

Scottish Government submission of 17 January 2024

PE2050/A: Prohibit the use of recreational drones on national nature reserves without a permit from NatureScot

Calling on the Scottish Parliament to urge the Scottish Government to amend the current guidance on flying recreational drones on national nature reserves (NNRs) to so that:

- use is prohibited without a permit
- permits include a flight time, date and agreed flight path
- operation is in accordance with the drone code
- advice on the legal status of the wildlife and habitats is provided

SG Response to the Petition

The regulation of the use of airspace is a matter reserved to the UK Government. However, the Scottish Government agrees that it is essential our precious wildlife is protected from disturbance. The existing law on wildlife disturbance already requires that licences are obtained where wildlife photography may disturb a protected species. In addition, the Civil Aviation Authority has produced a Drone and Model Aircraft Code which provides guidance on the safe operation of drones. This has been supplemented by [guidance](#) on the PAW website. This guidance is currently archived. We will ask PAW Scotland to consider whether this guidance needs to be updated and re-published.

Nature Division