

## Dear SACS Member

Following our statements on our [news page](#) and in our online [newsletter](#), if you wish to help our lobbying work for fox control using dogs in Scotland, you can use the template below to write to your MSP.

To find your MSP, visit this [link](#) and **type in your postcode**, then click '**more info**' next to the MSP's name and then **click on their email address**. Please write to your **CONSTITUENCY MSP** first; if you have time, you can write to the Regional MSPs too. Just **cut and paste the text below into your email**, making sure to add your MSP's name at the top and your own name at the bottom. Your email subject line should read '**Please Help Rural Scotland**'.

NOTE: IF MAIRI GOUGEON IS YOUR MSP, PLEASE AMEND THE TEXT ACCORDINGLY!

Let us know how you get on by forwarding your MSP responses to [info@sacs.org.uk](mailto:info@sacs.org.uk). We are carrying out other work behind the scenes to help our members on this vital issue, but this is a chance for you to help us to help you!

Thanks for your time,

**THE SACS TEAM**

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### **Subject: Please Help Rural Scotland**

Dear **[INSERT NAME OF MSP HERE]**

I am your constituent, and I write to ask for your help protecting vulnerable ground-nesting birds and hard-working farmer's livestock. Springtime is on its way, when eggs, chicks and lambs are easily predated. Also on its way is Brexit, which as I am sure you know is causing great concern with regard to our environment laws and our livestock sector.

On 9 January, RANE Minister Mairi Gougeon made a statement to the Parliament proposing significant restrictions on the use of dogs in lawful fox control. In making this statement, the Minister ignored scientific evidence and the Scottish Government's own taxpayer-funded Bonomy report into fox control; she also ignored the lived experience of people like me.

I use dogs to help control foxes. Where I live, the terrain and vegetation mean that other forms of fox control are less efficient. I am talking about typical Scottish landscape features common across the country from the Borders to the Islands. I need to use more than two dogs in order to locate and flush out foxes to be humanely shot. The Minister proposed a new licensing system to be used by people like me, who HAVE to use more than two dogs to properly manage our local fox population for the benefit of birds like the red-listed Curlew, as well as my neighbouring farmers' lambs at this time of year.

I am writing to you as my MSP, to ask you to support rural Scotland. Support the recovery of rare birds, that can't afford to lose chicks to foxes. Support our farmers, who can't afford to lose livestock to predators. And support our rural communities, who are forever having things done to us by politicians who seem to have no empathy and just use us as a political football.

Please don't confuse animal welfare, which people like me understand well and take good care to observe, with animal rights, an extreme ideology that has no place in the Scottish Parliament. I don't hate foxes, but I take responsibility for their proper management and as an experienced and skilled grassroots practitioner, I know best how to do this. Lord Bonomy agreed with me.

When you are having your debates and discussions with your colleagues, who were all elected to serve their constituents, please take heed of what I have said. When the time comes to vote, do the right thing: make sure the Minister's proposed licensing scheme for multiple dogs is kept, and vote against restrictions to my vital work making the Scottish countryside a well-managed place.

Yours sincerely,

**[INSERT YOUR NAME HERE]**