

Rural Affairs and Islands Committee

Natural Environment (Scotland) Bill

Part 1 - Targets for improving biodiversity

1. Are statutory nature targets needed in Scotland?
2. Are you satisfied with the proposed topics for nature targets set out in the Bill?
3. Do you have a view on the framework established in the Bill for how nature targets will be governed, including how targets will be set, monitored, reviewed and reported on?
4. Is there anything else you would like to say about Part 1 of the Bill on nature targets?

Part 2 – Power to modify or restate environmental impact assessment (EIA) legislation and Habitats Regulations

1. Do you support the Scottish Government being granted powers to modify or restate EIA legislation and Habitats Regulations?
2. Do you agree with the purposes set out in the Bill for which powers to amend those regimes may be used?
3. Is there anything else you would like to say about Part 2 of the Bill on powers to modify EIA legislation and Habitats Regulations?

Part 3 – National Parks

1. Do you agree with proposed changes to the aims of National Parks in the Bill?
2. Do you agree with new duties around the implementation of National Park Plans that are set out in the Bill?
3. Do you support provisions in the Bill enabling the Scottish Government to make regulations for the issuing of fixed penalty notices for breaches of National Park byelaws?
4. Is there anything else you would like to say about Part 3 of the Bill on National Parks?

Part 4 – Deer management

1. Do you agree with the proposed changes in the Bill to the statutory aims and purposes of deer management?
2. Do you have any comments on Section 11 of the Bill regarding NatureScot representation on advisory panels?
3. Do you agree with the proposed changes in Section 12 which changes how frequently NatureScot reviews compliance with the code of practice for deer management?
4. Do you support the new ground for intervention by NatureScot for the purpose of nature restoration, as set out in the Bill?
5. Do you agree with modifications set out in the Bill for the operation of deer management plans, control agreements and control schemes?
6. Do you agree with the proposed changes to investigatory powers for NatureScot as set out in Section 21 and Section 22 of the Bill?

7. . Do you have a view on proposals in the Bill for changes to the authorisations issued by NatureScot for:
 - a. the culling of deer during the closed seasons
 - b. the culling of deer at night
 - c. the use of vehicles to drive deer
8. Do you support a new offence of shooting a deer with a shotgun, along with a corresponding ability for NatureScot to authorise the activity in appropriate circumstances?
9. Do you have any comments on Section 28 and 30 of the Bill in regard to the register of authorised persons and requirement to be fit and competent for certain authorisations?
10. Do you agree that a new offence should be created for a person failing to report the taking or killing of stray farmed deer?
11. Do you agree with provisions which remove the need for venison dealer licences?
12. Is there anything else you would like to say about Part 4 of the Bill on deer management?

General/aspects not in the Bill

1. Are there any areas not addressed by the Bill that you believe should be included? If so, what are they?