



Eich cyf/Your ref P-05-813
Ein cyf/Our ref HB/00342/18

David John Rowlands AM
Chair - Petitions committee.
National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff Bay
CF99 1NA
government.committee.business@wales.gsi.gov.uk

23 April 2018

Dear David,

Thank you for your letter of 27 March regarding the petition you have received from the Action Against Wildlife Persecution requesting a ban on the use, sale and manufacture of Larsen Traps (Multi-Corvid Traps).

All wild birds and their eggs and nests are protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended). Under this Act birds cannot be taken or killed, nor their eggs or nests taken or destroyed (when in use or being built) except under licence. The disused nests of some birds (Golden eagles, White-tailed eagles and Ospreys) are also protected.

However, it is recognised a number of common 'pest' species (e.g. Carrion crow (*Corvus corone*), Jackdaw (*C. monedula*), Jay (*Garrulus glandarius*), Magpie (*Pica pica*) and Rook (*C. frugilegus*)) can cause sufficient damage to warrant control. Therefore, Natural Resources Wales (NRW) issue a number of General Licences which allow authorised persons to kill or take these 'pest' species using certain specified methods (e.g. shooting or cage trapping) for specified purposes.

General Licences were issued in 2018 by NRW for the following purposes: preserving air safety, conserving flora and fauna and to prevent serious damage to agriculture, forestry or fisheries, and to prevent the spread of disease. These four licences can permit the use of Carrion crow, Jackdaw, Jay, Magpie and Rook as decoy birds in Larsen traps.

Live birds used in Larsen traps to attract other birds are captive (i.e. kept) and therefore fall within the scope of, and protection conferred by, the Animal Welfare Act 2006 (as amended). There is a duty of care on all animal keepers to protect the welfare of animals in their care, whether on a permanent or temporary basis.

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Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

Ensure welfare, sets out the needs of animals to include;

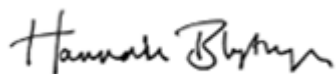
- a suitable environment;
- a suitable diet;
- ability to exhibit normal behaviour patterns;
- to be housed with, or apart from, other animals (as necessary); and
- the need to be protected from pain, suffering injury and disease.

A condition of the General Licences issued by NRW is 'all relevant animal welfare legislation must be complied with at all times, including the Animal Welfare Act 2006'.

Other conditions include a requirement to check traps at least once a day at intervals of no more than 24 hours and for non-target species (except for invasive non-native species included in Schedule 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981) to be released immediately upon discovery.

I strongly believe the way we treat our birds and animals is an important reflection of the values of our society. Animals and birds should be protected and those who choose to break the law should be prosecuted.

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Hannah Blythyn'.

Hannah Blythyn AC/AM
Gweinidog yr Amgylchedd
Minister for Environment