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Dear Member

The rewilding charity Trees for Life have taken NatureScot to Judicial Review over their handling and distribution of lethal control licenses for beavers.

These licenses were issued after the Eurasian Beaver received protected status in Scotland on the 1st of May 2019 to protect agricultural land from serious damage. It took a number of years of dialogue and lobbying by NFUS to highlight the importance of these licenses as only in a very limited number of cases have mitigation measures proved successful. As part of the Beaver Management Framework, Cabinet Secretary Roseanna Cunningham agreed that these licenses must be available to protect high value land and crops.

NatureScot believe their case is sound, we anticipate that uninformed pressure could mount to limit these licences, a situation which would have significant repercussions, both economically and environmentally, particularly to our arable areas but also to our riparian woodland throughout Scotland.

NFU Scotland and SL&E have agreed that we must join together in support of NatureScot in this Judicial Review. We have enrolled a very experienced lawyer and QC who will provide the hard evidence which we strongly believe is not understood by Trees for Life.

The reason I am writing this letter is to ask you for your personal support in this case. Should this Review be lost, whilst it would only directly affect our existing license holders in the short term, the effects of the decision will spread and in the near future affect farmers and crofters in many areas of Scotland.



A particular concern is this may set a precedent in terms of future species management and could limit options to avoid serious agricultural damage. Other species such as Sea Eagles, Badgers, Geese, and Ravens etc. are increasingly problematic and we must have some form of managed balance in place. There could also be implications for existing controls on species such as foxes.

The cost of this case including work already carried out will be very close to £100,000. We have agreed with SL&E a split of 75/25 between the two organisations. This sum is significant, and although NFUS is willing to back this sum unequivocally to £75,000, I would ask that if you are willing to contribute any sum whatsoever it would be very much appreciated indeed.

Please do not feel under any obligation to contribute to this case, I am fully aware that you already pay an annual subscription on the basis that we lobby for your interests. However, given the enormity of the unintended consequences of losing this case, (and there is no guarantee), I feel it is only right that I put all our members in the picture and offer you the opportunity to contribute if you so wish.

If you would like to contribute;

- Please use bank transfer to the following details:
- Bank Account Name: NFU Scotland
- Sort Code: [REDACTED]
- Account Number: [REDACTED]
- Please ensure you use the reference: Beaver JR (your membership number)
- If you would prefer, card payment can be done over the phone by contacting NFU Scotland on 0131 472 4000.
- Or you can send a cheque made payable to NFU Scotland to Rural Centre, Ingliston EH28 8LT

Thank you,



Martin C. Kennedy

President NFU Scotland