

Rural Affairs and Islands Committee
Wednesday 11 March 2026
10th Meeting, 2026 (Session 6)

Consideration of Petition PE1490: Control of goose numbers

Introduction

1. This paper supports the Rural Affairs and Islands Committee's consideration of petition PE1490 lodged by Patrick Krause on behalf of the Scottish Crofting Federation (SCF). Further details on the contents of the petition have been set out in the table below.

Petitioner Patrick Krause on behalf of the Scottish Crofting Federation
Date published 16 July 2013

Petition summary Calling on the Scottish Parliament to urge the Scottish Government to address the problems created by increasing populations of wild geese in the crofting areas as a matter of priority; reassess its decision to stop funding existing goose management programmes and assign additional resources to Crop Protection and Adaptive Management programmes to ensure this threat to the future of crofting is averted.

Webpage <https://petitions.parliament.scot/petitions/PE1490>

SPICe briefing <http://archive2021.parliament.scot/ResearchBriefingsAndFactsheets/Petitions%20briefings%20S4/PB13-1490.pdf> (Provided by SPICe for consideration by the Session 4 Public Petitions Committee)

Background

2. Although wild geese have long formed an important part of Scotland's natural landscape, the growing population can cause significant losses to farmers and crofters. Scotland has had a [national goose management policy](#), managed by NatureScot, since 2000 and a number of local goose management schemes and pilots also operate across Scotland within the national goose policy framework.
3. Since 2000, Scotland's goose management policy has broadly been guided by three principles:
 - ensuring Scotland is aligned with the UK's nature conservation and biodiversity obligations for geese
 - reducing the economic impacts of geese on Scottish farmers and crofters
 - delivering value for money for taxpayers vis-à-vis public expenditure
4. NatureScot plays a key role in providing funding and administrative support to local schemes and pilots. Each initiative has been developed by a local goose management group, which is chaired by the Scottish Government Rural

Payments and Inspections Directorate. NatureScot can also grant licences for control of geese under specific circumstances.

Rural Affairs and Islands Committee consideration

5. The Committee considered the petition when it took evidence from the petitioner. [Read the Official Report for the meeting on 27 April 2022](#). The Committee agreed to write to both the Scottish Government and NatureScot to ask for an update on goose management projects and to request details of the timetable and likely scope of the 5-year review of goose policy.
6. The Committee held an [evidence session on 9 November 2022](#) with NatureScot to discuss issues raised in the petition. Following this meeting, the Committee agreed to wait for publication of the five-yearly review into goose management in Scotland due to be submitted to the Scottish Government later that year, before considering what action it wished to take on the petition.
7. On 26 February 2024, the Scottish Government published [the review of National Goose Policy Framework in Scotland](#), conducted by NatureScot.
8. [At its meeting on 29 May 2024](#), considered the petition and agreed to wait for publication of the National Goose Policy Framework delivery plan before taking further evidence. It also agreed to write to the petitioner and the Scottish Government to request further information on the provision of goose management activities across Scotland.

Next steps

9. At this meeting, the Committee will take evidence from NatureScot and Scottish Government officials involved in developing the delivery plan for the National Goose Policy Framework.
10. **The Committee will be invited, following its evidence session, to consider what further action it wishes to take in relation to the petition. - The Committee may consider closing the petition if members are satisfied that the actions set out in NatureScot's delivery plan and National Goose Policy Framework would sufficiently address the problems created by increasing populations of wild geese in the crofting areas.**

Clerks to the Committee
March 2026