

## Annex E

### Copies of any correspondence between Defra and the industry before or after meetings

#### Item 9

**From:** [REDACTED]@defra.gov.uk

**Sent:** 20 November 2020 15:58

**To:** [REDACTED]@defra.gov.uk

**Cc:** [REDACTED]@defra.gov.uk

**Subject:** Interim Gamebird Licence Meeting

Dear All,

Thank you for attending the meeting. The presentation slides are attached.

Defra's witness statement and accompanying exhibits can be accessed [here](#).

Kind Regards,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] | General Licensing Review Team

Defra | Area 5C, Nobel House, 17 Smith Square, London SW1P 3JR

Email: [REDACTED]@defra.gov.uk | [REDACTED]



# Gamebird Licensing Stakeholders Forum

19<sup>th</sup> November 2020

## Gamebird Licensing Forum

- Ongoing consultation with key industry and NGO interests
- Identify concerns and contribute evidence
- Provide clarity on timeframes
- To discuss key elements of the licensing regime

# Timeline

General Licensing Implementation

ID	Task	02 Nov 20	09 Nov 20	16 Nov 20	23 Nov 20	30 Nov 20	07 Dec 20	14 Dec 20	21 Dec 20	28 Dec 20	04 Jan 21	11 Jan 21	18 Jan 21	25 Jan 21	01 Feb 21	08 Feb 21	15 Feb 21	22 Feb 21	01 Mar 21	08 Mar 21	15 Mar 21	22 Mar 21	29 Mar 21	05 Apr 21	12 Apr 21	19 Apr 21	26 Apr 21	03 May 21	10 May 21	17 May 21	24 May 21	31 May 21		
1	Meetings																																	
	Working Group 1																																	
	Project Board																																	
	Stakeholder Engagement																																	
2	Planning Stage																																	
3	Technical GL conditions development																																	
4	General Licence development/Launch																																	
5	Impact Assessment																																	
6	consultation																																	
7	SI for amending Sch 9, Explanatory Memoranda and parliamentary process																																	

**Key Dates**

- February 1st - Licence conditions agreed
- February 8th - 26th - Formal Consultation
- April 19th - May 14th - SI laid in parliament
- w/c 24th May - Licence Launch

## Gamebird Licence

- Defra will design licensing arrangements to operate on EU protected sites and a buffer around them
- This may involve a combination of a general licence and other licensing options
- Consideration needs to be given to the following:
  - The different levels of sensitivity across the series of EU protected sites
  - The geographic scope of a GL in these respects (the more sensitive the land, the tighter the conditions are likely to need to be)
  - What will work best for users – e.g. a single (potentially tighter/more prescriptive arrangement) that applies across the piece, or a less restrictive GL backed up with other licensing options (e.g. individual licensing on more sensitive areas)
  - The importance of understanding the locations, scale and nature of shoots to inform these decisions

## Release Statistics

- APHA Poultry Register analysis

Site only	19
Site and 500m buffer	277

- Register is under reported with 24m birds

- We need clarification on accuracy of these figures

- Release estimate is 60m gamebird annually.

---

5

## Release Statistics

- Shoots operating both (a) within the boundaries of European protected sites (SACs and SPAs), and (b) within a buffer zone immediately surrounding around these sites.
- For each species (pheasants and red-legged partridge) it would be helpful to know:
  - The number of shoots currently in operation
  - The names of the individual sites the shoots are operating within or around sites
  - Whether these shoots are operating (or can operate) within existing industry best practice standards (including bird densities of <1000 birds/ha and <700 birds/ha for sensitive habitats) i.e. the sustainable gamebird releasing guidelines produced by GCWT in 2007
  - The total numbers of birds released by each shoot (for each species)
  - How significant the releases taking place within or around these sites are, as a proportion of all releasing undertaken by the shoots

---

6

Item 11

**From:** [REDACTED]@gwct.org.uk

**Sent:** 13 January 2021 11:18

**To:** [REDACTED]@defra.gov.uk; [REDACTED]@msn.com; Sargeant, Anna [REDACTED]

**Cc:** [REDACTED]@basc.org.uk; [REDACTED]@basc.org.uk; [REDACTED]@msn.com; [REDACTED]@moorlandassociation.org; [REDACTED]@countryside-alliance.org; [REDACTED]@defra.gov.uk

**Subject:** RE: Gamebird release meeting next week

Dear Anna

Please find below the automatic email response received from NE in relation to a Wildlife Licensing application I submitted last week. I have highlighted the text that caused me some concern about NE's capacity and ability to process applications this spring. Please could you forward to [REDACTED], I don't have his email address.

Thanks for your time on the call this morning, which was very useful.

Kind regards

[REDACTED]

Thank you for your email to: GenLicencePh2, Wildlife Licensing, Natural England.

If you have submitted an application form please accept this email as an acknowledgment of receipt. We will begin to process your application as soon as possible. Natural England aims to respond within 30 working days of an application being accepted, but these decisions can take longer at peak times. We will try to tell you if we expect this will take longer.

Due to Covid-19 the Natural England Wildlife Licensing Service (NEWLS) expects to operate at a reduced capacity across all of our licence types for the foreseeable future. This will impact on our usual service standards and will affect the initial administration of your licence application, its assessment and the issue of the licence decision to you. We apologise for any inconvenience this may cause you and we will endeavour to provide regular updates to our applicants.

Natural England is providing more information on gull licence applications which is updated regularly, at

<https://naturalengland.blog.gov.uk/2020/04/21/update-on-licences-for-the-control-of-herring-gull-and-lesser-black-backed-gull/>

**For licence applications relating to Herring and Lesser Black Backed Gulls, if your application is incomplete, you may choose to submit supplementary information or a revised application. Please check the guidance on <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/wild-birds-licence-to-disturb-kill-or-take-for-health-or-safety/licence-to-control-lesser-black-backed-gulls-and-herring-gulls-what-to-include-in-your-application> to make sure you have completed your application with all the relevant information. Please pay close attention to:**

- **Section 5, especially if your application is for Conservation purposes.**
- **Section 8, which requires specific numbers for the adults, chicks, eggs and nests of gulls you intend to control. This section also requires detailed locations, and a map if applying for a larger area.**
- **Section 11, which must state whether you are applying for an urban or rural site if you are applying to control gulls.**

**If your application requires any further information, please send a revised application to us as soon as possible. Please reference in the title of your email that this is a Resubmission.\***

For information Defra has issued general licences to:

- [kill or take wild birds to conserve wild birds and to conserve flora and fauna \(GL34\)](#)
- [kill or take wild birds to preserve public health or public safety \(GL35\)](#)
- [kill or take wild birds to prevent serious damage to livestock, foodstuffs for livestock, crops, vegetables, fruit, growing timber, fisheries or inland waters \(GL36\)](#)

If your circumstances are not covered by these general licences you must apply for an [individual licence](#) using this email address.

If you intend to control gulls this year, you should be aware that Natural England is treating applications for Herring and Lesser Black Backed Gulls differently in 2020, due to the poor conservation status of these species. Full advice on these applications is available on the Gov.uk website at <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/changes-to-licensing-of-the-lethal-control-of-herring-gull-and-lesser-black-backed-gull>

If you require lethal control to be carried out before the determination of your licence application then you may not commit an offence under section 1 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 provided that you meet the conditions set out in section 4(3) to 4(6) of the 1981 Act. To do this you must be able to show that your action is necessary for the purpose of:

- (a) preserving public health or public safety or air safety;
- (b) preventing the spread of disease; or
- (c) preventing serious damage to livestock, their foodstuffs, crops, vegetables, fruit, growing timber, fisheries or inland waters. You must also be able to show that there was no other satisfactory solution available for preventing such serious damage.

In addition you must have submitted the relevant application for a licence for the relevant purpose and notified the Minister of Agriculture of any action you take to prevent serious damage as soon as reasonable practicable after you have taken that action. You can do this by sending an e-mail to the [GenLicencePh2@naturalengland.org.uk](mailto:GenLicencePh2@naturalengland.org.uk) with the words "Section 4 Notification" in the subject header and include your customer number or full details of the name and address of the user and any reference numbers to allow the notification to be matched to your application.

If you do wish to rely on such a defence, you will be responsible for understanding the legislation, and you may wish to take legal advice. All other relevant law must be complied with including, for example, on protected sites any notices to be served under section 28E of the 1981 Act, and the offences under section 28P of the 1981 Act remain applicable.'

This information is correct at the time of sending. Details of any changes will be published on .gov.uk.

If you are trying to make a request for a copy of your personal information under the GDPR/Data Protection Act 2018, or a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 or Environmental Information Regulations 2004, please contact the Enquiry Service on 0208 0261089 or email [foi@naturalengland.org.uk](mailto:foi@naturalengland.org.uk)

We will keep our customers updated with latest news via our website: [www.gov.uk/natural-england](http://www.gov.uk/natural-england)

Thank you.

