

Lesley Knevitt

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**From:** accesstoinfo  
**Subject:** FW: CONFIDENTIAL - Meeting to Discuss Mossdale Estate Gamekeeper/Landowner Conduct

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**From:** ~~David Butterworth <David.Butterworth@yorkshiredales.org.uk>~~  
**Sent:** 04 July 2016 16:20  
**To:** David Butterworth  
**Subject:** FW: CONFIDENTIAL - Meeting to Discuss Mossdale Estate Gamekeeper/Landowner Conduct

Dear David

I have just spoken to ~~David Butterworth~~ and we are proposing that our meeting to discuss Mossdale gamekeeper conduct takes place at 7pm on the 12/7/16 (venue tbc).

I will also be attending a site visit prior to the meeting at 5pm and your YDNPA representative would be very welcome to attend this too.

Can you send me your representative contact details so I can forward the meeting venue and meeting point for visit when they have been finalised.

Kind Regards

~~David Butterworth~~

~~01753 811198~~

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**From:** David Butterworth <David.Butterworth@yorkshiredales.org.uk>  
**Date:** Friday, 1 July 2016 at 09:45  
**To:** ~~David Butterworth <David.Butterworth@yorkshiredales.org.uk>~~  
**Cc:** ~~David Butterworth <David.Butterworth@yorkshiredales.org.uk>~~, "susan.allison@yorkshiredales.org.uk"  
<susan.allison@yorkshiredales.org.uk>  
**Subject:** RE: CONFIDENTIAL - Meeting to Discuss Mossdale Estate Gamekeeper/Landowner Conduct

Dear ~~David~~

Thank you for your recent email. To answer your question directly; no, we don't think we have a role in directing the Police in operational matters and would not try to apply pressure to them.

Many of the issues you raise are not questions of degree, they are simply unlawful and need to be dealt with by the Police. More helpfully, we would be happy to send a representative along to a meeting with the Police, to discuss those matters over which we have some responsibility, should you be able to arrange one. Let me know.

Yours sincerely

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David Butterworth  
Chief Executive

Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority,  
Yoredale, Bainbridge, Leyburn,  
North Yorkshire DL8 3EL.

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

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**From:** ~~David Butterworth~~

**Sent:** 30 June 2016 09:14

**To:** David Butterworth

**Cc:** ~~David Butterworth~~

**Subject:** CONFIDENTIAL - Meeting to Discuss Mossdale Estate Gamekeeper/Landowner Conduct

Dear David

I'm writing to you in connection with the recent arrest of the Mossdale gamekeeper for pole trapping birds of prey on Waddle Fell and wanted to make you aware of a series of escalating events concerning the same gamekeepers here in Garsdale and am seeking some support and intervention. I have also noted your statement about the pole trapping incident particularly references to the conservation of life here, preservation of the place to ensure that others can enjoy and how the gamekeeper illegal actions were destroying this. The situations that we are experiencing here are significantly adding to matters.

~~I am a resident of Mossdale Estate~~ and (due to my interest in wildlife) have become a bit of a conduit for all incidents that have been observed by residents recently and as the number and seriousness of reports has been increasing I'm currently trying to organise a community meeting with Cumbria police to discuss matters face to face with those concerned in more depth. However, I do not think that the police are taking us seriously and have now stated that they will only attend a meeting during a weekday in office hours which means that some residents with the most vital information and who have been witness to most serious incidents can't attend e.g firearms being discharged across gardens with children in and resultant conflict with landowner and gamekeepers who intimidated them – they are now thinking of moving from the dale.

I have attached the recent email trail below to the police and anonymous group of residents so you can see the line of communication but thought it might be a good idea to bullet point instances that we require advice about:

- Firearms discharged across garden with children in, unattended firearms left on quads, firearms being discharged next to (? Across) A684
- Illegal snares (not self locking) seen on Baugh Fell
- Buckets of carcasses left on fell
- Tunnel traps which could catch non target species (particular concern about schedule 6 animals e.g red squirrels as we live in a red squirrel reserve with a thriving population and any traps and snares should be set to specifically ensure this category of animal is not caught or set in a location where they may be present)
- Trespass on land and location of traps – gamekeepers have illegally set traps on highways. Reported to Cumbria CC and believe that they are contacting landowner demanding trap is removed.
- Reports of sudden loss of birds of prey in Grisedale – we have seen no buzzards or other birds of prey whatsoever in the dale for the past 18 months –something drastic has happened in this timescale. Abundance of rabbits appearing which suggests natural predators have disappeared too. It is like the area is being sterilised of wildlife
- 2 x Stink pits to catch foxes in Grisedale forest – various carcasses of fallen stock in pits which have been illegally dumped
- Confrontation with gamekeepers and intimidation of residents.

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- Failure of gamekeepers to legally check traps on a daily basis – it has been reported that these traps are being left for over a week. Advice required as to how to gain evidence via covert cameras.

Cumbria police have been made aware of all of the above.

Is there anyway YDNPA could intervene and provide a bit of pressure to try and get things addressed properly? I have cc'd ~~XXXXXX~~ in to this email.

Best Regards

~~XXXXXXXXXX~~

~~XXXXXXXXXX~~

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From: ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~

Date: Thursday, 30 June 2016 at 08:33

To: ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~

Subject: FW: Meeting to Discuss Mossdale Estate Gamekeeper/Landowner Conduct

Hello All

See below regarding the proposed meeting with Cumbria police to discuss concerns about the gamekeepers. I have had some disappointment expressed to me about the unwillingness of police to hold the meeting when all interested parties can attend so the meeting is on hold until they get back to me.

I really do get the impression that they are not really interested in dealing with matters e.g there are still outstanding queries raised over 2 weeks ago that require comment and feedback and they did not fully respond to Cumbria CC regarding the trap placed via trespass on the highway leaving me to prompt them for the response then pass information on to council officers. Alarming they don't appear to be bothered about hearing about the discharged firearms incidents from the people who actually experienced them which is probably the most serious incident that has happened!

Surely incidents of the nature we are reporting require community cohesiveness to ensure effective action and I feel that the opportunity for this to happen is being denied by the police because of personal inconvenience to one of the officers (shift pattern and location of officer and distance to travel here from Cockermouth).

Note I have cc'd ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ into communications.

Watch this space....

~~XXXX~~

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From: ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~

Date: Wednesday, 29 June 2016 at 08:18

To: ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~

~~XXXXXXXXXX~~

Cc: ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~

Subject: Re: Meeting to Discuss Mossdale Estate Gamekeeper/Landowner Conduct

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