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Dear convener,

**REVIEW OF SNARING 2021**

I am writing to inform the Committee that we have today laid the report “Review of Snaring 2021” before the Scottish Parliament as required by section 11F of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. The report will also be published on the Scottish Government website.

You will be aware that the Act requires that the report be produced every five years. This meant that this report was due at the end of 2021. Unfortunately resource pressures and competing priorities have caused a short delay in publishing the final report, for which I apologise.

As I stated in the Scottish Parliament last September 2021, we also intend to carry out a review of snaring with a wider scope than the requirement set out in the Act. The review will look in more detail at the animal welfare implications of snaring as well as the land management arguments for and against the use of snares. I expect to be able to announce details of this supplementary part of the review process very soon.

**MAIRI MCALLAN**