



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Rural Affairs and Islands Committee

Jim Fairlie MSP
Minister for Agriculture and Connectivity
Scottish Government

20 November 2025

Dear Minister,

Natural Environment (Scotland) Bill: changes to grouse licensing schemes

Thank you for your correspondence of 11 November, responding to the Committee's request for additional details relating to the Scottish Government's decision to make changes to the grouse licensing scheme.

You may be aware that some Members had expressed a desire for further clarity on the perceived legislative gap in existing licensing arrangements when amendment 35 in your name was debated at Committee as part of Stage 2 proceedings on 19 November.

As a result, it would be helpful for further information on the Scottish Government's assessment of the current problems in how the current licensing scheme is being implemented and enforced. The Committee would also welcome details pertaining to the evidence-base and stakeholder engagement which has guided the Scottish Government's support for legislative changes.

To ensure your response can be considered by the Committee in advance of amendment 35 being formally disposed of it would be helpful if you could provide a response by **Monday 24 November**.

Thank you and I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

Finlay Carson MSP
Convener

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