

E-MAIL FROM: John F. Robins, Campaigns Consultant, Animal Concern, Post Office Box 5178, Dumbarton G82 5YJ. Tel: 01389-841-639, Mobile: 07721-605521. Animal Concern incorporates the Scottish Anti-Vivisection Society which has been Campaigning for animals since 1876
E-MAIL: animals@jfrobin.force9.co.uk website: <http://www.animalconcern.org/>

Dr. Aileen McLeod MSP,
Minister for Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform,
St Andrew's House,
Regent Road,
Edinburgh EH1 3DG

Dear Minister,

On the 21st of August I wrote to you concerning the untenable position of Mr. George Pullar of Usan Salmon Fisheries Ltd. who was a member of the Stakeholder Reference Group established to advise you on proposals for new legislation on wild fisheries. Mr. Pullar had admitted 9 breaches of salmon conservation legislation and Forfar Sheriff Court had fined Usan £7,000 for these serious crimes against wildlife conservation law.

I have had two acknowledgements of my e-mail to you (Ref 2015/0028767 and ref 2015/0028775) but as yet no reply.

I note that Mr. Pullar is still listed on the Government website as a member of the Stakeholder Reference Group. Surely you must agree that this it is unacceptable to have someone guilty of wildlife crime as an advisor to you on wildlife legislation?

In today's newspapers there are reports of the sentencing of gamekeeper Mr. William Dick of Newlands Estate in Dumfries and Galloway. Mr. Dick was fined £2,000 after being found guilty of the illegal killing of a buzzard. As far as I am aware the Scottish Gamekeepers Association (SGA) has refused to confirm or deny that Mr. Dick is a SGA member. Over recent years several gamekeepers in Scotland have been found guilty of a variety of wildlife crimes, mainly concerning persecution of raptors.

I note that Mr. Duncan Ferguson of the Scottish Gamekeepers Association is also a Member of the Wild Fisheries Reform Stakeholder Reference Group. I request that you ascertain whether or not gamekeeper William Dick or any of the other gamekeepers found guilty of wildlife crimes in recent years were members of the Scottish Gamekeepers Association at the time they committed their crimes. If it is the case that Mr. Dick and/or other Members of the SGA have been convicted of wildlife crimes then I ask that the SGA be removed from the Stakeholder Reference Group on Wild Fisheries Reform and any other position as advisor to the Scottish Government.

I look forward to your reply.

Yours sincerely,

John F. Robins,
Secretary to Animal Concern