



The British Association for Shooting & Conservation

Our Reference: GA/lr/Chr

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Dear Chair

Agreement on International Humane Trapping Standards

I am writing to ask for your help to obtain derogation to enable the continued use of legal traps for stoats.

The Agreement on International Humane Trapping Standards (AIHTS) is an agreement between the European Union, Russia, Canada and latterly the US to improve the welfare standards associated with 'fur trapping'.

Humane spring traps have been legally regulated in Wales since 1957 and their use is permitted under the Spring Traps Approval Orders which are regularly updated. In Wales the Spring Traps Approval Orders were updated in 2012. The updated orders provide the necessary competent authority approval to use existing humane traps.

Trapping stoats in Wales is carried out for the protection of wildlife. In particular it protects ground nesting birds. Stoats are not trapped for their fur in Wales.

Given these circumstances BASC requests derogation under the terms of the AIHTS. This would be both appropriate and legal as provided for by Article 10 1(c) – the need to protect fauna and flora.

BASC is worried that if the AIHTS is implemented the continued use of hitherto legal traps would be made illegal. This would prevent the control of stoats and other pests, including rats and grey squirrels.

The procedure for developing testing and approving a trap for stoats under the AIHTS would make it uneconomic. This would be detrimental and have unintended consequences for biodiversity.

I would be grateful if you could give this consideration.

Similar letters have been sent to the Minister for Natural Resources and the Deputy Minister for Farming and Food as well as all competent authorities in the UK.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

Gary Ashton
Director, BASC Wales

The British Association for Shooting and Conservation Limited

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