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Graeme Dey MSP

Convener

Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform

Committee

The Scottish Parliament

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24 November 2016

Dear Graeme,

I am writing to advise you that the fourth annual report on Wildlife Crime in Scotland, covering the calendar year 2015, with new data from financial year 2014-15, will be laid before Parliament on 25 November 2016, and published on the Scottish Government website shortly afterwards.

This report has been produced under Section 26B of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended by the Wildlife and Natural Environment (Scotland) Act 2011). This section provides that Ministers must lay a report every calendar year on offences which relate to wildlife, to include information on incidences and prosecutions during the year to which the report relates, and on research and advice relevant to those offences.

You will note that the report continues to build on feedback from the Rural Affairs, Climate Change and Environment Committee and I understand that the new Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform Committee will consider wildlife crime, and this latest report, in due course. I hope that you find the report helpful and informative.

Yours,

**Roseanna Cunningham**