

## MacNally C (Catrina)

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**From:** Fergusson, Ian <Ian.Fergusson@forestryandland.scot>  
**Sent:** 26 November 2019 21:29  
**To:** Fergusson I (Ian)  
**Subject:** FW: For Information: Potential 'Hot' Issue - Fox Control (Official Sensitive)  
**Attachments:** For Information: Potential 'Hot' Issue - Impacts of SG's Announcement on Fox Hunting Legislation

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**From:** Knox, Douglas <douglas.knox@forestry.gov.uk>  
**Sent:** 18 February 2019 09:54  
**To:** Prest, Graeme <Graeme.Prest@forestry.gov.uk>; Ellis, Jo <jo.ellis@forestry.gov.uk>; Fergusson, Ian <Ian.Fergusson@forestry.gov.uk>; Lamont, Willie <Willie.Lamont@forestry.gov.uk>; Cooper, Russell <russell.cooper@forestry.gov.uk>  
**Cc:** Mathiasen, Melanie <melanie.mathiasen@forestry.gov.uk>  
**Subject:** FW: For Information: Potential 'Hot' Issue - Fox Control (Official Sensitive)

Folks,

I've asked Melanie to set up a conference call this morning for us to discuss this case. I will then draft some lines / briefing for Simon Hodgson to use this afternoon if this topic comes up in his call with Mr Ewing.

Doug.

Douglas Knox | Head of Technical Services Group | Forest Enterprise Scotland | 0300 067  
| [douglas.knox@forestry.gov.uk](mailto:douglas.knox@forestry.gov.uk)

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*Please note: I work flexibly around childcare so I may send emails in the morning or evening, however I do not expect a response outside of usual working hours. Thank you.*

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**From:** Hymers, Michael  
**Sent:** 15 February 2019 18:04  
**To:** Macleod, Alex; Knox, Douglas; Fergusson, Ian; Ellis, Jo  
**Cc:** FES Corporate Support; Prest, Graeme; Owen, Trefor; Thompson, Siobhan; Hodgson, Simon  
**Subject:** For Information: Potential 'Hot' Issue - Fox Control (Official Sensitive)

Alex

Thank you for your e-mail.

As you will see from the attached, the SG's announcement that they are reviewing the legislation associated with the hunting of dogs has heightened interests with various stakeholders. The SGA have already been very critical of our actions publicly.

I would agree with you that it is critical that we agree our position and clarify it with the Foot Pack as a matter of urgency, making it very clear why any constraints are being placed on their permission.

Likewise we had considerable Ministerial / Parliamentary correspondence involving several members of the Cabinet (including Mr Ewing) in March 2018 relating to the constraints that we were placing on the

As a matter of urgency can you liaise with Doug, Ian and Jo.

I'll make the SG Natural Resources team aware.

Regards

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Forest Enterprise Scotland is an agency of the Forestry Commission managing Scotland's National Forest Estate.

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**From:** Macleod, Alex  
**Sent:** 15 February 2019 17:34  
**To:** Hymers, Michael; Owen, Trefor; Thompson, Siobhan  
**Cc:** FES Corporate Support; Prest, Graeme  
**Subject:** FW: Fox hunt meeting (Hot Topic)  
**Importance:** High

All

Please see the potential "hot topic" below in relation to an email around a fox hunting permission which has been copied to Fergus Ewing. The permission is for forest areas immediately south of Inverness around the A9 corridor.

I have discussed briefly with Graeme and Russell this afternoon but I would suggest that in the short term:

- We need to offer to meet with with a view to coming to an amical agreement; in essence the question asked by our WRM was a reasonable one and hasn't fully been answered.
- We need a steer from the national deer team in relation to future fox hunting policy.
- We need to seek further advice from the local environment team regarding exactly what any potential impact from the hounds might be.

Kind Regards

Alex

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**From:**  
**Sent:** 14 February 2019 20:29  
**To:** Cooper, Russell  
**Cc:** Fergus.Ewing.msp@scottish.parliament.uk  
**Subject:** Re: Fox hunt meeting

Hi Russell

Good news from SSE at least.

The pack has hunted in and around that area for 30 odd years, if you can bring to mind, any problems that they have created or concerns that neighbours have brought to FC's attention, it will be news to me. We have not had one hound killed on the road or had any collisions with motor vehicles on that stretch of the A9.

The hounds can be called off in most situations but if they are stopped every time they approach one of the many NEW exclusion zones, it will mean no real pressure can be applied to the fox and it will probably be lost and not killed.

I would say that to know exactly where the fox is headed at any given moment will be the real hard bit as we are listening at some distance most of the time and the fox is normally well ahead of the hounds, . I may be a bit suspicious but it does seem to play into your hands to have cause for concern on this when you have no real cause for complaint as to the conduct of the hunting we have conducted thus far.

Why are these new exclusion zones even necessary, we have not created any problems hunting over all the wood all these years, so what has changed or is it a fresh angle to come from, to ban the hounds from these woods.

A few years ago it was the summer hunting stopped, then April was removed, two weeks ago March removed and now February, we've not been banned just stopped from operating.

If something has changed will the public also be banned from these areas. Will there be signs put up, telling them to avoid the zones or to put their dogs on a lead and if not, why not.

Why only the hounds yet again to be singled out for exclusion, as they were with the Juniper disease fiasco.

I would say that most of the concerns I hear from your farming neighbours around that wood, is that their ducks or lambs are being eaten by foxes, Foxes that are breeding in it and feeding cubs all summer.Foxes

that we can no longer deal with, as we used to, due to the ever changing policies of FC. Policies that seem to my way of looking at it, to be a continuous attempt to exclude us from FC land completely.

I and my colleagues also have concerns.

We are concerned the effect these changes FC propose will have on our livelihoods and the viability of the business's we work for.

We are very concerned about the effect your(FC) continued attempts to curb our pest control methods will have on the extremely vulnerable population of waders that try to live and breed on our land next to you.

I am most concerned about what you mentioned to Stuart but omitted in your e mail. Is it correct that FC are drawing up a new code and that if that code says no pest control or no hounds, then that is the end, no consultation, no discussion, no nothing.

That makes everything else we might talk about irrelevant.

The last time we spoke you said that the ecologists that seem to be driving FC policy are independent from FC and are beyond your control, that seems very strange to me when you have ecologists on the payroll, but I don't doubt your word. It may even be convenient as it removes from FC any responsibility or blame for what is done,

I think we should meet but I think we need to talk about more than if hounds can be called off a fox. We need to talk about this new code and what kind of relationship FC is planning to have in the future with its neighbours. There should also be more than me and you in the room, we need the people who are making these decisions and we need some honesty.

Regards

**From:** Cooper, Russell  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 14, 2019 5:17 PM  
**To:**  
**Cc:** Macleod, Alex  
**Subject:** Fox hunt meeting

Hi

If Stuart hasn't updated you about the meeting yesterday with SSE and the windfarm I will give my impression. Both SSE and the windfarm seem quite relaxed about the idea and only need notification etc. which is easy enough for me to do.

Stuart brought up the map I supplied with the exclusion zones marked and he has reservations about the ability of stopping the hounds entering them. He said that the hounds will follow the fox wherever it goes. This is of concern to me because of the exclusion zones and also neighbours as well as the A9

If you could get back to me with more detail on the ability to calling off of the pack when its hunting that would be appreciated

If you want to meet up I will make the time

Regards  
Russell

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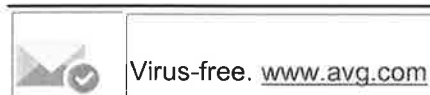
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