Thank you for inviting me to respond regarding consideration of petition PE1674, particularly in the context of conservation of Scottish wildcats.

I am a member of the Steering Group Scottish Wildcat Action (SWA), representing the Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies’ input into the Scottish Wildcat Conservation Action Plan (SWCAP), and provide the lead for this group on control of domestic cats, in relation to the health and conservation of Scottish wildcats, but also as a veterinary surgeon in relation to the health and welfare of the domestic cat population.

I lead the SWCAP’s subgroup on domestic cat control which receives additional input and advice from my colleague Professor Danielle Gunn-Moore, Chair of Feline Medicine at the Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies, and my response also reflects Professor Gunn-Moore’s input as an international expert in cat health and welfare.

I prepared a report on behalf of SWCAP in 2016, which I believe states very clearly my position on this issue, and that of SWCAP. Rather than repeat the information in this report within this response, I would note that it is included as annex B to the petitioner’s submission of 22 November 2017.