

[REDACTED] (Defra)

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 23 May 2013 13:06  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: Snares

[REDACTED] it is my turn to apologise – sorry for the very belated acknowledgment of all this information, which is most helpful. We would certainly hope to see some action in the wake of the research report published last year. Meanwhile the reports on our SnareWatch website continue to show the badgers and cats are extremely common non-target victims of snares.

We will ask our supporters in England to let their elected representatives know their views and I will be sure to inform you of any planned supporter actions that may land on your desk.

Best wishes  
[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 08 May 2013 16:50  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: Snares

Sorry [REDACTED] just realised sent to wrong email first time.

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 08 May 2013 16:46  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Snares

[REDACTED]  
Thank you for your email and patience. I appreciate that from the outside progress may seem slow. Ministers have been keen for us to work through with them in some detail the various possible options and this is often more complex than might at first appear. To answer your specific points in turn:

- what progress has been made by DEFRA towards further regulation of snaring;

Ministers committed to looking at all possible options, not just regulation, and have been doing this. As part of this we are still exploring possible routes that could lead to regulation in case Ministers wish to pursue such options. However, Ministers currently have no powers to regulate snares, so any regulation would require changes to primary legislation and as you will appreciate that severely limits opportunities. We are also working against the wider government backdrop of 'one in : two out' with regard to regulatory burdens on businesses.

- whether a consultation is pending and, if so, what options are likely to be considered;

A consultation is not pending at present. Any major change of policy is likely to require a consultation, but as Ministers have not settled on a specific way forward we do not yet know if a consultation will be needed nor, if one is, what it might cover.

- whether it is the view of DEFRA that measures to ban or regulate the use of snares might be included in the proposed wildlife legislation for England and Wales under consideration by the Law Commission.

I can only answer for England:- Yes and no. Ministers have yet to decide if the LC work will be taken forward into a Bill. A Ministerial decision on whether or not to continue is expected this summer. Assuming it does go ahead the LC Bill is looking to introduce framework legislation, not address single issues. It could introduce powers for Ministers to regulate methods of killing or taking, possibly with qualifications such as for welfare/conservation reasons etc. However we would not expect it to deal with the issue of whether or not a particular method or taking or killing needs regulation –that would be for Ministers to decide afterwards once Parliament had given them the power to act. So regulating snares (should Ministers choose that option) could come about as a result of the LC Bill, but most likely after it rather than as part of it.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 29 April 2013 13:54  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Snaring report - follow up

[REDACTED]

I was pleased to meet you around a year ago to discuss the DEFRA report on the extent of use and humaneness of snaring, and also to discuss the report with Ashley by telephone. I am attaching a copy of our comments on the report for ease of reference.

These discussions were very useful for OneKind and I subsequently wrote to the then Minister, Lord Taylor, in July 2012, setting out our concerns about the report and asking what action was likely to follow publication. At the time it was expected that a consultation on the options would follow.

I am writing now to ask:

- what progress has been made by DEFRA towards further regulation of snaring;
- whether a consultation is pending and, if so, what options are likely to be considered; and
- whether it is the view of DEFRA that measures to ban or regulate the use of snares might be included in the proposed wildlife legislation for England and Wales under consideration by the Law Commission.

In its consultation paper, the Law Commission suggested (para 5.48) 'that "animal welfare" could be added to the list of factors that decision makers must have regard to when taking decisions concerning wildlife within our provisionally proposed regime. Specifically, the welfare of those animals potentially affected by a decision should be considered.'

The example of licensing was given in this context, but it was not suggested that this was the only area where animal welfare should be a consideration. In its response, OneKind expressed the view that the Commission's proposed single wildlife statute should address the severe animal welfare problems caused by the use of snares in England and Wales.

Since we were in touch, further regulations have been introduced for Scotland under the Wildlife and Natural Environment (Scotland) Act 2011, covering the requirements for snare operators to be trained in the use of the traps, and to attach an identification number to each snare, showing whether it is intended to trap a fox, rabbit or

brown hare. Early indications are, however, that the uptake of the training is lower than it should be (assuming that industry figures for the number of snare users are accurate); and our field officer has already found untagged snares in locations around Scotland, meaning that police time now has to be taken up on enforcement.

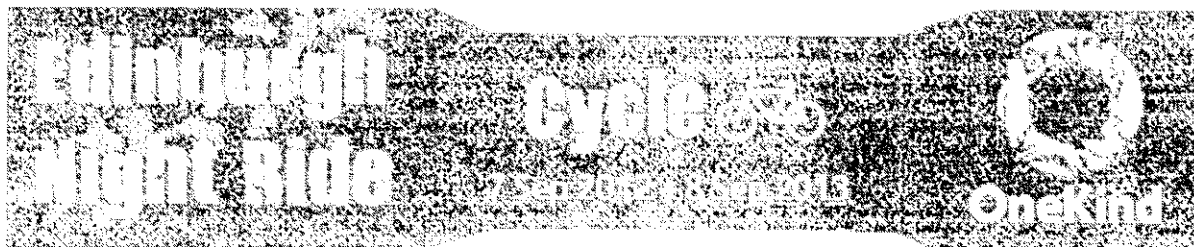
We remain convinced that an outright ban on snares, across the UK, is the only way to end the animal suffering and the high rate of non-target capture caused by snares, and that government has a legal and ethical duty on it to address these problems.

I should be very grateful if you could let me have an indication of current thinking in the department, and any developments expected in the near future.

With best wishes,

[Redacted signature]

HumanKind. AnimalKind. **OneKind.**



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Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra)

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