

PE1124/Q

Ministear airson na h-Àrainneachd

Minister for Environment

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Frank McAveety MSP

Convenor

Public Petitions Committee

Scottish Parliament



Ar faidhle/Our ref: **PE1124: SNARING**

31 July 2009

Dear Mr McAveety,

I am writing in response to the letter from the Clerk to the Public Petitions Committee seeking further information in response to points considered by the Committee, dated 22 April 2009.

Firstly, you ask how the Scottish Government actively sought and obtained the views of all relevant animal welfare organisations on the proposed regulations to be laid before the summer recess. The proposed changes to the regulation of snaring follow an extensive consultation on the future of snaring that was carried out in 2006/7. The consultation involved a wide range of bodies with an interest in the subject, including animal welfare organisations.

Subsequently the proposals were looked at by the PAW (Partnership for Action against Wildlife Crime) Legislation, Regulation and Guidance sub-group, which includes in its members representation from the SSPCA. The wider PAW membership have also been invited to comment on the proposals and Advocates for Animals and the League Against Cruel Sports have both provided some comments. Scottish Badgers declined to comment.

You also asked whether the Scottish Government is satisfied that its policy in this area represents the views and position of wildlife and other organisations such as SNH. During the original consultation on snaring in 2006/7, SNH responded on the basis that their view on an outright ban on snaring was neutral and they supported legislative measures being put into place to minimise the risk that snaring poses to non-target species and particularly

those of conservation concern, whilst balancing the need to carry out legitimate land-management practices.

Finally, you asked what public support there has been for the Scottish Government's policy on the use of snares. The Scottish Government has received numerous correspondence from organisations and individuals supporting the Scottish Government's policy on snaring.



ROSEANNA CUNNINGHAM MSP