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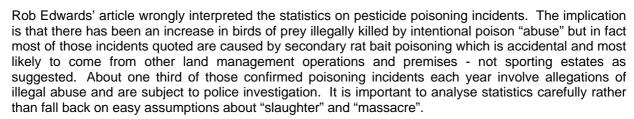
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Date: 16 January 2011

The Editor The Sunday Herald 200 Renfield Street Glasgow G23 QBY

Dear Sir





The article did not bring out what land managers are doing to resolve the problem of poisoning where they are aware of it. Last year saw intensive awareness raising campaigns among rural organisations and an increase in land managers handing in to police the corpses of birds found on their land. Relationships between police and the land management community have improved in recent years and it is only through such collaboration that the problem of illegal poisoning will be finally stamped out. It is very encouraging that in the Grampian region, which has pioneered a wildlife crime liaison group involving all key parties under the Partnership Against Wildlife Crime (PAW), there have been no illegal bird of prey poisoning cases in 2010. That is the way ahead, rather than further legislation. Unfortunately, this issue is turning into a bandwagon which the anti-landownership lobby is climbing onto as well. There has been suspicion for some time that the issue of bird of prey persecution is being used for a wider political agenda and that has now been clearly laid bare for all to see.

Yours faithfully

Doug McAdam

Chief Executive



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