**Please Note:** During the current coronavirus situation, Natural England staff are working remotely to provide our services and support our customers and stakeholders. All Natural England offices and our Mail Hub are currently closed due to the Covid-19 pandemic, so please send any documents by email or contact us by phone or email to let us know how we can help you. See the latest news on the coronavirus at <http://www.gov.uk/coronavirus> and Natural England's regularly updated operational update at <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/operational-update-covid-19>.

- Stay alert, control the virus, save lives.

This email and any attachments is intended for the named recipient only. If you have received it in error you have no authority to use, disclose, store or copy any of its contents and you should destroy it and inform the sender. Whilst this email and associated attachments will have been checked for known viruses whilst within the Natural England systems, we can accept no responsibility once it has left our systems. Communications on Natural England systems may be monitored and/or recorded to secure the effective operation of the system and for other lawful purposes.

**From:** [REDACTED]

**Sent:** 13 January 2021 10:06

**To:** [REDACTED]@msn.com

**Cc:** [REDACTED]@basc.org.uk; [REDACTED]@basc.org.uk; [REDACTED]@msn.com; [REDACTED]@moorlandassociation.org; [REDACTED]@gwct.org.uk; [REDACTED]@countryside-alliance.org; [REDACTED]@gwct.org.uk

**Subject:** RE: Gamebird release meeting next week

Dear [REDACTED],

Please see link below.

## Microsoft Teams meeting

**Join on your computer or mobile app**

[Click here to join the meeting](#)

**Or call in (audio only)**

[+44 20 3321 5273,250128965#](#) United Kingdom, London

Phone Conference ID: 250 128 965#

[Find a local number](#) | [Reset PIN](#)

Regards

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] General Licensing Review Team

Defra | Area 5C, Nobel House, 17 Smith Square, London SW1P 3JR

Email: [REDACTED]@defra.gov.uk | Tel: [REDACTED]



**From:** [REDACTED]@msn.com  
**Sent:** 13 January 2021 10:00  
**To:** [REDACTED]@defra.gov.uk

**Subject:** Re: Gamebird release meeting next week

Hi [REDACTED]

Can I be sent a link to get in to the meeting about to start, please?

Thanks

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** [REDACTED]@defra.gov.uk

**Sent:** 07 January 2021 13:32

**To:** [REDACTED]@basc.org.uk; Sargeant, Anna [REDACTED]>;  
[REDACTED]@defra.gov.uk

**Cc:** [REDACTED]@basc.org.uk; [REDACTED]@msn.com;  
[REDACTED]@moorlandassociation.org; [REDACTED]@gwct.org.uk;  
[REDACTED]@countryside-alliance.org

**Subject:** RE: Gamebird release meeting next week

Dear [REDACTED],

Thank you for your email and comments.

We had intended sending a postponement notice however we will keep the January 13<sup>th</sup> 10 am slot for this group to discuss the proposed alternative option to the interim licensing regime.

An email with details of the re-scheduled meeting for a further update on the licensing regime will follow.

Kind Regards

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] General Licensing Review Team  
Defra | Area 5C, Nobel House, 17 Smith Square, London SW1P 3JR  
Email: [REDACTED]@defra.gov.uk | Tel: [REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]@basc.org.uk  
**Sent:** 07 January 2021 11:37  
**To:** Sargeant, Anna [REDACTED] [REDACTED]@defra.gov.uk; [REDACTED]@defra.gov.uk  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]@basc.org.uk; [REDACTED]@msn.com; [REDACTED]@moorlandassociation.org;  
[REDACTED]@gwct.org.uk; [REDACTED]@countryside-alliance.org  
**Subject:** Gamebird release meeting next week

Dear All,

Ahead of the meeting next week I am sharing some thoughts around the current proposal and alternatives.

If I can clarify any points ahead of the meeting please do let me know.

Best wishes

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] Game and Gundogs  
British Association for Shooting and Conservation  
Marford Mill  
Rossett  
Nr Wrexham  
LL12 0HL

Direct dial [REDACTED]  
Mobile: [REDACTED]

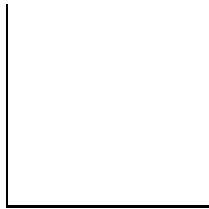
[REDACTED]@basc.org.uk  
[www.basc.org.uk](http://www.basc.org.uk)

Please consider the environment. Do you really need to print this email?

Disclaimer: This email and any files transmitted with it are confidential and intended solely for the use of the individual or entity to whom they are addressed. If you have received this email in error please notify me at [REDACTED]@basc.org.uk then delete it. BASC may monitor email traffic. By replying to this e-mail you consent to BASC monitoring the content of any email you send or receive from BASC. Any views expressed in this message are those of the individual sender, except where the sender specifies with authority, states them to be the views of the British Association for Shooting and Conservation. BASC can confirm that this email message and any attachments have been scanned for the presence of computer viruses but recommends that you make your own virus checks. Registered Society No.: 28488R. Registered Office: Marford Mill, Rossett, Wrexham, LL12 0HL. BASC is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority ref 311937.

Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) This email and any attachments is intended for the named recipient only. If you have received it in error you have no authority to use, disclose, store or copy any of its contents and you should destroy it and inform the sender. Whilst this email and associated attachments will have been checked for known viruses whilst within Defra systems we can accept no responsibility once it has left our systems. Communications on Defra's computer systems may be monitored and/or recorded to secure the effective operation of the system and for other lawful purposes.

Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) This email and any attachments is intended for the named recipient only. If you have received it in error you have no authority to use, disclose, store or copy any of its contents and you should destroy it and inform the sender. Whilst this email and associated attachments will have been checked for known viruses whilst within Defra systems we can accept no responsibility once it has left our systems. Communications on Defra's computer systems may be monitored and/or recorded to secure the effective operation of the system and for other lawful purposes.



This communication from the Game & Wildlife Conservation Trust contains information which is confidential and may also be privileged. It is for the exclusive use of the addressee. If you are not the addressee please note that any distribution, copying or use of this communication or the information in it is prohibited. If you have received this communication in error, please telephone us immediately to arrange for its return. For more information about how we protect your personal data see our [Privacy Policy](#) on our website.

The Game & Wildlife Conservation Trust is a charitable company limited by guarantee registered in England and Wales under number 05579632, registered charity number 1112023 (England and Wales) and SC038868 (Scotland). VAT Reg 665 2959 92. Registered Office: Burgate Manor, Fordingbridge, Hampshire SP6 1EF Tel: +44(0)1425 652381. Email: [info@gwct.org.uk](mailto:info@gwct.org.uk) Web: [www.gwct.org.uk](http://www.gwct.org.uk) Registered Office: Burgate Manor, Fordingbridge, Hampshire SP6 1EF  
Game & Wildlife Conservation Trading is a company limited by guarantee (registered no 1503620, VAT Reg No 323 7013 94.) which carries out trading and advisory activities and some fundraising events for the Game & Wildlife Conservation Trust.

Registered in England and Wales. Registered Office: Burgate Manor, Fordingbridge, Hampshire SP6 1EF

## Item 12

### **Defra's planned interim approach for the release of gamebirds on or near certain European protected sites.**

#### **Overview/alternative approach**

1. It has been suggested that, as an interim measure, pheasants and red leg partridges are added to Schedule 9 of the WCA with specific wording explaining this would only be applicable to on or within 500 metres of certain protected areas i.e., Special Area for Conservation (SAC) or Special Protection Area (SPA). But then there would be a general licence issued to allow release of these birds, in such locations, in accordance with established best practice.
2. There is no evidence that there is any issue at present because of the current approaches taken and because these protected sites are also SSSI's there is an existing mechanism to stop/address actions if there is any damage.
3. Confirmation that DEFRA's proposed approach is compatible with the [regulators-code](#) is requested.
4. BASC and other 'shooting' organisations have, via legal representatives, whilst raising serious concerns and reserving the right to bring judicial review proceedings (in the future) have proposed an alternative interim approach to licensing i.e., commitment of additional resources to NE and extension of the scope of SSSI controls.
5. As outlined in this correspondence, such an approach would have significant benefits over the current proposal such as containing an appeals process (which the licensing route does not) and specific non sensitive sites e.g., estuarine, which would not be affected by gamebird release, could easily be screened out at an initial stage.

#### **Specific points in relation to the current DEFRA proposed licence regime**

6. The planned licencing regime is not scheduled to be in place until the end of May 2021 and civil servants already acknowledge they are working to exceptionally tight time frames which will easily slip further. This was the case before the recent upsurge in Covid19 cases and lockdown restrictions.

