

Sir David Henshaw  
Chair, Natural Resources Wales  
Ty Cambria  
29 Newport Road  
Cardiff  
CF24 0TP

21<sup>st</sup> September 2022

Dear Sir David

Following our letter to you dated 23 August 2022, which ended with our request for an opportunity to meet and discuss how we might go forward with regards to trail hunting, it is disappointing to see that that this offer has not been taken up and that the Executive Team are keen to ask the Board not to review the decision made in November 2021, despite recent developments. Our position as set out in the letter, which is attached for reference, remains.

I have read the papers ahead of tomorrow's meeting, and the suggestion that licences cannot be issued because NRW cannot police trail hunting is totally discriminatory. Any number of activities take place on NRW land that could be a 'cover' for illegality and which NRW does not police. Trail hunting has taken place under the conditions of the licence on NRW land since 2005 with no suggestion that NRW could ever have been 'knowingly permitting' illegal hunting. Given that no-one has ever been convicted of an offence under that part of the Act it is untenable to suggest that an authority which is issuing strict licences for trail hunting activity could ever be considered likely to fall foul of this provision of the Act.

NRW's enforcement officers already undertake multifunctional roles and have a broad understanding of many laws that apply which enables them to make clear judgement on what is a legal or illegal activity on NRW land. The policing of angling would be an example, particularly people's activities in relation to bylaws such as those relating to catch and release or more frequently the act of poaching.

To refuse access for a lawful recreational activity is an unjust punishment of people who have been guilty of no offence and who simply want to access land that is managed by NRW for the benefit of all the people of Wales. To refuse to consider granting licences for the reasons suggested is unjust. As a licensed activity it would remain open to NRW to withdraw a licence were there be good reason to do so, which surely makes enforcement far easier than enforcing restrictions that apply to other types of access. To prejudge those involved in trail hunting is wrong.

I would urge Board Members to review the decision made on trail hunting and to be given the opportunity to be presented with information on how trail hunting is progressing under the new management team at the British Hound Sports

Association. Without being presented with such information I cannot see how the Board can make a fair and informed decision.

Yours faithfully

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*Rachel*

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CC All board members via secretariat

CC Clare Pillman, Chief Executive