



**Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs**

From the Private Secretary
Parliamentary Under Secretary for the Environment

Seacole Building
2 Marsham Street
London
SW1P 4DF

T 03459 335577
defra.helpline@defra.gsi.gov.uk
www.gov.uk/defra

Rachael Hamilton MSP
M2.02
The Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh
EH99 1SP

Your ref: PC0005
Our ref: MC2018/17444

03 September 2018

Dear Rachael,

Thank you for your letter of 10 August on behalf of your constituent about reintroduction of lynx. In the absence of the Minister responsible for this policy area, I am replying on her behalf.

I understand the real concerns that people on both sides of the border have about the Lynx Trust's proposal, which is why any decision needs to be taken very carefully.

As you may be aware, the Secretary of State will be making the decision on advice from Natural England, which has a good understanding of the wide range of stakeholder views, from concerns such as animal welfare to support for the proposal, from both sides of the border.

Natural England's advice to the Secretary of State will include a full technical assessment of the proposal against relevant legislation and International Union for Conservation of Nature guidelines, including an assessment of the overall feasibility of the reintroduction proposal; an evaluation of the environmental and socio-economic risks and benefits; and an assessment of the viability of the reintroduction methodology, monitoring proposals and the adequacy of the exit strategy.

A decision on the licence application will be made in due course.

Yours sincerely,

Private Secretary
Office of the Parliamentary Under Secretary for the Environment