7. However, by this date (end of May) shoots will have plans and infrastructure in place with birds either being reared or ordered ready for release and be on the point of undertaking this release. Certainty of approach is therefore needed (now) well before this date.
8. The uncertainty of Defra's current proposed timeframe and the current Covid19 crisis could easily be the final straw making a number of shoots unviable, risking financial ruin with the associated cost to the economy, employment and the loss of the environmental benefits associated with this game bird release.
9. Therefore, we recommend that the implementation timescale should be amended until after the 2021 release period e.g., until November 2021. This would not contradict the Secretary of State's stated intention but would prevent unintended consequences through undue haste and it would also give sufficient time to consider our alternative suggestion. It is realistic, with the pressure of Covid-19 and national vaccinations programmes, to adopt this timeframe.
10. Any approach to licencing pheasant and red legged partridge release (in relation to these sites) must be light touch and covered by a general licence regime and not individual licences- the latter simply will not work because of timescales and NE's ability to complete this work.
11. Included in schedule 9 of the WCA 1981, is [part 1A](#) which lists native animals, there should be consideration as to whether pheasants and red leg partridges could be added here. However, a better alternative could be a new part of Schedule 9 (which had pheasants and red legged partridges listed on, perhaps known as *naturalised species*?). This separate and new section could then have a defined timescale, a sunset clause i.e., valid until a predetermined date which would enshrine the Secretary of State and civil servants' commitment that it is only an interim measure.
12. This period should be for two years and would enable a 'properly resourced' NE to complete relevant assessments and correspond with the time period which a general licence can be issued for i.e., two years.
13. There should also be clear wording around geographic limitations i.e., it is only relevant to the specific protected sites; SAC's and SPA's and agreed buffer zones and not beyond. These sites should be further assessed and screened to remove those non sensitive sites such as estuarine, which would not be affected by gamebird release.
14. The proposed buffer zone should be reduced. The currently suggested zone is based upon research that indicates when release is conducted within GWCT guidelines there is little or no damage from release pens and feeding stations beyond 15 metres. The research 'measured' out to 300 metres and then stopped, not finding any further damage beyond the 15 metres range. Therefore, the figure of 500 metres is

unnecessary and overly precautionary and should be reduced to no more than 300 metres.

15. The conditions on release in a general licence should be brief with no 'gold plating' with the sole requirement to follow the [GWCT guidelines for sustainable releasing](#) and relevant sections of [Code of good Shooting Practice](#) which would be written into/linked into the licence.
16. Any legislative change/licencing must also be compatible with and facilitate normal practices of keeping and supplying these game bird for release.
17. A Commitment should be given that there will no 'mission creep' and the general licence will be relevant only to release e.g., no additional requirements such as those relating to the harvesting of these birds.
18. The general licence should be succinct and written in plain English, there is no reason why it should be more than one page long.
19. Where there is an existing consent on a site (SSSI which is also an SPA or SAC) which is greater than the release permitted in the general licence, then such consent should either be deemed as authority to act or be accepted as automatic approval for any individual licence application.
20. If release activities which would be more than those permitted by this general licence are required, then an individual licence should be applied for and this should be assessed within 30 days, this is essential given the timescales suggested. If (SSSI) consent is also required, then there should be an undertaking to complete this in a similar timeframe.
21. Any individual licence for release should remain valid until the removal of the need for a licence (Schedule 9 sunset clause).
22. The reason this situation has arisen is because NE has not completed certain work (assessments) therefore having a fixed term and sufficient resourcing would ensure that this work is completed without delay. It is unreasonable if individuals are disadvantaged because government agencies have not completed work.
23. An overall individual licencing approach (as opposed to a general licence) is simply not viable; In 2020 NE managed to process only 7% of the individual 'bird control'

applications it received; therefore, it is difficult to see how they could cope with such additional work, in such short timescales, with the added issues because Covid19.

[REDACTED] 4/1/21

Item 13

**From:** SM-Defra-GL Team <GLTeam@defra.gov.uk>

**Sent:** 07 January 2021 13:40

**To:** SM-Defra-GL Team <GLTeam@defra.gov.uk>

**Cc:** [REDACTED]@defra.gov.uk

**Subject:** RE: Second Consultative Forum Date Change

Dear Stakeholder,

Please note this meeting will now hold on January 19<sup>th</sup> at 9.30am-11.00am.

We apologise for any inconveniences caused by this further postponement. Kindly confirm your attendance to this mailbox.

Kind Regards

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] | General Licensing Review Team

Defra | Area 5C, Nobel House, 17 Smith Square, London SW1P 3JR

Email: [REDACTED]@defra.gov.uk | Tel: [REDACTED]

---

**From:** SM-Defra-GL Team

**Sent:** 11 December 2020 14:24

**To:** SM-Defra-GLTeam (DEFRA) <[GLTeam@defra.gov.uk](mailto:GLTeam@defra.gov.uk)>; [REDACTED]@defra.gov.uk

**Subject:** Secon Consultative Forum Date Change



Dear Stakeholder,

Please note that our second Consultative Forum meeting previously scheduled for next week will hold on January 13<sup>th</sup> at 10.00 – 11.30am.

We will be providing an update on the proposed interim licensing regime.

Kindly confirm your attendance to this mailbox.

### **Microsoft Teams meeting**

Join on your computer or mobile app

[Click here to join the meeting](#)

### **Or call in (audio only)**

[+44 20 3321 5273,,132620454#](#) United Kingdom, London

Phone Conference ID: 132 620 454#

[Find a local number](#) | [Reset PIN](#)

Best wishes

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED], Defra General Licence and Gamebird Review Team

## Item 14

**From:** [REDACTED]@defra.gov.uk  
**Sent:** 15 January 2021 14:58  
**To:** SM-Defra-GL Team <GLTeam@defra.gov.uk>  
**Subject:** JE-I Second Consultative Forum Agenda

Dear Stakeholder,

Please find below the agenda for our forthcoming meeting on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> January at 9.30am to 11am.

### Agenda

1. Update on timeline
2. Geographic scope
3. Proposed conditions
4. Information on Gamebird release sites and numbers
5. Consultation framework and timing
6. Individual Licences
7. AOB

Please join this Microsoft Teams meeting

### **Join on your computer or mobile app**

[Click here to join the meeting](#)

### **Or call in (audio only)**

[+44 20 3321 5273,,132620454#](#) United Kingdom, London

Phone Conference ID: 132 620 454#

[Find a local number](#) | [Reset PIN](#)

Best wishes

[REDACTED], Defra General Licence and Gamebird Review Team

## Item 15

**From:** SM-Defra-GL Team <GLTeam@defra.gov.uk>  
**Sent:** 21 January 2021 20:25  
**To:** SM-Defra-GL Team <GLTeam@defra.gov.uk>  
**Subject:** JE-I Consultative Forum 2 Extra

Dear Stakeholder,

As promised, in our Consultative Forum meeting on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> January, we have arranged a follow up meeting to cover the key points we didn't have opportunity to cover.

- Consultation framework and timing
- Information on Gamebird release sites and numbers

Please can we request you kindly confirm your attendance to this mailbox

Best wishes

[REDACTED] **Gamebird and General Licensing Team**

---

## Microsoft Teams meeting

**Join on your computer or mobile app**

[Click here to join the meeting](#)



Department  
for Environment  
Food & Rural Affairs

[Learn More](#) | [Meeting options](#)

---

Item 16

**From:** [REDACTED]@defra.gov.uk  
**Sent:** 18 February 2021 12:24  
**To:** [REDACTED]@basc.org.uk  
**Subject:** RE: Catch up today

Lovely, yes please.

Thanks

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Game Birds Review Team | Natural Environment, Trees and Landscape Directorate (NETL) | Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

**Tel:** [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]@basc.org.uk  
**Sent:** 18 February 2021 12:21  
**To:** [REDACTED]@defra.gov.uk  
**Subject:** RE: Catch up today

Dear [REDACTED],

Yes that's fine do you want me to send a team invite?

Kind Regards

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Conservation

The British Association for Shooting and Conservation

Mobile: [REDACTED]

Membership Hotline: [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]@basc.org.uk

Website: [www.basc.org.uk](http://www.basc.org.uk)

**From:** [REDACTED]@defra.gov.uk

**Sent:** 18 February 2021 11:48

**To:** [REDACTED]@basc.org.uk

**Subject:** Catch up today

Hi [REDACTED]

Are you free for a catch up later today around 4pm?

Many thanks

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Game Birds Review Team | Natural Environment, Trees and Landscape Directorate  
(NETL) | Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

**Tel:** [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) This email and any attachments is intended for the named recipient only. If you have received it in error you have no authority to use, disclose, store or copy any of its contents and you should destroy it and inform the sender. Whilst this email and associated attachments will have been checked for known viruses whilst within Defra systems we can accept no responsibility once it has left our systems. Communications on Defra's computer systems may be monitored and/or recorded to secure the effective operation of the system and for other lawful purposes.

Disclaimer: This email and any files transmitted with it are confidential and intended solely for the use of the individual or entity to whom they are addressed. If you have received this email in error please notify me at [REDACTED]@basc.org.uk then delete it. BASC may monitor email traffic. By replying to this e-mail you consent to BASC monitoring the content of any email you send or receive from BASC. Any views expressed in this message are those of the individual sender, except where the sender specifies with authority, states them to be the views of the British Association for Shooting and Conservation. BASC can confirm that this email message and any attachments have been scanned for the presence of computer viruses but recommends that you make your own virus checks. Registered Society No.: 28488R. Registered Office: Marford Mill, Rossett, Wrexham, LL12 0HL. BASC is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority ref 311937.





