

From: [REDACTED]
To: [PS Minister for Climate Change](#)
Cc: [PS Minister for Rural Affairs and North Wales, and Trefnydd](#); [PS Deputy Minister for Climate Change](#); [Butler, Daniel \(OFM - Special Advisers\)](#); [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[Witchard, Ceri \(CCRA - ERA - Landscapes, Nature and Forestry\)](#); [REDACTED]
Subject: Email briefing - Snares & Humane cable restraints - a follow-up from your visit to Ysbyty Ifan curlew restoration
Date: 11 July 2022 12:13:44

Good Afternoon

Please can you bring the following to the Ministers attention?

Issue: Follow-up information regarding ban on snare use in Wales.

During a visit to see a curlew restoration project last week, we understand you were shown a Humane Cable Restraint and told that they were an essential tool in fox control.

GWCT (and others) have been attempting to re-brand Code-compliant snares as Humane Cable Restraints (HCRs). **A HCR and a Code Compliant snare are identical in every way.** Banning the use of snares was a pledge in the Labour manifesto and a commitment in the current PfG. This will include snares and cable restraints which comply with the Welsh Government Code of Practice which are sometimes called code-compliant snares.

Officials have met with both GWCT and BASC to discuss this issue and have considered evidence from a wide variety of sources in our work on the snare Code dating back to 2015 and onwards and more recently in providing policy instructions for lawyers drafting the Agriculture (Wales) Bill. The Bill will ban the use of all snares and cable restraints.

The re-branding is aimed at persuading Ministers to allow certain named groups to continue to use snares following the proposed ban. The Code of Best Practice on the use of snares in fox control was launched by Welsh Government in 2015. Since that time, officials have requested evidence annually from snare user groups to demonstrate the success of the Code in improving animal welfare and decreased capture of non-targets. Very little evidence has been provided and no assurances given that the Code has improved practice. An assurance was also provided by the then Minister for Rural Affairs to the Climate Change, Environment and Rural Affairs Committee last Senedd term that if improvements in operator practice were not demonstrated then Ministers would seek to legislate.

Officials have worked with legal services and OLC and snare provisions for inclusion in the Agriculture Bill are complete. As a result of the re-branding attempt, officials have included 'snares' and 'cable restraints' in the draft legislation. Our work on snares has included an assessment of whether a licensing system (as seen in Scotland) would meet the PfG policy objective of improving animal welfare. Officials have concluded that it would not. The draft

Cost Benefit Analysis options paper is available if the Minister would like more detail.

Both GWCT and BASC have told us that snares are important tools for fox control to protect curlews. Officials have discussed this issue with NRW specialists and also those who carry out fox control. The most efficient method of fox control is the use of rifles with thermal-image scopes at night. GWCT and BASCs argument appears to assume that people will not use these alternatives. **Banning snares/HCRs is about preventing inhumane methods being used and does not prevent fox control using other methods.**

Thank you

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]