

Dear Lynn Tullis

I am the Chief Superintendent of the Scottish SPCA.

I am writing to you as the Clerk of the Environment Committee regarding this morning's evidence session on the wildlife crime report.

During the second session, a question was asked regarding the proposed powers of the Scottish SPCA. Mr Andy Smith representing the Scottish Gamekeepers Association stated a concern over the motives of the Scottish SPCA and stated that he had been informed that the Scottish SPCA Chief Superintendent had attended a Westminster parliamentary debate on Grouse shooting. As the only Chief Superintendent with the Scottish SPCA, I can categorically state that this is incorrect, neither I nor any member of Scottish SPCA staff attended this Westminster debate and the Scottish SPCA does not lobby against lawful sports shooting.

I did attend a Westminster debate in July, but this was to give evidence to the EFRA committee in relation to the difference in animal welfare prosecutions in Scotland as compared to the English and Welsh model, and the difference between the Scottish SPCA and the RSPCA, a full transcript of EFRA committee meeting can be found on the Westminster EFRA pages.

I would appreciate if you could bring the above information to the attention of all the committee members, and a post note added to the minutes.

I have known Mr Andy Smith for many years (stretching back to his days as a Police Officer) and I believe that this has been a genuine mistake on his part, either through misinformation or misinterpretation.

I have already spoken to Mr Smith and informed him that I intended to write to the Committee to clarify this matter, I do not have an e mail address for Mr Smith, but I am happy for you to forward this message to him.

I do not need a reply to this e mail, but I would appreciate if you could acknowledge receipt to make sure I have sent it to the correct person.

Mike Flynn

11 January 2017