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Graeme Dey MSP

Convener

Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform

Committee

Room T3.40

The Scottish Parliament

Edinburgh

EH99 1SP

20 June 2017

Dear Graeme,

PE1615: State regulated licensing system for gamebird hunting in Scotland

Thank you for your letter of 24 May 2017, in which you outlined the Committee's recommendations following consideration of the above petition and evidence from stakeholders.

As you will recall, I subsequently wrote to you on 31 May to inform you of my announcement of a package of new measures aimed at tackling wildlife crime. This included setting up a group to examine how we can ensure that grouse moor management continues to contribute to the rural economy while being environmentally sustainable and compliant with the law. The group will look at options for ensuring that grouse moor management works to best practice standards, including the option of a licensing system, as well as the other related considerations as outlined in your letter. Further details will be announced in due course.

I trust this reply will be sufficient to allow you to respond to the above petition as appropriate.

Yours,

ROSEANNA CUNNINGHAM