



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

PUBLIC PETITION NO.

PE01762

Name of petitioner

Libby Anderson and Bob Elliot on behalf of OneKind

Petition title

End the killing of wildlife on grouse moors and elsewhere in Scotland

Petition summary

Calling on the Scottish Parliament to conduct a full review of the animal welfare impacts of the use of traps and snares on grouse moors and elsewhere in Scotland.

Action taken to resolve issues of concern before submitting the petition

Discussions with MSPs and supporting Motions raised in Members' Debates.

Petition background information

The focus of the review called for in this petition should be:

- The ethics and sustainability of the routine and repeated killing of the same species in the same location;
- The case for banning snares, Larsen traps and certain other types of live traps outright, on animal welfare grounds;
- The animal welfare issues surrounding lethal traps such as spring traps, both approved and non-approved categories;
- Mechanisms to ensure proper scrutiny of all practices undertaken by hunters, shooters and trappers and only to permit the use of traps under exceptional circumstances; and
- Whether activities closely associated with causing unnecessary suffering by means of trapping and snaring, such as driven grouse shooting, should be banned.

OneKind has created this Public Petition to the Scottish Parliament following the publication on 13 August 2019 of a photograph of a golden eagle – Scotland's national bird – flying near Crathie in the Cairngorms National Park, with its leg apparently caught in a spring trap. At the time of writing the fate of the eagle is unknown, but it is thought likely to have suffered considerably and probably to have died.

OneKind is a member of the Revive coalition, along with Common Weal, Friends of the Earth Scotland, the League Against Cruel Sports, Scotland and Raptor Persecution

Earth Scotland, the League Against Cruel Sports Scotland and Raptor Persecution UK. Revive campaigns for significant reform of Scotland's grouse moors and is working to propose an alternative vision for the estimated 12 - 18% of Scotland's land currently used for grouse shooting. Such reform will not be achieved overnight and in view of the widespread public outrage provoked by this incident the petitioners see it as urgent to institute a Scottish Parliament review of wildlife persecution with the aim of eradicating inhumane practices associated with driven grouse shooting as soon as possible.

The petitioners are aware that the Grouse Moor Management Group (the Werritty Review), is likely to report shortly. The terms of reference for the Werritty review group are to: "look at the environmental impact of grouse moor management practices such as muirburn, the use of medicated grit and mountain hare culls and advise on the option of licensing grouse shooting businesses." These do not allow for full consideration of the severe animal welfare consequences of continued trapping and snaring practices on grouse moors.

The Crathie incident has caused a public outcry and a petition by Wild Justice to the UK Parliament calling for an outright ban on driven grouse shooting attracted tens of thousands of signatures within a few days of its launch. OneKind supports that petition, as driven grouse shooting is intimately connected both with so many wildlife offences across the UK, as well as the legal infliction of suffering on animals, including by trapping and snaring.

Given that animal welfare and wildlife protection are devolved issues, the scale of wildlife killing in Scotland and the suffering caused, we believe that action is urgently required in the Scottish Parliament.

Unique web address

<https://www.parliament.scot/GettingInvolved/Petitions/grousemoortrapsandsnares>

Related information for petition

Do you wish your petition to be hosted on the Parliament's website to collect signatures online?

YES

How many signatures have you collected so far?

0

Closing date for collecting signatures online

13 / 11 / 2019

Comments to stimulate online discussion

Thousands of sentient animals suffer and die in traps and snares on grouse moors across Scotland, set in order to control predators or so-called "vermin" that interfere with sporting pursuits.

Do we have any right to kill one type of animal so that another can be killed for recreation?

Should any traps be permitted for use against our wildlife?

If so, how can an instant and humane death be guaranteed?

Is it ethical or sustainable to keep killing the same type of animals, year after year, in the same location?