



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Mairi Gougeon
Cabinet Secretary for Rural
Affairs, Land Reform and Islands
Scottish Government

Rural Affairs and Islands Committee
c/o Clerk to the Committee
The Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh
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By email only

26 September 2023

Dear Cabinet Secretary,

Hunting with Dogs (Scotland) Act 2023

At its meeting on 20 September, the Committee considered a [letter from the Scottish Countryside Alliance](#) setting out some concerns around the consultation for, and publication of, guidance relating to the above Act.

In particular, the Scottish Countryside Alliance states it is “concerned that NatureScot continues to misinterpret and misapply the law on some key aspects of licensing which would have extremely detrimental consequences for livestock, wildlife and for those responsible for land management”.

The Committee agreed I would write to you to ask for your response to these concerns which have been expressed to us. In your response, it would be helpful if you could confirm the timescale for agreeing and publishing the guidance.

The Committee would be grateful to receive your response by **2 October 2023**.

Yours sincerely,

Finlay Carson MSP
Convener
Rural Affairs and Islands Committee