

# Minister for Energy and Environment submission of 27 November 2023 PE1859/NN: Retain falconers' rights to practise upland falconry in Scotland

Thank you for your letter of 10 November 2023 regarding the Citizen Participation and Public Petitions Committee's consideration of the above petition at its meeting on 08 November 2023.

You have stated that the Committee recommends that the Scottish Government produce guidance to clarify how falconers can ensure they are acting in accordance with the legislation. In particular, the Committee would welcome guidance to clarify:

- how falconers can participate in licenced activities;
- the areas in which there is not a high density of mountain hare; and
- what action to take if their bird accidentally takes a mountain hare.

I note that the Committee also agreed to seek a Parliamentary debate on the issues raised in this petition.

In response, the Scottish Government will seek to engage with relevant stakeholders to produce the guidance recommended. I also look forward to an update on the Parliamentary debate in due course.

**Gillian Martin MSP**