

Rebecca Evans AC / AM
Y Dirprwy Weinidog Ffermio a Bwyd
Deputy Minister for Farming and Food



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref
Ein cyf/Our ref - SF/RE/1855/15

Alun Ffred Jones AM
Chair of the Environment and Sustainability Committee
National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1NA

10 July 2015

Dear Alun Ffred,

Thank you for your letter of 12 June about the request for a derogation to the Agreement on International Humane Trapping Standards (AIHTS) to allow the continued use of traps for stoats made by the British Association for Shooting and Conservation (BASC).

The principal aim of the AIHTS is to ensure a sufficient level of welfare for trapped animals by allowing only the use of traps that meet certain humane trapping standards. While the original driver for AIHTS was the welfare of animals trapped for fur, it goes wider than that and includes trapping for wildlife management (including pest control), obtaining fur, skin or meat and capture for conservation purposes. While we do not trap animals for fur in the UK we still have a clear obligation to implement AIHTS.

Spring traps have been legally regulated in Wales since 1957, with their use permitted under successive Spring Traps Approval Orders made under the Pests Act 1954. It is likely, given developments in research, together with improvements in trapping design and technology that certain of the current domestically-approved spring traps will not comply with the humane standards set out in the AIHTS.

If traps currently used for stoats prove to be non-compliant with AIHTS, but cannot be replaced with traps that are, then use of non-compliant traps may be permitted on an interim basis while replacement traps are identified. However, there are traps that are compliant with the AIHTS currently available, or which will be available by the implementation deadline. Therefore the only justification for seeking this derogation for the lethal trapping of stoats would be the cost of replacing non-compliant traps.

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Wedi'i argraffu ar bapur wedi'i ailgylchu (100%)

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Cost or financial impacts are not permitted reasons for derogation under AIHTS. Accordingly, a derogation is not available in these circumstances in respect of the lethal control of stoats in Wales. Therefore Welsh Government has not made any representations to the UK Government (or others) for such a derogation.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rebecca". The script is cursive and fluid.

Rebecca Evans AC / AM
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Deputy Minister for Farming and Food