WILDLIFE INCIDENT UNIT 4/19

WILDLIFE INCIDENT REPORT

INCIDENT NUMBER 4/19

PART OF STUDY FSGD-211

REGIONAL NUMBER W/18/22

OTHER REFERENCES 28-B0089-11-18

SENDER VLA Carmarthen

LOCATION Pont Llanio
Carmarthenshire

GRID REFERENCE SN6456

INCIDENT DATE 17 May 2018

SUSPECTED CAUSE OF INCIDENT starvation

DATE OF REPORT 25 April 2019

REPORTING OFFICER [redacted]

SIGNED : .....[redacted]...

NUMBERS AND SPECIES INVOLVED
1 red kite

COPIED TO

[redacted]

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Samples received			Date received	Sample identifier
99295	red kite		11/1/19	APHA: 28-B0089-11-18, spec 1
99295	red kite	tissues	11/1/19	APHA: 28-B0089-11-18, spec 1

Summary of field data

A dead red kite in good condition was handed in to an ex-CCW warden on or around the 17/05/2018. There were no obvious injuries to the bird. The bird is ringed and tagged. There are no further details available and the carcase was collected by WG and delivered to the APHA for post-mortem. The carcase had been stored in the freezer in the intervening time.

Summary of post mortem report

A dead male red kite that weighed 0.67kg in a poor body condition with a severe degree of autolysis was submitted for post-mortem. The bird had a purple wing tag and black number 25. The bird was also ringed, number AJ60331. The bird had faecal staining of the feathers around the cloaca. The keel bone was sharp with poor pectoral muscle development. The crop was empty and the gizzard and proventriculus had only scant dark red contents. All other organ systems were unremarkable.

Analysis : rodenticide analysis suite

99295	liver	brodifacoum	confirmed	0.0065	mg/kg
99295	liver	bromadiolone	confirmed	0.16	mg/kg

Conclusion

Initially it was suspected that this red kite had been poisoned, although post-mortem findings indicated that a natural cause may account for it's death. Laboratory analysis for a range of anticoagulant rodenticides only has been undertaken on the submitted samples and these tests have detected and confirmed a residue of bromadiolone and brodifacoum in the liver of this red kite. The amount of bromadiolone found is approaching a level that may be regarded as significant, although there were no haemorrhagic findings on post-mortem. Therefore, starvation may account for the death of this red kite, given the poor condition of it with little gastrointestinal contents.

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