



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Jim Fairlie MSP
Minister for Agriculture and Connectivity
Scottish Government

Rural Affairs and Islands Committee
c/o Clerk to the Committee
The Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh
EH99 1SP

rural.committee@parliament.scot

4 June 2024

By email only

Dear Jim,

Petition PE1490: Control of wild goose numbers

I am writing in relation to the [above petition](#), lodged in the name of Patrick Krause on behalf of Scottish Crofting Federation. On 29 May 2024, the Committee considered next steps on this petition. It agreed to await the publication of the delivery plan accompanying NatureScot's [National Goose Policy Framework In Scotland](#), with a view to taking further evidence at that point.

In doing so, the Committee expressed a concern at the economic losses experienced by farmers and crofters and environmental damage due to the impact of native goose population and they agreed on the need to see clear progress by the Scottish Government and NatureScot in addressing these issues.

In recognition of this, the Committee agreed to seek an update from the Scottish Government on the resources currently being allocated to support local goose management schemes and other control measures in Scotland. The Committee is particularly keen to know whether the Scottish Government considers the current public funding settlement to be sufficient for ensuring the successful operation of these initiatives and for securing fair compensation for the damage to farmland caused by geese.

The Committee would also welcome confirmation that the delivery plan for the review of goose management policy will be published, as expected, by the end of this year.

It would be helpful if you could provide a response by 2 July 2024.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Finlay Carson', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Finlay Carson MSP
Convener
Rural Affairs and Islands Committee