

Julie James AS/MS
Y Gweinidog Newid Hinsawdd
Minister for Climate Change



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-06-1201
Ein cyf/Our ref JJ/00553/22

Jack Sargeant MS
Chair - Petitions committee
Senedd Cymru
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1SN

31 March 2022

Dear Jack,

Thank you for your letter of 2 March regarding a petition about the shooting of birds on RSPB's 'red list'.

Effective regulation is key to ensuring we are able to halt and reverse the decline in biodiversity and help tackle the nature emergency we all face. As we look to establish mechanisms to meet the post 2020 international biodiversity targets we will need to review the current regulatory landscape which operates at both a UK level and within Wales. I recognise some of this legislation is outdated and even contradictory, requiring some streamlining to make it fit for purpose for our needs today.

Any regulatory changes though need to be evidence based and not done in a piecemeal fashion. Regulatory changes also need to be developed in the context of other tools that may be available to achieve the same objectives.

With regard Petitions Committee emergency measures, I do not feel introducing statutory monitoring of birds shot would be appropriate or practical as it would duplicate existing work. Existing voluntary approaches would be more effective and something I would support together with following current guidelines and best practice. The Welsh Ornithological Society (WOS) recently presented Welsh Government with the latest edition of their report "The Birds of Wales". This comprehensive analysis of many factors affecting the conservation status of wild birds includes contributions from experts, volunteers and organisations concerned about the wellbeing and conservation status of wild birds.

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Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

The report contains wide-ranging data on all aspects of wild birds, including the impacts of shooting and related practices on numbers, behaviour and their use of the landscape. These expert and dedicated advocates for the wellbeing of wild birds give no indication of a need for additional data of the kind described, or for short-term emergency measures.

I would of course reiterate the point I made to you last year that I would welcome any emerging evidence presented to the Committee in support of the petition to help inform our evidence base.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Julie James". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Julie James AS/MS

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