Dear Roseanna,

PE1615: State regulated licensing system for gamebird hunting in Scotland

The above petition, from Logan Steele on behalf of the Scottish Raptor Study Group, was recently referred to the Committee. It calls on the Scottish Parliament to urge the Scottish Government to implement urgent action to introduce a state regulated system of licensing of gamebird hunting, that addresses the potentially adverse environmental impact of gamebird hunting, provides for the revocation or amendment of licences where a licence-holder fails to comply with their terms and conditions, and to implement the recommendations of the Review of Wildlife Crime Penalties in Scotland.

In considering the petition at its meeting on 31 January 2017, the Committee wished to consider the SNH commissioned research on gamebird licensing systems in selected other countries prior to considering any further courses of action. The Committee also wished to gain a better understanding of whether current measures in this area are effective. These might include general gun licenses and vicarious liability.

The Committee therefore agreed to write to you to seek further information on:

- when the SNH commissioned research on gamebird licensing systems in selected other countries will be published; and
- the operation of current related legislation in this area and whether the Scottish Government has any plans to review the current licensing regime.

The Committee hopes to consider the petition again prior to Easter so I would be grateful if you could respond by Tuesday 7 March.
Yours sincerely,

Graeme Dey MSP
Convener
Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform Committee