



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

RURAL AFFAIRS, CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

Dr Aileen McLeod MSP
Minister for the Environment, Climate
Change and Land Reform
Scottish Government

c/o Clerk to the Committee
Room T3.40
The Scottish Parliament
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16 March 2016

Dear Minister

Public Petition PE01490 on control of Wild Goose Numbers

At its meeting on 9 March 2016¹ the Rural Affairs, Climate Change and Environment Committee considered petition PE01490 on control of Wild Goose Numbers by Patrick Krause of the Scottish Crofters Federation.

In advance of this consideration, the Committee sought the comments of the petitioner on your letter of 2 December 2016 to the Committee, regarding the cost of the ongoing review of wild goose management being undertaken by Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH). The Committee agreed to draw your attention to the comments the petitioner provided in response to your letter, and these comments are available online.²

¹ Scottish Parliament Rural Affairs, Climate Change and Environment Committee *Official Report* 9 March 2016, Cols 51-52: <http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=10429&mode=pdf>

² Letter from Patrick Krause 2 March 2016:

http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/S4_RuralAffairsClimateChangeandEnvironmentCommittee/General%20Documents/20160302_Correspondence_from_Patrick_Krause_on_PE01490.pdf

The Committee also requested³ information from the Parliament of Norway in relation to Norwegian public policy on the management of wild geese. The Norwegian Parliament responded to this request and the Committee recommends that the Government and SNH consider this information as part of the review of Scottish policy on the management of wide geese.⁴

The Committee is strongly of the view that the steps outlined so far by the Scottish Government and SNH fail to adequately address the issues raised in the petition. Furthermore, the Committee understands that the area of Scotland impacted by the problem of residential flocks of grazing geese continues to increase, affecting both crofters and farmers alike. This makes action on this problem all the more urgent.

For this reason the Committee has agreed to keep petition PE01490 open and recommend to our successor committee in the next Session of the Parliament that it considers the petition as part of its work programme, by examining the outcome of the review of wild goose management currently being undertaken by SNH.

Furthermore, the Committee calls on the Scottish Government to ensure SNH is adequately funded to properly undertake the management of wild goose numbers in Scotland.

Yours sincerely



Rob Gibson MSP
Convener

CC: Keith Connal, Chair of the National Goose Management Review Group and Deputy Director, Natural Resources, Scottish Government
Morag Milne, Scottish Natural Heritage

³ RACCE Committee letter to the Norwegian Storting 30 October 2015:
http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/S4_RuralAffairsClimateChangeandEnvironmentCommittee/General%20Documents/20151030_RACCE_Clerks_to_the_Parliament_of_Norway_on_wild_geese_policy.pdf

⁴ Information from the Norwegian Storting 2 November 2015:
http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/S4_RuralAffairsClimateChangeandEnvironmentCommittee/General%20Documents/20151102_Response_from_Norwegian_Storting_on_goose_management.pdf