

**Minister for Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform**

Aileen McLeod MSP

T: 0300 244 4000

E: [scottish.ministers@gov.scot](mailto:scottish.ministers@gov.scot)



Mr Rob Gibson MSP  
Convenor, RACCE  
The Scottish Parliament  
EDINBURGH  
EH99 1SP



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Dear Rob

I am writing to advise you that the Wildlife Crime Penalties Report has been published today at <http://www.gov.scot/Publications/2015/11/2196>.

This report was commissioned by my predecessor Paul Wheelhouse, with the aim of examining how this type of crime was dealt with by the criminal courts and to consider if the range of penalties available were a deterrent and indeed, commensurate, with the damage that may be caused. The comprehensive report has made ten recommendations and I will now consider these in detail.

I would like to express my sincere thanks to Professor Mark Poustie and the wider group for the commitment and time that they have dedicated to this review.

The publication of this report demonstrates the continued commitment from the Scottish Government to tackle wildlife crime in Scotland.

Kind regards

**AILEEN MCLEOD**