## Item 17

**From:** [REDACTED]@defra.gov.uk

**Sent:** 29 April 2021 11:33

**To:** [REDACTED]@basc.org.uk; [REDACTED]@gwct.org.uk; Sargeant, Anna  
<[REDACTED]>

**Subject:** Chat about partridges

**When:** 29 April 2021 15:00-15:30 (UTC+00:00) Dublin, Edinburgh, Lisbon, London.

**Where:** Microsoft Teams Meeting

Hi [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]

Grateful for your expertise on some last minute issues that have arisen on the partridge release conditions.

Many thanks

[REDACTED]

---

## Microsoft Teams meeting

**Join on your computer or mobile app**

[Click here to join the meeting](#)

**Or call in (audio only)**

[+44 20 3321 5273,,645916226#](#) United Kingdom, London

Phone Conference ID: 645 916 226#

[Find a local number](#) | [Reset PIN](#)



Department  
for Environment  
Food & Rural Affairs

[Learn More](#) | [Meeting options](#)

Item 18

**From:** SM-Defra-GL Team <GLTeam@defra.gov.uk>

**Sent:** 24 February 2021 10:38

**To:** SM-Defra-GL Team; Sargeant, Anna; [REDACTED]@defra.gov.uk;  
[REDACTED]@defra.gov.uk; [REDACTED]@defra.gov.uk; [REDACTED]@defra.gov.uk;  
[REDACTED]@defra.gov.uk; [REDACTED]@basc.org.uk; [REDACTED]@basc.org.uk;  
[REDACTED]@nfu.org.uk; [REDACTED]@countryside-alliance.org;  
[REDACTED]@countryside-alliance.org; [REDACTED]@cla.org.uk;  
[REDACTED]@gwct.org.uk; [REDACTED]@gwct.org.uk; [REDACTED]@msn.com;  
[REDACTED]@moorlandassociation.org

**Subject:** Stakeholder Forum - Consultation Discussion

**When:** 01 March 2021 14:30-15:30 (UTC+00:00) Dublin, Edinburgh, Lisbon, London.

**Where:** Microsoft Teams Meeting

Hi all,

This meeting will provide an opportunity to discuss the recently launched consultation and clarify any questions you may have.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Policy Officer | Game Birds Review Team | Natural Environment, Trees & Landscapes |  
Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs | Direct line: [REDACTED] | Address:  
2nd Floor, Horizon House, Deanery Road, Bristol, BS1 5AH

---

Microsoft Teams meeting

**Join on your computer or mobile app**

[Click here to join the meeting](#)



Department  
for Environment  
Food & Rural Affairs

[Learn More](#) | [Meeting options](#)

---

---

Item 19

**From:** [REDACTED]@defra.gov.uk

**Sent:** 26 March 2021 16:58

**To:** [REDACTED]@gwct.org.uk; [REDACTED]@defra.gov.uk

**Subject:** Partridge densities

**When:** 29 March 2021 14:30-15030 (UTC+00:00) Dublin, Edinburgh, Lisbon, London.

**Where:** Microsoft Teams Meeting

Hi [REDACTED]

Let me know if you can't access a Teams meeting and I'll send a Zoom invite instead.

Thanks

[REDACTED]

---

## Microsoft Teams meeting

**Join on your computer or mobile app**

[Click here to join the meeting](#)

**Or call in (audio only)**

[+44 20 3321 5273,,885283592#](#) United Kingdom, London

Phone Conference ID: 885 283 592#

[Find a local number](#) | [Reset PIN](#)



Department  
for Environment  
Food & Rural Affairs

[Learn More](#) | [Meeting options](#)

---

---

Item 20

**From:** SM-Defra-GL Team <GLTeam@defra.gov.uk>

**Sent:** 16 March 2021 11:26

**To:** SM-Defra-GL Team; Sargeant, Anna; [REDACTED]@defra.gov.uk;  
[REDACTED]@defra.gov.uk; [REDACTED]@defra.gov.uk; [REDACTED]@defra.gov.uk;  
[REDACTED]@defra.gov.uk; [REDACTED]@defra.gov.uk; [REDACTED]@basc.org.uk;  
[REDACTED]@basc.org.uk; [REDACTED]@nfu.org.uk; [REDACTED]@countryside-  
alliance.org; [REDACTED]@countryside-alliance.org; [REDACTED]@cla.org.uk;  
[REDACTED]@gwct.org.uk; [REDACTED]@gwct.org.uk; [REDACTED]@msn.com;  
[REDACTED]@moorlandassociation.org; [REDACTED]@cla.org.uk;  
[REDACTED]@naturalengland.org.uk; [REDACTED]@naturalengland.org.uk;  
[REDACTED]@naturalengland.org.uk

**Cc:** [REDACTED]@naturalengland.org.uk

**Subject:** Stakeholder Forum

**When:** 06 April 2021 13:00-14:00 (UTC+00:00) Dublin, Edinburgh, Lisbon, London.

**Where:** Microsoft Teams Meeting

Dear all,

Thank you to all of you for engaging with the consultation and encouraging the industry to respond. Whilst we cannot pre-empt the minister's decisions, NE are keen to fulfil your request to meet sooner rather than later to get your input to their approach to any individual licence application process and to the process for sharing consents information so that these processes are as smooth as possible in the event that they are required.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Policy Officer | Game Birds Review Team | Natural Environment, Trees & Landscapes |  
Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs | Direct line: [REDACTED] | Address:  
2nd Floor, Horizon House, Deanery Road, Bristol, BS1 5AH

---

---

# Microsoft Teams meeting

**Join on your computer or mobile app**

[Click here to join the meeting](#)



Department  
for Environment  
Food & Rural Affairs

[Learn More](#) | [Meeting options](#)

---

---



Item 21

**From:** [REDACTED]@basc.org.uk  
**Sent:** 22 January 2021 09:37  
**To:** [REDACTED]@defra.gov.uk  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]@defra.gov.uk; [REDACTED]@basc.org.uk  
**Subject:** RE: Gamebird intel

Dear [REDACTED],

That is fine with myself and [REDACTED], copied in so that you can set up the teams meeting.

Hope you have a good weekend.

Kind Regards

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Conservation

The British Association for Shooting and Conservation

Mobile: [REDACTED]

Membership Hotline: 01244 573 030

Email: [REDACTED]@basc.org.uk

Website: [www.basc.org.uk](http://www.basc.org.uk)

**From:** [REDACTED]@defra.gov.uk  
**Sent:** 21 January 2021 21:42  
**To:** [REDACTED]@basc.org.uk  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]@defra.gov.uk  
**Subject:** RE: Gamebird intel

Does 3pm work? If so, we can set up a teams call.

[REDACTED] [REDACTED General Licensing (with [REDACTED])| Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

Tel: [REDACTED] Mob: [REDACTED] [REDACTED]@defra.gov.uk

Sterling House, Dixs Field, Exeter, EX1 1QA

Working pattern – I work a compressed week with Fridays being my non working day.

**From:** [REDACTED]@basc.org.uk  
**Sent:** 21 January 2021 16:43  
**To:** [REDACTED]@defra.gov.uk  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]@defra.gov.uk  
**Subject:** RE: Gamebird intel

Dear [REDACTED],

Could we go for Tuesday afternoon, [REDACTED] who worked on the survey work and myself are both available. Can you let me know a time that fits for you.

Kind Regards

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Conservation

The British Association for Shooting and Conservation

Mobile: [REDACTED]

Membership Hotline: 01244 573 030

Email: [REDACTED]@basc.org.uk

Website: [www.basc.org.uk](http://www.basc.org.uk)

**From:** [REDACTED]@defra.gov.uk

**Sent:** 21 January 2021 14:09

**To:** [REDACTED]@basc.org.uk

**Cc:** [REDACTED]@defra.gov.uk

**Subject:** RE: Gamebird intel

Hi [REDACTED]

Thanks very much for sending this helpful information through. As Anna indicated we might have a few bits that we want to pick up with you. It might be easiest if we set up a call to discuss.

Is there any slot on Monday or Tuesday that you'd be free to discuss?

Thanks

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] | [REDACTED] General Licensing (with [REDACTED]) | Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

Tel: 02080263796. Mob: [REDACTED] [REDACTED]@defra.gov.uk

Sterling House, Dixs Field, Exeter, EX1 1QA

Working pattern – I work a compressed week with Fridays being my non working day.

**From:** [REDACTED]@basc.org.uk

**Sent:** 20 January 2021 19:50

**To:** Sargeant, Anna [REDACTED]

**Cc:** [REDACTED]@defra.gov.uk; [REDACTED]@defra.gov.uk

**Subject:** RE: Gamebird intel

Dear Anna,

Thank you for your email, I am sure you sensed our concerns yesterday at the proposals, which have moved along way from the Ministers promises of a proportionate regime, based on a general licence with the option to apply for an individual licence. I have sent through the initial economic information as promised this afternoon. If you do want clarification on any points or further information then please do not hesitate to contact me to discuss.

