

Subject: Wildlife crime publication drafts

From: Andy Myles

Sent: 15 January 2015 14:55

To: scottish.ministers@scotland.gsi.gov.uk

Cc: Thomson, Ian; Eddie Palmer; Jen Anderson; Lloyd Austin (lloyd.austin@rspb.org.uk)

Subject: Wildlife crime publication drafts

FAO: Aileen McLeod MSP, Minister for Environment, Climate Change & Land Reform

Cc: Paul Wheelhouse MSP, Minister for Community Safety & Legal Affairs

Dear Minister,

You may be aware that at our regular meetings with Paul Wheelhouse MSP, your predecessor, Scottish Environment LINK has mentioned on several occasions that we were working on a major paper on wildlife crime. It is an issue we discussed several times with Mr Wheelhouse, and we were always glad to say how welcome his many strong, public interventions on wildlife crime matters were.

The finalisation of the paper had been delayed twice – first by our decision to split it into two parts (one an externally commissioned research paper, and the other containing our broader arguments, conclusions and recommendations) and, more recently, by a series of important decisions in the courts on wildlife crime related cases.

We are now hoping to publish within a few weeks. In the light of the delays, however, we thought we should send the papers in their current draft form for your information. In this way you will be able to assess the progress we are making and the direction of our thinking.

Please find the drafts attached. I would be most grateful if you could ensure that they are circulated within the Scottish Government only – prior to the publication of the full, completed work.

I have copied Mr Wheelhouse into this message, both as your predecessor and because in his new role, he has a continuing interest.

I hope that our course of action here is helpful,

Yours,

Andy

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