

Lesley Griffiths AS/MS
Y Gweinidog Materion Gwledig a Gogledd Cymru, a'r
Trefnydd Minister for Rural Affairs and North Wales, and
Trefnydd



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Ein cyf/Our ref LG/00248/23

Matthew Goodall

May 2023

Thank you for meeting with me on 30 March, regarding the use of Code-compliant snares as part of conservation activities related to ground nesting birds and also for your email of 5 May suggesting amendments to the Agriculture (Wales) Bill.

Controlling foxes by using snares is not the sole key to protecting curlew. Many factors are involved in the decline in their numbers. Any intervention needs to be considered in relation to the balance of the whole system of wildlife and habitats likely to be affected. Protecting any given animal could include habitat management or enhancement, the use of barriers such as electric fencing and in some instances, lethal predator control to restore ecosystem balance. The snare use ban will not prevent other lethal methods of predator control such as shooting.

Officials have considered a regulated licensing system as laid out in the Explanatory Memorandum to the Agriculture (Wales) Bill, however, it was determined regulation of this kind would be unable to meet the primary objective to raise animal welfare standards due to the indiscriminate nature of snares and the suffering they can cause to a wide range of species.

I would like to clarify one particular point of discussion at our meeting. A Code compliant snare and a humane cable restraint are identical in every way. It was GWCT who provided the description and diagram which forms part of the published Welsh Government Code of Best Practice on the use of snares in fox control. The exact same description and diagram was provided to my officials by GWCT in the humane cable restraint literature and was

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Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

shown to officials and demonstrated in the field to them on a training course jointly run by GWCT and BASC.

Once again, I would like to thank you and your colleagues and in particular for taking the time to prepare a presentation.

Lesley Griffiths AS/MS

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Minister for Rural Affairs and North Wales, and Trefnydd**