Kind Regards

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Conservation

The British Association for Shooting and Conservation

Mobile: [REDACTED]

Membership Hotline: 01244 573 030

Email: [REDACTED]@basc.org.uk

Website: [www.basc.org.uk](http://www.basc.org.uk)

**From:** Sargeant, Anna [REDACTED]

**Sent:** 20 January 2021 15:47

**To:** [REDACTED]@basc.org.uk

**Cc:** [REDACTED]@defra.gov.uk; [REDACTED]@defra.gov.uk

**Subject:** Gamebird intel

[REDACTED]

Many thanks for your input into gamebird conversations yesterday. Lots of helpful input that has provided food for thought. Do you have a sense of when we might be able to see

the data from your membership survey as it is likely to be key to the direction we take going forward.

Many thanks

Anna

Anna Sargeant | Deputy Director, General Licensing and Gamebird Review | Natural Environment, Trees & Landscapes|

**Dept for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs** | 2 Marsham St, Westminster, London SW1P 4DF

Mobile: [REDACTED]

Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) This email and any attachments is intended for the named recipient only. If you have received it in error you have no authority to use, disclose, store or copy any of its contents and you should destroy it and inform the sender. Whilst this email and associated attachments will have been checked for known viruses whilst within Defra systems we can accept no responsibility once it has left our systems. Communications on Defra's computer systems may be monitored and/or recorded to secure the effective operation of the system and for other lawful purposes.

Disclaimer: This email and any files transmitted with it are confidential and intended solely for the use of the individual or entity to whom they are addressed. If you have received this email in error please notify me at [REDACTED]@basc.org.uk then delete it. BASC may monitor email traffic. By replying to this e-mail you consent to BASC monitoring the content of any email you send or receive from BASC. Any views expressed in this message are those of the individual sender, except where the sender specifies with authority, states them to be the views of the British Association for Shooting and Conservation. BASC can confirm that this email message and any attachments have been scanned for the presence of computer viruses but recommends that you make your own virus checks. Registered Society No.: 28488R. Registered Office: Marford Mill, Rossett, Wrexham, LL12 0HL. BASC is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority ref 311937.

Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) This email and any attachments is intended for the named recipient only. If you have received it in error you

have no authority to use, disclose, store or copy any of its contents and you should destroy it and inform the sender. Whilst this email and associated attachments will have been checked for known viruses whilst within Defra systems we can accept no responsibility once it has left our systems. Communications on Defra's computer systems may be monitored and/or recorded to secure the effective operation of the system and for other lawful purposes.

Disclaimer: This email and any files transmitted with it are confidential and intended solely for the use of the individual or entity to whom they are addressed. If you have received this email in error please notify me at [REDACTED]@basc.org.uk then delete it. BASC may monitor email traffic. By replying to this e-mail you consent to BASC monitoring the content of any email you send or receive from BASC. Any views expressed in this message are those of the individual sender, except where the sender specifies with authority, states them to be the views of the British Association for Shooting and Conservation. BASC can confirm that this email message and any attachments have been scanned for the presence of computer viruses but recommends that you make your own virus checks. Registered Society No.: 28488R. Registered Office: Marford Mill, Rossett, Wrexham, LL12 0HL. BASC is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority ref 311937.

Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) This email and any attachments is intended for the named recipient only. If you have received it in error you have no authority to use, disclose, store or copy any of its contents and you should destroy it and inform the sender. Whilst this email and associated attachments will have been checked for known viruses whilst within Defra systems we can accept no responsibility once it has left our systems. Communications on Defra's computer systems may be monitored and/or recorded to secure the effective operation of the system and for other lawful purposes.

Disclaimer: This email and any files transmitted with it are confidential and intended solely for the use of the individual or entity to whom they are addressed. If you have received this email in error please notify me at [REDACTED]@basc.org.uk then delete it. BASC may monitor email traffic. By replying to this e-mail you consent to BASC monitoring the content of any email you send or receive from BASC. Any views expressed in this message are those of the individual sender, except where the sender specifies with authority, states them to be the views of the British Association for Shooting and Conservation. BASC can confirm that this email message and any attachments have been scanned for the presence of computer viruses but recommends that you make your own virus checks. Registered Society No.: 28488R. Registered Office: Marford Mill, Rossett, Wrexham, LL12 0HL. BASC is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority ref 311937.

Item 22

**From:** [REDACTED]@basc.org.uk

**Sent:** 08 February 2021 09:28

**To:** Sargeant, Anna [REDACTED]

**Cc:** [REDACTED]@basc.org.uk; [REDACTED]@msn.com; [REDACTED]@countryside-alliance.org; [REDACTED]@gwct.org.uk; [REDACTED]@cla.org.uk; [REDACTED]@moorlandassociation.org; [REDACTED]@nfu.org.uk; [REDACTED]@defra.gov.uk; [REDACTED]@defra.gov.uk; [REDACTED]@defra.gov.uk; [REDACTED]@defra.gov.uk

**Subject:** RE: Letter to Secretary of State - FYI

Dear Anna,

From my perspective it would have to be Thursday afternoon, [REDACTED] from the CA has said the day is fine, probably easier if everyone responds to you direct about timings or one of your team.

It would be useful to meet, in particular it would be useful to understand when the consultation is due.

Kind Regards

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Conservation

The British Association for Shooting and Conservation

Mobile: [REDACTED]

Membership Hotline: 01244 573 030

Email: [REDACTED]@basc.org.uk



Website: [www.basc.org.uk](http://www.basc.org.uk)

**From:** [REDACTED]@defra.gov.uk  
**Sent:** 06 February 2021 14:00  
**To:** [REDACTED]@basc.org.uk  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]@basc.org.uk; [REDACTED]@msn.com; [REDACTED]@countryside-alliance.org; [REDACTED]@gwct.org.uk; [REDACTED]@cla.org.uk; [REDACTED]@moorlandassociation.org; [REDACTED]@nfu.org.uk; [REDACTED]@defra.gov.uk; [REDACTED]@defra.gov.uk; [REDACTED]@defra.gov.uk; [REDACTED]@defra.gov.uk  
**Subject:** RE: Letter to Secretary of State - FYI

Many thanks [REDACTED]. Apologies for the slow acknowledgement as Friday is my non-working day. I think we're broadly on the same page on a number of your points but it would be good for us to talk through each of them and suggest the 2<sup>nd</sup> half of next week, perhaps Thursday, if that works for you and others?

Anna

**From:** [REDACTED]@basc.org.uk  
**Sent:** 04 February 2021 16:09  
**To:** Sargeant, Anna [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]@basc.org.uk; [REDACTED]@msn.com; [REDACTED]@countryside-alliance.org; [REDACTED]@gwct.org.uk; [REDACTED]@cla.org.uk; [REDACTED]@moorlandassociation.org; [REDACTED]@nfu.org.uk  
**Subject:** Letter to Secretary of State - FYI

Dear Anna,

Following on from the discussions on 27 January, the shooting and rural organisations have written the attached letter to the Secretary of State. The letter outlines key aspects that are needed to ensure the proposed regime is proportionate and practical. This will enable shoots to have the confidence to plan for the 2021 season.

We would be more than happy to explain these points further.

Kind Regards

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Conservation

The British Association for Shooting and Conservation

Mobile: [REDACTED]

Membership Hotline: 01244 573 030

Email: [REDACTED]@basc.org.uk

Website: [www.basc.org.uk](http://www.basc.org.uk)

Disclaimer: This email and any files transmitted with it are confidential and intended solely for the use of the individual or entity to whom they are addressed. If you have received this

email in error please notify me at [REDACTED]@basc.org.uk then delete it. BASC may monitor email traffic. By replying to this e-mail you consent to BASC monitoring the content of any email you send or receive from BASC. Any views expressed in this message are those of the individual sender, except where the sender specifies with authority, states them to be the views of the British Association for Shooting and Conservation. BASC can confirm that this email message and any attachments have been scanned for the presence of computer viruses but recommends that you make your own virus checks. Registered Society No.: 28488R. Registered Office: Marford Mill, Rossett, Wrexham, LL12 0HL. BASC is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority ref 311937.

Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) This email and any attachments is intended for the named recipient only. If you have received it in error you have no authority to use, disclose, store or copy any of its contents and you should destroy it and inform the sender. Whilst this email and associated attachments will have been checked for known viruses whilst within Defra systems we can accept no responsibility once it has left our systems. Communications on Defra's computer systems may be monitored and/or recorded to secure the effective operation of the system and for other lawful purposes.

Disclaimer: This email and any files transmitted with it are confidential and intended solely for the use of the individual or entity to whom they are addressed. If you have received this email in error please notify me at [REDACTED]@basc.org.uk then delete it. BASC may monitor email traffic. By replying to this e-mail you consent to BASC monitoring the content of any email you send or receive from BASC. Any views expressed in this message are those of the individual sender, except where the sender specifies with authority, states them to be the views of the British Association for Shooting and Conservation. BASC can confirm that this email message and any attachments have been scanned for the presence of computer viruses but recommends that you make your own virus checks. Registered Society No.: 28488R. Registered Office: Marford Mill, Rossett, Wrexham, LL12 0HL. BASC is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority ref 311937.

