in how these particular beavers are living and breeding within this area.

Rewilding Scotland is a very prominent discussion at present and we really should be collating as much evidence as we can in relation to the beavers, in this instance. This is a family with a long history and successful breeding pattern and it would be detrimental to them to be trapped and moved.

This could potentially be very good for Beaulieu and surrounding areas due to people wanting to come and see these beavers in 'the wild'. I encourage you to support The Findhorn Foundation and support the research licence they wish to achieve to support and research these Beavers.

The support for these animals to stay is growing from the immediate population and out of the UK. We need to protect this important family.

Kind regards,



*

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From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 01 August 2017 11:52:49
To: Public Engagement Unit
Cc: Cabinet Secretary for the Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform
Subject: FW: Letter from your constituent [REDACTED]

Hi,

One for MACCS please, MR.

Kind Regards

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Assistant Private Secretary
Roseanna Cunningham, MSP Cabinet Secretary for Environment, Climate Change
and Land Reform
2N.08 - St Andrews House - Regent Road ? Edinburgh - EH1 3DG

Tel: [REDACTED]
Email: CabsecECCLR@gov.scot

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]@parliament.scot]
Sent: 31 July 2017 16:38
To: Cabinet Secretary for the Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform
Subject: FW: Letter from your constituent [REDACTED]

Our Ref: JS2807FS

Dear Roseanna,

I refer to the below self-explanatory letter from one of John Swinney's constituents, regarding the trapping of Beaully Beavers.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

Constituent Assistant to John Swinney, MSP.

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 27 July 2017 23:38
To: Swinney J (John), MSP <John.Swinney.msp@parliament.scot>
Subject: Letter from your constituent [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Wednesday 26 July 2017

Dear John,

You will not be surprised to hear that I strongly object to the plan to trap out the Beaulieu beavers. I have it on good authority that these beavers are not coming into any conflict with anyone and are popular with locals. They would make a good starting point for a licensed beaver project by Trees for Life who are keen to bring beavers, and their many benefits, to the NE Highlands. This plan by the government seems particularly negative and pointless given that there is such a desire for beavers in that area. They would probably reach it again eventually but it might take a long time. There is always a risk of welfare issues where beavers are trapped so why take this chance unnecessarily? It is not a good way to make it clear that the government is serious about putting a stop to any illegal releases of beavers, as this family is most unlikely to have resulted from anything other than accidental escapes from one or both of the private

collections in the area.

If SNH has the capacity to trap and relocate whole beaver families then surely they should focus on the 'beavers in conflict' on low lying Strathmore farms.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]

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(Signed with an electronic signature in accordance with section 7(3) of the Electronic Communications Act 2000.)

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From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 12 October 2017 16:53:41
To: Public Engagement Unit
Cc: Cabinet Secretary for the Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform
Subject: FW: Beavers Traps in Beaully

Hi,

One for MACCS please, MR.

Kind Regards,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Assistant Private Secretary
Roseanna Cunningham, MSP Cabinet Secretary for Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform
2N.08 - St Andrews House - Regent Road - Edinburgh - EH1 3DG

Tel: [REDACTED]
Email: CabsecECCLR@gov.scot<mailto:CabsecECCLR@gov.scot>

[cid:image002.png@01D3437A.A8BDF9D0]<http://home.scotland.gov.uk/home>

From: [REDACTED]@parliament.scot] On Behalf Of Dey G (Graeme), MSP
Sent: 12 October 2017 16:49
To: Cabinet Secretary for the Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform
Subject: Beavers Traps in Beaully

Dear Roseanna,

I am writing to you on behalf of a constituent who has concerns regarding plans to trap beavers in Beaully.

My constituent understands that there are plans to trap and relocate beavers found in Beaully, and is mindful of the potential risk that they believe this poses to animal welfare, suggesting that projects that have such risks should be avoided where possible. Within the correspondence that I have received, my constituent questions the necessity of the scheme.

Moreover, my constituent feels efforts would be better concentrated in areas where beavers are in conflict.

I would appreciate you outlining the Scottish Government's position regarding the concerns raised by my constituent.

Thanks in advance.

Regards,
Graeme

Graeme Dey
MSP for Angus South

Graeme.dey.msp@parliament.scot<mailto:Graeme.dey.msp@parliament.scot>
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From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 26 October 2017 11:45:38
To: Public Engagement Unit
Cc: Cabinet Secretary for the Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform, [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: Beaully beavers

Hi,

One for MACCS please. In the email the correspondent refers to a letter which was MACCS case: 2017/0024648.

