

PE1671/T

Scottish Government submission of 23 March 2020

Thank you for your letter of 30 January 2020 seeking an update on the Scottish Government's current position on Petition 1671 – Sale and Use of Glue Traps, and its response to the concerns outlined by the petitioners in their most recent submission. I apologise for the delay in replying.

As has been mentioned previously, the Scottish Government's preference is to introduce legislation to ban the sale and use of glue traps except by professional pest controllers. To do this would require primary legislation. Unfortunately, there has not been a suitable Bill to take this legislation forward to-date.

You also sought the Scottish Government's comments on the following concerns outlined by the petitioners in their most recent submission of 9 January 2020 in relation to the revised Code of Best Practice produced by the Pest Management Alliance (PMA) relating to the Humane Use of Rodent Glue Boards.

- The requirement to keep detailed records justifying the use of glue trap has been removed.
- The recommendation that a risk assessment and a review of the use of glue traps should be carried out every 24 hours has been removed.
- There has been no increase in the frequency of inspections of set traps.
- There is no requirement to provide proof of the operator's competency prior to purchase and use.
- There is no requirement to keep full records of the frequency of inspections, delays, details of use, trapped species, etc.
- There is no requirement to submit full records to a designated authority in order to monitor and ensure correct use and compliance with the CoBP.

When Roseanna Cunningham, Cabinet Secretary for the Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform gave evidence to the committee on this petition on 26 April, she highlighted that introducing legislation to ban the sale and use of glue traps may take some time, but we could introduce a code of practice that was explicit to Scotland in the meantime.

As you may be aware, the Scottish Government has now established the Scottish Animal Welfare Commission which will focus on protecting wild and companion animals while also providing scientific and ethical advice to government. On this basis, we suggest that the Scottish Government raises the issue of glue traps with them and seek their input into a code of practice specifically for the use of glue traps in Scotland.