



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Rural Affairs, Islands and Natural Environment Committee

Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs
and Islands

Francesca Osowska,
Chief Executive, NatureScot

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

rural.committee@parliament.scot

5 May 2022

By email only

Dear Cabinet Secretary, Ms Osowska

PETITION PE1490: Control of wild goose numbers

At its meeting on 27 April 2022, the Rural Affairs, Islands and Natural Environment Committee considered [petition PE1490](#), submitted by Patrick Krause on behalf of the Scottish Crofting Federation, calling on the Scottish Parliament to urge the Scottish Government to address the problems created by increasing populations of wild geese in the crofting areas as a matter of priority.

The Official Report from the evidence session can be accessed here: [Official Report \(parliament.scot\)](#)

The Committee agreed to keep the petition open and to write to both the Scottish Government and NatureScot to ask for an update on goose management projects and to request details of the timetable and likely scope of the 5-year review of goose policy which is scheduled to take place in 2022.

In evidence, the Committee also heard about the potential impact of geese numbers on the biodiversity of the machair. The Committee would, therefore, be interested to know what consideration NatureScot has given to undertaking an assessment of the impact of geese numbers on biodiversity in order to inform both geese management and biodiversity policy?

The Committee would appreciate a response to the matters raised in this letter by Friday 3 June to enable the Committee to consider the petition again before summer recess.

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, Islands and Natural Environment Committee