



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Rural Affairs, Islands and Natural Environment Committee

Michael Matheson
Cabinet Secretary for Net Zero,
Energy and Transport

c/o Clerk to the Committee
The Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh
EH99 1SP

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By email only

6 April 2022

Dear Cabinet Secretary,

HUNTING WITH DOGS (SCOTLAND) BILL

The Committee considered and agreed its approach to scrutinising the above bill at its meeting on 30 March 2022.

As part of the Committee's evidence gathering, members agreed to write to you to seek further information on two points.

First, the Committee notes the statement in the bill's policy memorandum that the bill is intended to address ambiguities and inconsistencies contained in the Protection of Wild Mammals (Scotland) Act 2002 to make the law easier to understand and to enforce. The Committee notes some examples of the ambiguities and inconsistencies are set out in paragraphs 23 and 24 of the policy memorandum. The Committee asks for more detailed information about the number and nature of these ambiguities and inconsistencies in the 2002 Act.

Second, the Committee notes the Scottish Government's view that, because the bill would address these ambiguities and inconsistencies, the Scottish Ministers do not consider it necessary or justifiable to introduce vicarious liability or a reverse burden of proof. The Committee asks for further information about why these decisions were taken.

A response by Friday 13 May, when our call for views closes, would be appreciated.

Yours sincerely

Beatrice Wishart MSP

Deputy Convener

Rural Affairs, Island and Natural Environment Committee