

Scottish Government submission of 4 October 2023

PE2035/A: Recognise legal control of generalist predators as a conservation act

Thank you for your email of 6 September 2023 from the Citizen Participation and Public Petition Committee seeking the Scottish Government's views on Petition PE2035 lodged by Petitioner Alex Hogg on behalf of The Scottish Gamekeepers Association.

Petition PE2035 calls on the Scottish Parliament to urge the Scottish Government to officially recognise legal control of abundant generalist predators as an act of conservation to help ground-nesting birds in Scotland.

The Scottish Government agrees that predator control is an important component of species conservation alongside other techniques such as habitat management and translocation. The mix of techniques to be used will vary according to the particular circumstances and threats facing the conservation species. All of these techniques must be carried out in compliance with the law. The Scottish Government also aims to ensure that these techniques are carried in accordance with the highest standards of wildlife welfare through requirements for training, licensing, and codes of practice.

Environment and Forestry Directorate