

Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform Committee

PE01750: Independent Monitoring of Satellite tags fitted to raptors

Correspondence from Dr Ruth Tingay

11th February 2021

Dear Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform Committee member,

I write to you in relation to the above petition, which I understand will be considered by the Committee on 23rd February 2021.

I am writing in my capacity as an independent researcher who has been studying eagles for over 20 years, and who with Chris Packham and others has been involved in the satellite tracking of golden eagles and other raptors in Scotland for four years. We are also members of the Golden Eagle Satellite Tagging Group (GESTG) – a coalition of researchers who share data, experience and expertise.

I will keep this short as I know you have already received detailed correspondence from the GESTG, and from RSPB Scotland explaining the significant flaws in this petition [REDACTED]

As an update, earlier this month members of the Scottish Raptor Study Group (including representative members of GESTG) met with officials from NatureScot (formerly SNH) for what was a very constructive meeting on satellite tagging processes and licensing. **It was made clear to us that neither NatureScot nor Police Scotland had any substantive concerns about the way we operate or communicate with the licensing and police authorities.**

We have excellent working relationships with those who license our activities and those who investigate when we suspect our tagged birds have become the victims of illegal persecution.

I hope you will find this update helpful to your deliberations.

Thank you for your consideration,

Yours sincerely,



Dr Ruth Tingay