

PE2202/G: Stop the Guga Hunt

Bonnie McKay written submission, 16 February 2026

I am a resident of the Isle of Lewis. I am writing to support this petition because I feel it is important to make clear that there are members of the community who hold deep concerns about the guga hunt, but whose views are rarely reflected in public discussions.

I recognise that the guga hunt has deep historical roots on the island and was once an important source of sustenance during times of hardship. However, we no longer live in those conditions, and I believe it is reasonable - and necessary - to reassess traditions in light of modern conservation responsibilities and evolving public values.

Many people on Lewis do not feel safe or comfortable speaking out publicly against the hunt, for fear of social backlash or community division. But I want to assure you there are many residents here who do not support the continued killing of gannet chicks on Sula Sgeir, particularly given concerns about the humaneness of the hunt, the spread of avian influenza, biodiversity loss and the protected status of the site. Beyond the welfare concerns, I also worry about the way this issue places Lewis under negative national and international scrutiny, shaping perceptions of our island in ways that do not reflect the values of many who live here.

For these reasons, I support the petition and it remaining open so that the issue can be fully considered by the next Parliament. The level of public interest - now exceeding 90,000 signatures - demonstrates that this is not a fringe concern. It deserves proper scrutiny.

I respectfully ask the Committee to allow the petition to carry forward so that the question of reforming the current legal exemption can be debated transparently and thoughtfully.