Item 23

**From:** [REDACTED]@msn.com

**Sent:** 01 March 2021 15:17

**To:** Sargeant, Anna [REDACTED] [REDACTED]@defra.gov.uk;  
[REDACTED]@defra.gov.uk

**Cc:** [REDACTED]@basc.org.uk; [REDACTED]@gwct.org.uk; [REDACTED]@countryside-  
alliance.org; [REDACTED]@basc.org.uk

**Subject:** HRAs on European Sites

Dear Anna,

Further to my raising it on our con call just now, the guidance on Gov.UK to competent authorities which carry out HRAs on European sites is available here:

[Habitats regulations assessments: protecting a European site - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/habitats-regulations-assessments-protecting-a-european-site)

It makes clear that an HRA is needed if a project or plan could significantly harm the designated features of such sites and it goes on to define plans and projects thus (the underlining is mine):

"A plan sets out where future activities or developments should take place within a certain area. This can include any changes that are proposed to an existing plan."

"A project can be any activity or a number of activities that either needs a new or renewed permission from a competent authority before it goes ahead, or that a competent authority proposes to carry out itself. It can also include proposals to change an existing project."

Defra told us on the con call a couple of weeks ago that the HRA for implementing the Interim Licensing Scheme did not need to - indeed was not allowed to - assess the potential impacts on the sites of forced reductions in gamebird releasing and the potential

cessation of the well-evidenced wider conservation benefits that can arise from shoot management.

The Government's position (eg in Barker 3) is that gamebird releasing **is** a project or plan, so a change to gamebird releasing **is also** a project or plan according to the Government's own guidance above. So my question is why the environmental consequences of a forced reduction in gamebird releasing - which to address [REDACTED] thought is clearly a "change" - are not apparently being subjected to the ongoing HRA?

With thanks and best wishes,

[REDACTED].

Item 24

**From:** [REDACTED]@gwct.org.uk

**Sent:** 18 February 2021 16:12

**To:** [REDACTED]@defra.gov.uk; Sargeant, Anna [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]@defra.gov.uk

**Subject:** Gamebird releasing GL

Dear [REDACTED],

During our meeting last week you mentioned that you would be able to share the list of proposed sites that would be excluded from the GL and which would require an IL application. I would be very grateful if you could circulate this.

Also, I would be grateful for an update on the proposed start date for the public consultation. We are getting an increasing number of calls from shoots who are very confused and concerned about timescales and whether they will be able to go ahead with their plans for this season or not.

With many thanks for your help.

[REDACTED]

---

This communication from the Game & Wildlife Conservation Trust contains information which is confidential and may also be privileged. It is for the exclusive use of the addressee. If you are not the addressee please note that any distribution, copying or use of this communication or the information in it is prohibited. If you have received this communication in error, please telephone us immediately to arrange for its return. For more information about how we protect your personal data see our [Privacy Policy](#) on our website.

The Game & Wildlife Conservation Trust is a charitable company limited by guarantee registered in England and Wales under number 05579632, registered charity number 1112023 (England and Wales) and SC038868 (Scotland). VAT Reg 665 2959 92. Registered Office: Burgate Manor, Fordingbridge, Hampshire SP6 1EF Tel: +44(0)1425 652381. Email: info@gwct.org.uk Web: www.gwct.org.uk Registered Office: Burgate Manor, Fordingbridge, Hampshire SP6 1EF  
Game & Wildlife Conservation Trading is a company limited by guarantee (registered no 1503620, VAT Reg No 323 7013 94.) which carries out trading and advisory activities and some fundraising events for the Game & Wildlife Conservation Trust.

Registered in England and Wales. Registered Office: Burgate Manor, Fordingbridge, Hampshire SP6 1EF

Item 25

**From:** [REDACTED]@gwct.org.uk

**Sent:** 26 March 2021 16:39

**To:** [REDACTED]@defra.gov.uk

**Cc:** [REDACTED]@defra.gov.uk

**Subject:** Re: Partridge releases

Hi [REDACTED],

Yes that works for me.

Look forward to speaking then

Best wishes

[REDACTED]

Get [Outlook for iOS](#)

---

**From:** [REDACTED]@defra.gov.uk

**Sent:** Friday, March 26, 2021 4:22:29 PM

**To:** [REDACTED]@gwct.org.uk

**Cc:** [REDACTED]@defra.gov.uk

**Subject:** RE: Partridge releases

Hi [REDACTED]

Thanks very much for your email and sorry for not getting back to you sooner. Are you free for a call on Monday around 14:30?

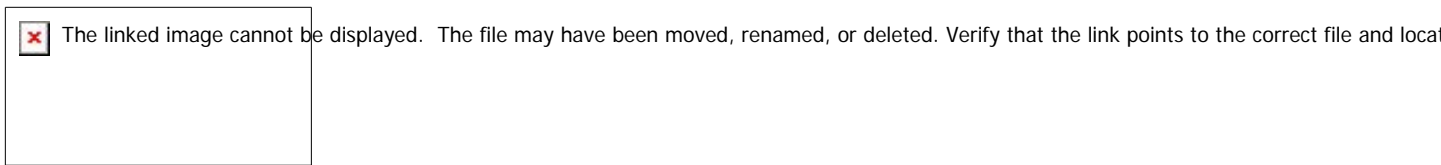
Many thanks

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Game Birds Review Team | Natural Environment, Trees and Landscape Directorate (NETL) |  
Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

**Tel:** [REDACTED]



**From:** [REDACTED]@gwct.org.uk  
**Sent:** 23 March 2021 21:01  
**To:** [REDACTED]@defra.gov.uk  
**Subject:** RE: Partridge releases

Dear [REDACTED]  
Apologies for not replying sooner.  
Very happy to have a call to discuss  
Kind regards  
[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]@defra.gov.uk  
**Sent:** 22 March 2021 14:33  
**To:** [REDACTED]@gwct.org.uk  
**Subject:** Partridge releases

Hi [REDACTED]

Would you be free for a call at some point this afternoon or tomorrow morning? I'd welcome a chat about the proposed partridge density in the game bird licence proposals in the context of some of the responses to the consultation.

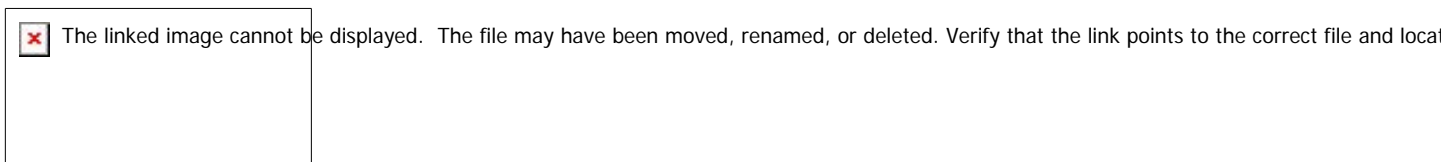
Many thanks

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Game Birds Review Team | Natural Environment, Trees and Landscape Directorate (NETL) |  
Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

**Tel:** [REDACTED]



Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) This email and any attachments is intended for the named recipient only. If you have received it in error you have no authority to use, disclose, store or copy any of its contents and you should destroy it and inform the sender. Whilst this email and associated attachments will have been checked for known viruses whilst within Defra systems we can accept no responsibility once it has left our systems. Communications on Defra's computer systems may be monitored and/or recorded to secure the effective operation of the system and for other lawful purposes.

---





The linked image cannot be displayed. The file may have been moved, renamed, or deleted. Verify that the link points to the correct file and location.

This communication from the Game & Wildlife Conservation Trust contains information which is confidential and may also be privileged. It is for the exclusive use of the addressee. If you are not the addressee please note that any distribution, copying or use of this communication or the information in it is prohibited. If you have received this communication in error, please telephone us immediately to arrange for its return. For more information about how we protect your personal data see our [Privacy Policy](#) on our website.

The Game & Wildlife Conservation Trust is a charitable company limited by guarantee registered in England and Wales under number 05579632, registered charity number 1112023 (England and Wales) and SC038868 (Scotland). VAT Reg 665 2959 92. Registered Office: Burgate Manor, Fordingbridge, Hampshire SP6 1EF Tel: +44(0)1425 652381. Email: [info@gwct.org.uk](mailto:info@gwct.org.uk) Web: [www.gwct.org.uk](http://www.gwct.org.uk) Registered Office: Burgate Manor, Fordingbridge, Hampshire SP6 1EF  
Game & Wildlife Conservation Trading is a company limited by guarantee (registered no 1503620, VAT Reg No 323 7013 94.) which carries out trading and advisory activities and some fundraising events for the Game & Wildlife Conservation Trust.

Registered in England and Wales. Registered Office: Burgate Manor, Fordingbridge, Hampshire SP6 1EF

**Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra)** This email and any attachments is intended for the named recipient only. If you have received it in error you have no authority to use, disclose, store or copy any of its contents and you should destroy it and inform the sender. Whilst this email and associated attachments will have been checked for known viruses whilst within Defra systems we can accept no responsibility once it has left our systems. Communications on Defra's computer systems may be monitored and/or recorded to secure the effective operation of the system and for other lawful purposes.

