

## **PE1671/H**

Scottish Government submission of 1 December 2017

I refer to the Public Petitions Committee email of 27 October 2017 seeking the Scottish Government's views on Petition PE1671 – Sale and use of Glue Traps, lodged by Lisa Harvey and Andrea Goddard on behalf of let's get MAD for wildlife.

As you are aware, there is currently no legislation governing the use of glue trap boards to catch rodents. However, should an animal be caught in one, then they immediately fall under the Animal Health and Welfare Act 2006 since the animal is now under the control of man.

The Scottish Government recognises the animal welfare concerns associated with the use of glue traps. At the same time we also note that they have a particular value where rodenticides cannot be used, e.g. where food is prepared. We are currently considering three options regarding the use of glue trap boards. The options under consideration are:

- No legislative action, but develop a code of practice for the use of glue traps
- Change the law to limit the use of glue traps to professional pest controllers only
- Change the law to ban the use of glue traps entirely

We will be interested to hear the views of the Committee on these options.

It is likely that any legislative changes would require primary legislation to amend the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (WCA). In considering any changes to the legislation, the Scottish Government would be required to consult with relevant parties.

You may be interested to know that the sale and use of glue traps are currently prohibited in the Republic of Ireland (ROI). There is evidence, provided by the Irish Pest Control Association, that, despite the ban, traps are still being sold and used there, or being bought from the internet from other countries. The concern is that there is insufficient resources to challenge the continued sale or use of glue traps in the ROI.

The Committee also asked about any further action in relation to animal traps that has been taken by the SG since its response to Parliamentary Question S4W-21151 in May 2014. In 2013, the SG and Scientific Advice for Scottish Agricultural (SASA), which is a Division of the Scottish Government's Agriculture and Rural Economy Directorate, convened the Scottish Technical Assessment Group (STAG) to assess technical developments in the control of vertebrate species. The group is made up of relevant stakeholders, including British Association for Shooting and Country Sports, Elmwood College, Scottish Rural Colleges, Game and Wildlife Conservation Trust, Police Scotland / National Wildlife Crime, Scottish Gamekeepers Associated, and the Scottish Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals.

STAG provided significant input into Scottish Natural Heritage's Review of Snaring which was published earlier this year <http://www.gov.scot/Publications/2017/03/8720>.

The Group also provided advice to industry organisations in implementing the Agreement on International Humane Trapping Standards (AIHTS), which is an international agreement (to which the EU is a signatory), for the purpose of establishing humane trapping standards and facilitating trade in fur and fur products.

SASA also represents the SG on the UK Trap Working Group (chaired by Defra), which is overseeing the selection, and to some extent development, of new (lethal) traps that will go forward for testing in support of AIHTS objectives. SASA and SG are working with Defra to identify suitable restraining traps for application (under licence) for other AIHTS listed species relevant to the UK. The Scottish Government intends to take part in a UK-wide consultation with Defra, Welsh Assembly Government, and the Department of Environment Northern Ireland, with a view to implementing AIHTS. This would be achieved by amending the relevant sections of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) and updating the respective Spring Traps Approval Orders accordingly. The consultation is due to be launched in December 2017.

SASA also undertook an 18 month research project looking at welfare implications and practitioner field use of live capture traps, approved for use under the General Licences, which has helped inform SNH on their use, and has helped to support SNH decisions regarding terms and conditions of the General Licences regarding these traps. The reports can be found at

<https://www.sasa.gov.uk/content/assessing-nature-and-use-corvid-cage-traps-scotland-part-2-4-%E2%80%93-field-survey-trap-use>

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