

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

Minister for Agriculture and Connectivity written submission, 3 March 2025

Thank you for your letter of 12 February 2025 regarding the Citizen Participation and Public Petitions Committee's consideration of the above petition at its meeting on 5 February 2025.

I appreciate your point around the importance of financial support being available for predator control under future agri-environment and climate schemes.

Please be assured that support for Predator Control has been available through the Agri-Environment Climate Scheme (AECS) since it commenced in 2015, recognising that ground-nesting birds are vulnerable to predation by crows, foxes, stoats and weasels.

This option can be combined with Moorland Management, Wader and Wildlife Mown Grassland, or Wader Grazed Grassland which provides longer-term support for management of habitats that benefit ground-nesting birds, alongside funding towards the capital costs of controlling predators.

As set out in the [Agricultural Reform Route Map](#), AECS, including the Predator Control option, is expected to continue up to 2026 to deliver elements of Elective support ahead of the launch of the Elective Tier 3 in 2027.

Tier 3, the Elective payment, will be a competitive or non-universal range of payments for targeted actions and undertakings on particular habitats, and for defined species. Please be assured that how land managers can be best supported to create and enhance habitats for ground-nesting birds and other threatened protected species will be considered in the development of future support.

I was glad to be of assistance throughout the Citizen Participation and Public Petitions Committee's consideration of the petition.

Yours sincerely,

JIM FAIRLIE MSP