---

This communication from the Game & Wildlife Conservation Trust contains information which is confidential and may also be privileged. It is for the exclusive use of the addressee. If you are not the addressee please note that any distribution, copying or use of this communication or the information in it is prohibited. If you have received this communication in error, please telephone us immediately to arrange for its return. For more information about how we protect your personal data see our [Privacy Policy](#) on our website.

The Game & Wildlife Conservation Trust is a charitable company limited by guarantee registered in England and Wales under number 05579632, registered charity number 1112023 (England and Wales) and SC038868 (Scotland). VAT Reg 665 2959 92. Registered Office: Burgate Manor, Fordingbridge, Hampshire SP6 1EF Tel: +44(0)1425 652381. Email: [info@gwct.org.uk](mailto:info@gwct.org.uk) Web: [www.gwct.org.uk](http://www.gwct.org.uk) Registered Office: Burgate Manor, Fordingbridge, Hampshire SP6 1EF  
Game & Wildlife Conservation Trading is a company limited by guarantee (registered no 1503620, VAT Reg No 323 7013 94.) which carries out trading and advisory activities and some fundraising events for the Game & Wildlife Conservation Trust.

Registered in England and Wales. Registered Office: Burgate Manor, Fordingbridge, Hampshire SP6 1EF

Item 26

**From:** [REDACTED]@countryside-alliance.org  
**Sent:** 09 December 2020 15:52  
**To:** Sargeant, Anna [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: Gamebirds catch-up

Anna,

Sorry I've been out for most of the day. You will see I have accepted 3pm tomorrow. Our members are particularly concerned about increased regulation being used to restrict and potentially prohibit their activities, which is why the Barker 3 licensing proposal is particularly difficult for us. It sets a clear precedent for statutory regulation of all gamebird release. We are keen to work with you to ensure that SPA's have relevant protection, but as you will have seen from the letter we think there are better ways of delivering that than the proposed licensing system.

To discuss tomorrow I'm sure.

[REDACTED]

**From:** Sargeant, Anna [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 09 December 2020 10:54  
**To:** [REDACTED]@countryside-alliance.org  
**Subject:** RE: Gamebirds catch-up

[REDACTED]

Apologies for the delayed response myself – [REDACTED]. Do you have half an hour free tomorrow between 10-12pm, 1 – 2pm, 3-4pm or after 5pm by any chance? We received your latest letter which we'll need to take a bit of time to consider fully but it would be good to hear what matters most to you/your members and why. And to get a bit of feedback on how they've been responding.

I'm also looking to slot in a quick catch up with [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] to have similar conversations – no doubt there will be similar themes but I'm keen to understand each membership in more depth.

Anna

**From:** [REDACTED]@countryside-alliance.org  
**Sent:** 08 December 2020 12:32  
**To:** Sargeant, Anna [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: Gamebirds catch-up

Anna,

Apologies for delay in responding.

Tomorrow and Thursday both mostly good?

[REDACTED]

**From:** Sargeant, Anna [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 07 December 2020 12:33  
**To:** [REDACTED]@countryside-alliance.org  
**Subject:** Gamebirds catch-up

[REDACTED]

Good morning. Are you free for a quick catch up later this week?

Anna

Anna Sargeant | Deputy Director, General Licensing and Gamebird Review | Natural Environment, Trees & Landscapes|

**Dept for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs** | 2 Marsham St, Westminster, London SW1P 4DF

Mobile: [REDACTED]

Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) This email and any attachments is intended for the named recipient only. If you have received it in error you have no authority to use, disclose, store or copy any of its contents and you should destroy it and inform the sender. Whilst this email and associated attachments will have been checked for known viruses whilst within Defra systems we can accept no responsibility once it has left our systems. Communications on Defra's computer systems may be monitored and/or recorded to secure the effective operation of the system and for other lawful purposes.

Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) This email and any attachments is intended for the named recipient only. If you have received it in error you have no authority to use, disclose, store or copy any of its contents and you should destroy it and inform the sender. Whilst this email and associated attachments will have been checked for known viruses whilst within Defra systems we can accept no responsibility once it has left our systems. Communications on Defra's computer systems may be monitored and/or recorded to secure the effective operation of the system and for other lawful purposes.

Item 27

**From:** [REDACTED]@basc.org.uk

**Sent:** 17 November 2020 18:54

**To:** [REDACTED]@defra.gov.uk; [REDACTED]@defra.gov.uk;  
[REDACTED]@defra.gov.uk

**Cc:** Barker, Edward [REDACTED] [REDACTED]@msn.com; [REDACTED]@countryside-alliance.org; [REDACTED]@basc.org.uk;

**Subject:** RE: Interim gamebird release licence meeting invitation

Dear [REDACTED],

Thank you for the invitation to the Interim Gamebird Release Meeting.

I am writing in respect of the meeting this coming Thursday to discuss Defra's proposed new interim licensing regime. I can confirm that Caroline Bedell BASC, Glynn Evans BASC, Tim Bonner CA, Charles Nodder NGO & GFA will be in attendance. We look forward to the briefing.

That noted, and to ensure there is no ambiguity in our position, I also would like to record that nothing that we say at this meeting, nor the mere fact of our attendance, should be taken in any way to indicate any support for the view that a new licensing regime – even an interim one – is a necessary and/or proportionate way forward.

Thank you for agreeing to circulate the list of attendees and look forward to receiving them before the meeting.

Kind Regards

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Conservation

The British Association for Shooting and Conservation

Mobile: [REDACTED]

Membership Hotline: [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]@basc.gov.uk

Website: [www.basc.org.uk](http://www.basc.org.uk)

**From:** [REDACTED]@defra.gov.uk

**Sent:** 17 November 2020 17:40

**To:** [REDACTED]@basc.org.uk; [REDACTED]@defra.gov.uk;  
[REDACTED]@defra.gov.uk

**Cc:** Barker, Edward [REDACTED]

**Subject:** RE: Interim gamebird release licence meeting invitation

Hi [REDACTED]

Yes we can do that. You'll probably have gathered that we have had a slight technical issue with the mailbox but we'll get something out as soon as we can.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] [REDACTED] General Licensing (with [REDACTED]) | Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

Tel: [REDACTED]. Mob: [REDACTED] [REDACTED]@defra.gov.uk

Sterling House, Dixs Field, Exeter, EX1 1QA

Working pattern – I work a compressed week with Fridays being my non working day.

**From:** [REDACTED]@basc.org.uk

**Sent:** 17 November 2020 17:34

**To:** [REDACTED]@defra.gov.uk

**Cc:** Barker, Edward [REDACTED]

**Subject:** FW: Interim gamebird release licence meeting invitation

Dear [REDACTED],

It would be extremely useful to know who will be attending the meeting on 19 November from Defra and NE, as well as other organisations.

Would it be possible to have a list of attendees?

Kind Regards

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Conservation

The British Association for Shooting and Conservation

Mobile: [REDACTED]

Membership Hotline: 01244 573 030

Email: [REDACTED]@basc.org.uk

Website: [www.basc.org.uk](http://www.basc.org.uk)

**From:** SM-Defra-GLTeam (DEFRA) <[GLTeam@defra.gov.uk](mailto:GLTeam@defra.gov.uk)>  
**Sent:** 12 November 2020 14:55  
**To:** SM-Defra-GLTeam (DEFRA) <[GLTeam@defra.gov.uk](mailto:GLTeam@defra.gov.uk)>  
**Subject:** Interim gamebird release licence meeting invitation

Dear Stakeholder,

Defra would like to invite you to a consultative forum on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> November 2020 at 11.00am – 12.30pm to discuss the next steps on the proposed interim Gamebird Release Licence.

#### Agenda

1. Approach to stakeholder engagement/consultation
2. Timeline – where we want to be by when
3. Licencing regime – an outline
4. Industry data on EPS and 500m buffer releases
5. AOB

Please join this Microsoft Teams meeting

**Join on your computer or mobile app**

[Click here to join the meeting](#)

**Or call in (audio only)**

[+44 20 3321 5273](tel:+442033215273),964976976# United Kingdom, London

Phone Conference ID: 964 976 976#



**Please confirm your attendance at this meeting to this mailbox**

Kind Regards

[REDACTED]

Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) This email and any attachments is intended for the named recipient only. If you have received it in error you have no authority to use, disclose, store or copy any of its contents and you should destroy it and inform the sender. Whilst this email and associated attachments will have been checked for known viruses whilst within Defra systems we can accept no responsibility once it has left our systems. Communications on Defra's computer systems may be monitored and/or recorded to secure the effective operation of the system and for other lawful purposes.

