

Respondent Information Form

Please Note this form **must** be returned with your response to ensure that we handle your response appropriately



1. Name/Organisation

Organisation Name

Scottish Wildlife Trust

Title Mr Ms Mrs Miss Dr *Please tick as appropriate*

Surname

Keegan

Forename

Maggie

2. Postal Address

Harbourside House

110 Commercial St

Edinburgh

Postcode EH6 6NF Phone 0131 312 4762 Email mkeegan@swt.org.uk

3. Permissions - I am responding as...

Individual / **Group/Organisation**
 Please tick as appropriate

(a) Do you agree to your response being made available to the public (in Scottish Government library and/or on the Scottish Government web site)?
Please tick as appropriate
 Yes **No**

(b) Where confidentiality is not requested, we will make your responses available to the public on the following basis

(c) The name and address of your organisation **will be** made available to the public (in the Scottish Government library and/or on the Scottish Government web site).

Are you content for your **response** to be made available?

Please tick ONE of the following boxes

Yes, make my response, name and address all available

or

Yes, make my response available, but not my name and address

or

Yes, make my response and name available, but not my address

Please tick as appropriate

Yes No

(d) We will share your response internally with other Scottish Government policy teams who may be addressing the issues you discuss. They may wish to contact you again in the future, but we require your permission to do so. Are you content for Scottish Government to contact you again in relation to this consultation exercise?

No **Please tick as appropriate** Yes

Consultation Response Form

Q1. Do you agree that the law in Scotland should be changed to give the SSPCA the powers as set out in section 4.1?

Yes No

Q2. Please set out your reasons for your answer to Q1.

Wildlife crime encompasses both the very evident, illegal and harmful activities such as badger bating, raptor persecution and egg collecting to the not so obvious such as inappropriate disposal of chemicals, fly tipping and introduction of invasive non-native species - all of which can destroy species' habitats and damage ecosystem health and ultimately Scotland's stock of natural capital.

Having a flagrant disregard and lack of respect for the environment and wildlife law can lead to actions that have long-lasting and devastating consequences for the species' affected as well as damaging Scotland's reputation and the economy.

The spate of red kite and buzzard poisonings in Ross-shire highlights the fact that some individuals are determined to flout the law, for their own selfish needs. It is obvious that the recently strengthened wildlife legislation has failed to halt or change the behaviour of some and, as such crimes often occur in very remote areas, the recent deaths may only be the tip of the iceberg in terms of real persecution levels.

The Scottish Wildlife Trust believes that to prevent wildlife crime, prosecute those responsible and in the end, discourage others from committing offenses under the Wildlife and Countryside Act, there must be the means to investigate reported incidents, particularly as they often occur in remote locations.

This comes down to ensuring there are enough inspectors who can respond quickly. Therefore, we believe there must be sufficient resources to enable Police Scotland - through the wildlife crime liaison officers and specialist wildlife crime officers, working in conjunction with appropriate partners - to provide a robust and rapid response to reported incidents. This will enable Scotland to move towards lowering the number of incidents of wildlife crime whilst at the same time ensuring that those wildlife crimes investigated, through gathering of sufficient evidence, lead to successful prosecution of those responsible.

To this end, we support the proposal to change the law to give the SSPCA powers as set out in section 4.1, as this will substantially increase the number of inspectors who are able to gather evidence of Wildlife and Countryside Act offences.

Q3. If you would prefer to see changes to the SSPCA's powers to investigate wildlife crime other than those set out in section 4.1, please describe them.

The Scottish Wildlife Trust believes that the powers proposed in Section 4.1 are appropriate and therefore the Trust has no further suggestions in this section.

Please return the completed forms to: sspcaconsultation@scotland.gsi.gov.uk