Many thanks

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Assistant Private Secretary
Roseanna Cunningham, MSP Cabinet Secretary for Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform
2N.08 - St Andrews House - Regent Road ? Edinburgh - EH1 3DG

Tel: [REDACTED]
Email: CabsecECCLR@gov.scot<mailto:CabsecECCLR@gov.scot>

[cid:image001.png@01D34E4F.F10BC660]<http://home.scotland.gov.uk/home>

From: Cunningham R (Roseanna), MSP
[mailto:Roseanna.Cunningham.msp@parliament.scot]
Sent: 25 October 2017 20:40
To: Cabinet Secretary for the Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform
Subject: Fwd: Beaully beavers

Sent from my iPad

Begin forwarded message:

From: [REDACTED]
Date: 25 October 2017 at 19:46:43 BST
To: roseanna.cunningham.msp@parliament.scot<mailto:roseanna.cunningham.msp@parliament.scot>
Subject: Beaully beavers
Dear Mrs Cunningham

Please tell me why you failed to reply to a letter from Trees for Life setting out the risks of capturing beavers at Beaully.

This letter was sent to you before the animals were captured, two have now died, you have still not replied to the letter.

Your failure to reply, still, is astonishingly arrogant and you have lost my vote.

Engage with the electorate.



*

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Cabinet Secretary for Environment, Climate Change and
Land Reform
Roseanna Cunningham MSP



Scottish Government
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T: 0300 244 4000
E: scottish.ministers@gov.scot

Mr Daniel Johnson MSP
The Scottish Parliament
EDINBURGH
EH99 1SP

Your ref: DJ2775
Our ref: 2017/0025557
11 August 2017

Dear Daniel,

Thank you for your email of 21 July 2017 raising the concerns of your constituent regarding the beavers in the Beauly area.

As you are aware, I announced on 24 November 2016 that the Scottish Government is minded that the European beaver populations in Knapdale in Argyll and in the Tay and Earn catchments can remain in Scotland, and that their range can expand naturally. We are learning to manage those populations. I also made it clear in my statement that any further illegal releases or escapes would not be tolerated as we have seen the problems such releases can cause, both for local stakeholders and for the long term interests of properly managed species reintroductions. As the family group of beavers discovered living on the River Beauly is a considerable distance away from the beaver populations in Tayside and Argyll, it is clear that they have not arrived by natural means. Scottish Natural Heritage are therefore taking steps to trap the family group in the Beauly area, in accordance with the decision taken by Scottish Ministers outlined above.

This work will be done in accordance with the Scottish Code for Conservation Translocations. The Code is an approved and agreed approach to reintroducing species that takes into account their biological needs, and also the views and interests of local people. The aim of such an approach is to reduce conflict, and increase conservation success. The priority is to capture the animals and hold them until a suitable release site can be found.

Yours

Roseanna

Roseanna Cunningham

Cabinet Secretary for Environment, Climate Change and
Land Reform
Roseanna Cunningham MSP



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T: 0300 244 4000
E: scottish.ministers@gov.scot

Mr John Finnie MSP
The Scottish Parliament
EDINBURGH
EH99 1SP

Our ref: 2017/0025988
16 August 2017

Dear John,

Thank you for your letter of 20 July 2017 raising the concerns of your constituents regarding the beavers in the Beaully area.

As you are aware, I announced on 24 November 2016 that the Scottish Government is minded that the European beaver populations in Knapdale in Argyll and in the Tay and Earn catchments can remain in Scotland, and that their range can expand naturally. We are learning to manage those populations. I also made it clear in my statement that any further illegal releases or escapes would not be tolerated as we have seen the problems such releases can cause, both for local stakeholders and for the long term interests of properly managed species reintroductions. As the family group of beavers discovered living on the River Beaully is a considerable distance away from the beaver populations in Tayside and Argyll, it is clear that they have not arrived by natural means. Scottish Natural Heritage are therefore taking steps to trap the family group in the Beaully area, in accordance with the decision taken by Scottish Ministers outlined above.

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Mr John Swinney MSP
The Scottish Parliament
EDINBURGH
EH99 1SP

Your ref: JS2807FS
Our ref: 2017/0026730
11 August 2017

Dear John,

Thank you for your email dated 31 July 2017 raising the concerns of your constituent, [REDACTED] regarding the beavers in the Beaully area.

As you are aware, I announced on 24 November 2016 that the Scottish Government is minded that the European beaver populations in Knapdale in Argyll and in the Tay and Earn catchments can remain in Scotland, and that their range can expand naturally. We are learning to manage those populations. I also made it clear in my statement that any further illegal releases or escapes would not be tolerated as we have seen the problems such releases can cause, both for local stakeholders and for the long term interests of properly managed species reintroductions. As the family group of beavers discovered living on the River Beaully is a considerable distance away from the beaver populations in Tayside and Argyll, it is clear that they have not arrived by natural means. Scottish Natural Heritage are therefore taking steps to trap the family group in the Beaully area, in accordance with the decision taken by Scottish Ministers outlined above.

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Roseanna

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