

MacNally C (Catrina)

From: Nixon C (Chris) (FLS Environment)
Sent: 17 July 2019 12:22
To: Lamont W (Willie)
Cc: Knox D (Douglas); Fergusson I (Ian); Kortland K (Kenny); Ellis J (Jo)
Subject: Fox Policy Refresh

Willie

I promised to drop you a note on our discussion yesterday about the work to refresh the Fox Policy. I've set out below what we touched on as being some of the key elements & suggested approach.

Hope this is helpful & happy to discuss with you again at any point.

Regards, ChrisN

Chris Nixon | Environment Manager

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Proposed Core Elements of Refreshed Policy (draft for discussion)

A. Use of Hounds on the NFE

On balance we considered this to be inappropriate in future on the grounds of H&S, animal welfare and uncontrollable impact on other wildlife.

B. Targeted Fox Control by FLS staff & contractors

The general control of fox populations has been shown to be ineffective, therefore targeted control would best be done under two circumstances:

i) In response to neighbour complaints – local/immediate response where significant damage can be demonstrated

ii) Planned proactive control - in known sites where repeated damage occurs e.g. sensitive conservation areas, adjacent to neighbour damage 'hot-spots'

(both timed to short window in late winter/early spring to minimise animal welfare issues and maximise effectiveness)

Proposed Next Steps

1. **Redraft relevant sections of the current policy** - to reflect the proposed refreshed approach.

2. **Set out the evidence and details** - that will form the content of a supporting document.

Incl. sections or summaries of:

a) Additional references relating to legal, regulatory and best practice aspects

b) Summary details of existing legal rights held by other parties

c) Risks, constraints and hazards associated with FLS fox control activities

(incl. insurance requirements required by 3rd parties should they undertake Fox control on the NFE)

3. **Consult others on the redraft and to resolve key questions such as -**

- Establishing a clear evidenced rationale for not allowing the use of hounds.
- Clarifying the circumstances under which FLS would carry out pre-emptive or responsive fox control
- Clarifying our position on fox control activities by other parties as part of Recreational DMP's.

4. **Suggested stages for consultation**

Stage 1 – key FLS staff (Ian, Doug, Kenny, Jo, Me, Trefor)

Stage 2 – wider group of FLS staff (RM's DM's, EnvA's, WRM's)

Stage 3 – consider requirement for consultation with external groups (SNH, SGA, etc..)

From: Knox D (Douglas) <Douglas.Knox@forestryandland.gov.scot>

Sent: 15 July 2019 11:30

To: Fergusson I (Ian) <Ian.Fergusson@forestryandland.gov.scot>; Lamont W (Willie)

<Willie.Lamont@forestryandland.gov.scot>; Kortland K (Kenny) <Kenny.Kortland@forestryandland.gov.scot>; Nixon

C (Chris) (FLS Environment) <Chris.Nixon@forestryandland.gov.scot>

Subject: FW: Fox hunting

Please note.

From: Knox D (Douglas)

Sent: 15 July 2019 11:29

To: Owen T (Trefor) <Trefor.Owen@forestryandland.gov.scot>; Ellis J (Jo) <Jo.Ellis@forestryandland.gov.scot>

Subject: RE: Fox hunting

Thanks Trefor.

Yes, Ian, Willie, Kenny and Chris Nixon are working on a refreshed policy as a matter of priority. North Region were in particular feeling exposed and so we are trying to accelerate the work to refresh the FLS policy so we have something to stand behind ASAP. I will remind these staff of your point.

Doug.

Douglas Knox | Head of Technical Services Group

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Please note: I work flexibly around childcare so I may send emails in the morning or evening, however I do not expect a response outside of usual working hours. Thank you.

From: Owen T (Trefor) <Trefor.Owen@forestryandland.gov.scot>

Sent: 15 July 2019 11:20

To: Knox D (Douglas) <Douglas.Knox@forestryandland.gov.scot>; Ellis J (Jo) <Jo.Ellis@forestryandland.gov.scot>

Subject: Fox hunting

Jo/Doug

Your teams may be working on the FLS fox hunting policy/procedures. If so, please make sure they are aware that Ministers and their advisors are receiving lots of access for information requests on any correspondence relating to this topic. Important that staff are reminded about 'discoverability', even of emails which are work in progress.

Trefor

Trefor Owen FICFor | Director Land Management

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