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Janet Finch-Saunders AM/AC
Chair
Petitions Committee
By email: SeneddPetitions@Assembly.Wales

07 October 2019

Dear Janet Finch-Saunders

Petition P-05-813 Ban the use of Larsen Traps (multi-corvid traps)

Thank you for your letter of 1st October 2019, relating to the above petition.

Recently, NRW has been undertaking a review of some of its General Licences specifically looking at the level of evidence available to support inclusion of the 15 species of wild bird listed on the General Licence suite 001-004 in Wales. We have also appraised the evidence base to determine whether, in Wales, there are no other satisfactory solutions available other than lethal measures or capture.

This review has been carried out in a systematic way using methodology which has been shared and discussed with Natural England, Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH), Defra, Welsh Government and the user and non-user stakeholders in Wales. The evidence considered included, peer-reviewed scientific literature including reviews, unpublished research information commissioned by SNH, stakeholder questionnaires and information gathered as part of the recent Defra 'Call for Evidence' (including anecdotal information). Please find attached a copy of the evidence report.

Our approach, assessments and recommendations for new General Licences 001, 002 and 004 in Wales have been supported and approved by our Board. These new General Licences will be available to users on our website from Monday 7th October 2019.

One of the recommendations approved by our Board was a programme to conduct a wider review of all wild bird licensing in Wales (including General Licences) in 2020. This will gather additional evidence framed in a Welsh context and will be coupled with NRW establishing and convening an expert Wild Bird Licence Working Group to provide an annual review of all wild bird General Licensing in Wales. The details of this wider review (i.e. scope, timescales, outcomes) will be developed in the coming months and presented to our Board in early 2020.

The use of Larsen traps in Wales as a means of legal lethal control of corvids is referenced, together with conditions of use, within the new General Licence suite 001, 002 and 004. Our preferred approach will be to review the use and regulation of Larsen traps in Wales during our proposed wider bird licensing review in 2020. I trust this meets the satisfaction of the Petitions Committee.

Should you need any further clarification please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Clare Pillman', with a horizontal line underneath.

Clare Pillman
Chief Executive

CC Ceri Davies, Executive Director, Evidence, Policy and Permitting
 Mike Evans, Head of Knowledge and Evidence
 Ruth Jenkins, Head of Natural Resource Management Policy