



Scottish
Environment
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29th September 2023

Nick Halfhide
NatureScot
Great Glen House
Leachkin Road
Inverness
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Dear Nick,

Use of section 6A powers

On behalf of the Scottish Environment Link Deer Group, we would be grateful for your response to the following.

We are keen to know whether NatureScot have ever used section 6A of the Deer (Scotland) Act 1996 (as amended) in relation to deer management plans*. If so, what has been NatureScot's experience with the efficacy of this measure? If not, why have these powers never been tried?

Specifically, we are aware of a deer issue on the Sleat peninsula in Skye which we feel meets conditions A & B required by NatureScot to enact the power to request a deer management plan - to address the issue of deer damage to native woodlands, agricultural and horticultural interests and risk to the public from deer vehicle collisions from neighbouring lands where no plan appears to be in place. This matter has been raised with us by local interests in the area who were seeking advice. We would be grateful for NatureScot to explore the opportunity to deploy this measure over the areas concerned.

We very much look forward to hearing from you and we are very happy to discuss further.

Yours sincerely,

Duncan Orr-Ewing
Convener, LINK Deer Group

**6A Deer management plans*

(1) If SNH, having had regard to the code of practice on deer management, is satisfied that both Conditions A and B are met, it may give notice to such owners and occupiers of land as it considers to be substantially interested requiring them — etc.



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