

## Response ID ANON-JDY3-NFYX-Y

Submitted to Wildlife Management and Muirburn (Scotland) Bill  
Submitted on 2023-05-03 07:32:24

### About you

1 Please read the privacy notice below and tick the box below to show that you understand how the data you provide will be used as set out in the policy.

I have read and understood how the personal data I provide will be used.

2 How your response will be published

I would like my response to be published in its entirety

3 What is your name?

Full Name:

Pete Ritchie

4 What is your email address?

Email:

pete@nourishscotland.org.uk

5 Are you responding as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?

Organisation

6 Which local authority area do you currently live in?

Please select an option from the dropdown menu.:

City of Edinburgh

### Organisation details

1 Name of organisation

Name of organisation:

Nourish Scotland

2 Information about your organisation

Please add information about your organisation in the box below:

Nourish Scotland is a charity working on food policy. As part of this, we have an interest in wider land management and animal welfare issues

### Your views

1 Do you agree with the proposed ban on the use and purchase of glue traps (sections 1-3)?

Yes

Please provide your reasons for your answer in the box provided.:

There's a clear rationale for ending a cruel and unnecessary method for killing animals

2 Do you agree there is a need for additional regulation of the use of certain wildlife traps?

Yes

Please provide your reasons for your answer in the box provided.:

restoring biodiversity requires additional regulation and scrutiny of practices which are likely to reduce biodiversity

3 Do you agree with the proposed licensing system for the use of certain wildlife traps (sections 4-5)?

Yes

Please provide your reasons for your answer in the box provided.:

4 Do you agree there is a need for additional regulation of land to be used to shoot red grouse?

Yes

Please provide your reasons for your answer in the box provided.:

The environmental consequences of this industry are profoundly negative as set out above - blanket use of anthelmintics which would not be acceptable in farmed animals, killing other animals in order to kill more grouse, preventing natural regeneration, and Muirburn. In due course, we would expect the industry to go the way of greyhound racing as something which is no longer socially acceptable. In the meanwhile, licensing can reduce the most negative consequences

5 Do you agree with the proposed licensing system for land to be used to shoot red grouse (sections 6-7)?

Yes

Please provide your reasons for your answer in the box provided.:

6 Do you agree with the proposal to give the Scottish SPCA additional powers to investigate wildlife crime (section 8)?

Yes

Please provide your reasons for your answer in the box provided.:

7 Do you agree there is a need for the additional regulation for muirburn?

Yes

Please provide your reasons for your answer in the box provided.:

There is no evidence in the recent Nature Scot review that it has environmental benefits. Its purpose is to prevent natural regeneration of tree cover and to provide more food for grouse for people to shoot for sport. It causes wildfires and releases carbon into the atmosphere. There is no evidence that it prevents more serious wildfires in Scotland. It is not compatible with tackling the nature and climate emergency

8 Do you agree with the proposed licensing system for muirburn (sections 9-19)?

No

Please provide your reasons for your answer in the box provided.:

There are far too many loopholes in here. Anyone can claim Muirburn will reduce the risk of wildfires and it is impossible to disprove a hypothetical. 'Restoring the natural environment' is meaningless - restoring to what? These habitats have been managed for centuries. If research is needed it should be carried out by research institutions as part of a long-term multi-site trial with clear parameters and objectives.

There should be a presumption against Muirburn, with the granting of licences only in exceptional cases. The danger with the scheme as proposed is that Muirburn continues to be seen as the normal way to manage land, and getting the licence simply a well-trodden detour on the way to business as usual