

Shooting of White-fronted Geese in Wales – response to Welsh Assembly Petitions Committee

Again, I would like to thank the minister for kindly responding to this petition and to the petitions committee for continuing with this. I would also like to stress that, in addition to the petition to the Assembly there is also an accompanying petition of 3,678 supporters.

I am again exasperated by both ministers failure to provide a rationale reason why they will not support the full protection of such an important endangered species. I think the key point is that it is not up to us to prove geese are being shot as we have no access to that sort of information. The fact is they have been shot in areas such as Anglesey and there is still no way of preventing it happening again in the future. Professor Fox's evidence clearly shows that mortality from shooting has a big impact on the population and that with so few birds returning to Wales now any further losses of breeding age birds will be very serious.

Secondly the population this year is likely to be below the level that should trigger action under the African - European Water bird Agreement and there is no sign that Welsh Government are proposing any such action - a shooting ban would be a good first move.

Aaron Davies ACIEEM MSc BSc (Hons)