



The Scottish Parliament  
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

## RURAL AFFAIRS, CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

Patrick Krause  
Chief Executive  
Scottish Crofting Federation

Via email only

c/o Clerk to the Committee  
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16 March 2016

Dear Mr Krause

### Public Petition PE01490 on control of Wild Goose Numbers

At its meeting on 9 March 2016<sup>1</sup> the Rural Affairs, Climate Change and Environment Committee considered your petition PE01490 on control of Wild Goose Numbers.

The Committee noted the comments you provided in response to the most recent letter from the Scottish Government on your petition, in relation to the review of, and funding for, wild goose management policy being undertaken by Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH).

The Committee also noted the information it had requested<sup>2</sup> on wild goose management from the Parliament of Norway in relation Norwegian public policy on the management of wild goose numbers.<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> 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>

<sup>2</sup> 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](http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/S4_RuralAffairsClimateChangeandEnvironmentCommittee/General%20Documents/20151030_RACCE_Clerks_to_the_Parliament_of_Norway_on_wild_geese_policy.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> 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](http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/S4_RuralAffairsClimateChangeandEnvironmentCommittee/General%20Documents/20151102_Response_from_Norwegian_Storting_on_goose_management.pdf)

The Committee was strongly of the view that the problems you highlight in your petition have yet to be adequately addressed by the Scottish Government and SNH. We also recognise that the area of Scotland impacted by the problem of residential flocks of grazing geese is increasing, and affecting both crofters and farmers alike.

For this reason the Committee agreed to keep your petition 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 agreed to bring your views, and the information from the Parliament of Norway, to the attention of the Scottish Government and SNH, and to call for SNH to be adequately funded to properly undertake the management of wild goose numbers in Scotland.

On behalf of the Committee, can I take this opportunity to thank you for lodging your petition and for participating in the scrutiny of the formulation of Scottish Government policy in this important area.

I am copying this letter to the Minister for the Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform and officials at SNH, for their information.

I am also copying this to the Clerk of the Public Petitions Committee for information.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Rob Gibson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a horizontal line underlining the name.

Rob Gibson MSP  
Convener

CC: Dr Aileen McLeod MSP, Minister for the Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform  
Keith Connal, Chair of the National Goose Management Review Group and Deputy Director, Natural Resources, Scottish Government  
Morag Milne, Scottish Natural Heritage  
Catherine Fergusson, Clerk, Public Petitions Committee