

Lesley Griffiths AC/AM  
Gweinidog yr Amgylchedd, Ynni a Materion Gwledig  
Minister for Environment, Energy and Rural Affairs



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-05-813  
Ein cyf/Our ref LG/05626/19

Janet Finch-Saunders AM  
Chair - Petitions Committee

Janet.FinchSaunders@assembly.wales

April 2019

Dear Janet

Thank you for your letter of 20 March regarding Petition P-05-813, "Ban the Use of Larsen Traps (Multi Corvid Traps)". I have noted the RSPCA and RSPB's concerns about the use and regulation of these traps.

All wild birds and their eggs and nests are protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended). However, Natural Resources Wales (NRW) issue a number of General Licences which allow authorised persons to kill or take these 'pest' species (e.g. Carrion crow, Jackdaw, Jay, Magpie and Rook) using certain specified methods, including the use of cages for trapping.

The welfare of decoy birds in Larsen traps is important and any live birds used in this context are considered captive (i.e. kept). They therefore fall within the scope of, and protection conferred by, the Animal Welfare Act 2006 (as amended). Section 9 of this Act places the duty on the person responsible for animals to ensure welfare and sets out the needs of animals to include;

- a suitable environment;
- a suitable diet;
- ability to exhibit normal behaviour patterns;
- to be housed with, or apart from, other animals (as necessary); and
- the need to be protected from pain, suffering injury and disease.

The requirement to be compliant with all relevant animal welfare legislation is made clear in the conditions of the General Licences. Additionally, the conditions of a General Licence issued under the Wildlife and Countryside Act and the requirements of the Animal Welfare Act 2006 makes it an offence if an operator:

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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.

- Uses a Larsen trap without first reading and understanding the General Licence under which they will be operating;
- Fails to check the trap every day at intervals of no more than 24 hours;
- Fails to release non-target species unharmed;
- Uses decoy/call birds other than those listed in the General Licence under which they are operating; and
- Fails to provide decoy/call birds with sufficient food, water, shelter and a perch

I strongly believe the way we treat our birds and animals is an important reflection of the values of our society. Animals and birds should therefore be protected and those who choose to break the law should be duly prosecuted.

Regards  
Lesley

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