



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Rural Affairs and Islands Committee

Jim Fairlie
Minister for Agriculture and Connectivity

12 November 2024

Dear Minister,

Wildlife Management (Consequential Amendments) (Scotland) Regulations 2024 (SSI 2024/268)

Thank you for [your response, dated 25 October 2024, providing further information ahead of our consideration of the above negative statutory instrument.](#)

The Committee considered the instrument on 6 November and agreed to write to you with the following points.

In relation to information about alternative forms of predation control, you confirmed that the Scottish Government and NatureScot will be providing communications to stakeholders. Noting the ban comes into force on 25 November 2025, the Committee would welcome further information about when these communications will be issued.

In relation to monitoring the effectiveness of the snaring ban, you referred to the established ground nesting bird surveys in place which will continue to monitor the population trends of these species. The Committee would welcome further information about the science and data used as part of these surveys and which will provide a benchmark against which to measure future population trends.

In relation to the reason why a BRIA was not undertaken as part of the preparatory work for this instrument, you told the Committee this was because the instrument is “simply a technical amendment” consequential to the ban being put in place by section 6 of the Wildlife Management and Muirburn (Scotland) Act 2024. The Committee notes, however, that the [BRIA published alongside the Bill's accompanying documents in March 2023](#) did not include consideration of a snaring ban as this was provided for via amendments at stage 2 in February 2024. This refers back to the questions the Committee raised at the time around the information relating to legislative provisions provided for via amendments after a bill, and its accompanying documents, have been introduced. The Committee would welcome further information relating to what consideration the Scottish Government gave at the time the snaring ban amendments were lodged on the impact of the ban on land managers and predation control.

Contact: Rural Affairs and Islands Committee, The Scottish Parliament, Edinburgh, EH99 1SP. Email rural.committee@parliament.scot

We welcome calls through Relay UK and in BSL through Contact Scotland BSL.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Finlay Carson', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Finlay Carson MSP
Convener