Disclaimer: This email and any files transmitted with it are confidential and intended solely for the use of the individual or entity to whom they are addressed. If you have received this email in error please notify me at [REDACTED]@basc.org.uk then delete it. BASC may monitor email traffic. By replying to this e-mail you consent to BASC monitoring the content of any email you send or receive from BASC. Any views expressed in this message are those of the individual sender, except where the sender specifies with authority, states them to be the views of the British Association for Shooting and Conservation. BASC can confirm that this email message and any attachments have been scanned for the presence of computer viruses but recommends that you make your own virus checks. Registered Society No.: 28488R. Registered Office: Marford Mill, Rossett, Wrexham, LL12 0HL. BASC is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority ref 311937.

Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) This email and any attachments is intended for the named recipient only. If you have received it in error you have no authority to use, disclose, store or copy any of its contents and you should destroy it and inform the sender. Whilst this email and associated attachments will have been checked for known viruses whilst within Defra systems we can accept no responsibility once it has left our systems. Communications on Defra's computer systems may be monitored and/or recorded to secure the effective operation of the system and for other lawful purposes.

Disclaimer: This email and any files transmitted with it are confidential and intended solely for the use of the individual or entity to whom they are addressed. If you have received this email in error please notify me at [REDACTED]@basc.org.uk then delete it. BASC may monitor email traffic. By replying to this e-mail you consent to BASC monitoring the content of any email you send or receive from BASC. Any views expressed in this message are those of the individual sender, except where the sender specifies with authority, states them to be the views of the British Association for Shooting and Conservation. BASC can

confirm that this email message and any attachments have been scanned for the presence of computer viruses but recommends that you make your own virus checks. Registered Society No.: 28488R. Registered Office: Marford Mill, Rossett, Wrexham, LL12 0HL. BASC is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority ref 311937.

Item 28

**From:** SM-Defra-GL Team <GLTeam@defra.gov.uk>

**Sent:** 08 February 2021 13:08

**To:** SM-Defra-GL Team <GLTeam@defra.gov.uk>

**Subject:** Gamebird Consultation

Dear Stakeholder,

Please note that we are not in a position to launch the Gamebird consultation this week as previously advised. We aim to do so as soon as possible in the coming weeks.

We will communicate further updates to you.

Kind Regards,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] | General Licensing Review Team

Defra | Area 5C, Nobel House, 17 Smith Square, London SW1P 3JR

Email: [REDACTED]@defra.gov.uk | Tel: [REDACTED]

Item 29

**From:** [REDACTED] @defra.gov.uk  
**Sent:** 26 November 2020 13:37  
**To:** [REDACTED]@defra.gov.uk  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]@defra.gov.uk  
**Subject:** RE: Interim Gamebird Licence Meeting

Dear Stakeholder,

As discussed at our meeting last week, we would very much welcome any input you have on:

- Potential licence conditions
- Information on gamebird activity so that we can best understand the impact an interim licence might have on the gamebird industry and how we might best mitigate any negative impacts. For example, understanding whether many releases take place within European Protected Sites or their buffer zones might help determine whether we are better to take a more limited blanket approach to a general licence or one that treats the sites and their buffers differently. The highlighted questions below included in the presentation are particularly important in this regard.

For each species (pheasants and red-legged partridge) it would be helpful to know:

- i. The number of shoots currently in operation**
- ii. The names of the individual sites the shoots are operating within or around sites**
- iii. Whether these shoots are operating (or can operate) within existing industry best practice standards (including bird densities of <1000 birds/ha and <700 birds/ha for sensitive habitats) i.e. the [sustainable gamebird releasing guidelines](#) produced by GCWT in 2007
- iv. The total numbers of birds released by each shoot (for each species)**
- v. How significant the releases taking place within or around these sites are, as a proportion of all releasing undertaken by the shoots

In addition, you are very welcome to share anything you would like to see covered in the consultation. The more specific you are able to be, the easier it will be for us to give proper consideration.

Kind Regards,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] | General Licensing Review Team

Defra | Area 5C, Nobel House, 17 Smith Square, London SW1P 3JR

Email: [REDACTED]@defra.gov.uk | Tel: [REDACTED]

Item 30

**From:** SM-Defra-GLTeam (DEFRA) <GLTeam@defra.gov.uk>  
**Sent:** 12 November 2020 14:55  
**To:** SM-Defra-GLTeam (DEFRA) <GLTeam@defra.gov.uk>  
**Subject:** Interim gamebird release licence meeting invitation

Dear Stakeholder,

Defra would like to invite you to a consultative forum on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> November 2020 at 11.00am – 12.30pm to discuss the next steps on the proposed interim Gamebird Release Licence.

Agenda

1. Approach to stakeholder engagement/consultation
2. Timeline – where we want to be by when
3. Licencing regime – an outline
4. Industry data on EPS and 500m buffer releases
5. AOB

Please join this Microsoft Teams meeting

**Join on your computer or mobile app**

[Click here to join the meeting](#)

**Or call in (audio only)**

[+44 20 3321 5273,,964976976#](#) United Kingdom, London

Phone Conference ID: 964 976 976#

**Please confirm your attendance at this meeting to this mailbox**

Kind Regards

[REDACTED], [REDACTED] General Licensing

Item 31

**From:** [REDACTED]@basc.org.uk

**Sent:** 12 November 2020 17:32

**To:** SM-Defra-GLTeam (DEFRA) <GLTeam@defra.gov.uk>; [REDACTED]

**Subject:** RE: Interim gamebird release licence meeting invitation

Dear [REDACTED],

Thank you for my invite myself and [REDACTED] will attend on behalf of BASC.

Kind Regards

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]Conservation

The British Association for Shooting and Conservation

Mobile: [REDACTED]

Membership Hotline: 01244 573 030

Email: [REDACTED]@basc.org.uk

Website: [www.basc.org.uk](http://www.basc.org.uk)

**From:** SM-Defra-GLTeam (DEFRA) <[GLTeam@defra.gov.uk](mailto:GLTeam@defra.gov.uk)>

**Sent:** 12 November 2020 14:55

**To:** SM-Defra-GLTeam (DEFRA) <[GLTeam@defra.gov.uk](mailto:GLTeam@defra.gov.uk)>

**Subject:** Interim gamebird release licence meeting invitation

Dear Stakeholder,

Defra would like to invite you to a consultative forum on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> November 2020 at 11.00am – 12.30pm to discuss the next steps on the proposed interim Gamebird Release Licence.

Agenda

1. Approach to stakeholder engagement/consultation
2. Timeline – where we want to be by when
3. Licencing regime – an outline
4. Industry data on EPS and 500m buffer releases
5. AOB

Please join this Microsoft Teams meeting

**Join on your computer or mobile app**

[Click here to join the meeting](#)

**Or call in (audio only)**

[+44 20 3321 5273,,964976976#](#) United Kingdom, London

Phone Conference ID: 964 976 976#

**Please confirm your attendance at this meeting to this mailbox**

Kind Regards

[REDACTED], [REDACTED] General Licensing

Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) This email and any attachments is intended for the named recipient only. If you have received it in error you have no authority to use, disclose, store or copy any of its contents and you should destroy it and inform the sender. Whilst this email and associated attachments will have been checked for known viruses whilst within Defra systems we can accept no responsibility once it has left our systems. Communications on Defra's computer systems may be monitored and/or recorded to secure the effective operation of the system and for other lawful purposes.

Disclaimer: This email and any files transmitted with it are confidential and intended solely for the use of the individual or entity to whom they are addressed. If you have received this email in error please notify me at [REDACTED]@basc.org.uk then delete it. BASC may monitor email traffic. By replying to this e-mail you consent to BASC monitoring the content of any email you send or receive from BASC. Any views expressed in this message are those of the individual sender, except where the sender specifies with authority, states them to be the views of the British Association for Shooting and Conservation. BASC can confirm that this email message and any attachments have been scanned for the presence of computer viruses but recommends that you make your own virus checks. Registered Society No.: 28488R. Registered Office: Marford Mill, Rossett, Wrexham, LL12 0HL. BASC is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority ref 311937.



Item 32

**From:** SM-Defra-GL Team <GLTeam@defra.gov.uk>

**Sent:** 11 December 2020 14:21

**To:** SM-Defra-GL Team <GLTeam@defra.gov.uk>; [REDACTED]@defra.gov.uk

**Subject:** Second Consultative Forum date change

Dear Stakeholder,

Please note that our second Consultative Forum meeting previously scheduled for next week will hold on January 13<sup>th</sup> at 1.00 – 2.00pm.

We will be providing an update on the proposed interim licensing regime.

In addition, we would like to reiterate the request in our November 27<sup>th</sup> email that you share anything you would like to see covered in the consultation. This includes any alternatives to the proposed licensing regime provided that these are genuine and can be implemented within the same timescales and can provide the equivalent level of protection. This should be provided to Defra at the earliest possible opportunity so it can be considered as part of the ongoing consultation.

Kindly confirm your attendance to this mailbox.

**Microsoft Teams meeting**

Join on your computer or mobile app

[Click here to join the meeting](#)

Or call in (audio only)

+44 20 3321 5273,,857817272# United Kingdom, London

Phone Conference ID: 857 817 272#

[Find a local number](#) | [Reset PIN](#)

Best wishes

[REDACTED], Defra General Licence and Gamebird Review Team