



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

PUBLIC PETITION NO.

PE01850

Name of petitioner

Les Wallace

Petition title

Natural flood prevention on grouse moors

Petition summary

Calling on the Scottish Parliament to urge the Scottish Government to make the use of natural flood prevention methods a condition for obtaining a grouse moor licence.

Action taken to resolve issues of concern before submitting the petition

I have raised these issues with MSPs.

Petition background information

More than 10% of Scotland consists of grouse moors which are predominantly in upland areas where much of our rain falls. Flood prevention strategies are inadequate if they do not involve changes in the way our uplands are managed. The intended licencing scheme for grouse moors provides an excellent opportunity to begin this process. Keeping homes dry should never have been compromised to shoot more grouse. Flood reduction work will also reduce the fire risk and speed of fire on grouse moors through creating firebreaks, a much-needed relief for our emergency services.

I believe that in order for grouse moor owners to be granted a grouse moor license, they must be able to demonstrate that they are using natural flood prevention methods to slow the flow of water from their land in order to reduce the flood risk to homes, businesses and farms on lower land. The measures to be taken include reduced muirburn, blocking drainage, peat restoration, targeted contour and riparian tree planting to reduce the speed of flow into watercourses, insertion of woody material into watercourses to create 'leaky' dams to hold water back during high rainfall and the eventual return of the beaver whose dams are increasingly being recognised as a major contributor to flood prevention. These measures are vital to combat the massive financial and human cost of flooding.

I attach some further reading which might be useful:

[Targeted tree planting for reducing flood risk](#)

[The role of beavers in reducing floods](#)

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/newsround/51528733>

How trees reduce floods:

[https://www.bing.com/videos/search?](https://www.bing.com/videos/search?q=wild+trout+trust+videos&docid=608043816226718102&mid=F50EE655F4F677EE2F63F50)

[q=wild+trout+trust+videos&docid=608043816226718102&mid=F50EE655F4F677EE2F63F50](https://www.bing.com/videos/search?q=wild+trout+trust+videos&docid=608043816226718102&mid=F50EE655F4F677EE2F63F50)

[Role of leaky dams](#)

Unique web address

<https://www.parliament.scot/GettingInvolved/Petitions/PE01850>

Related information for petition

Do you wish your petition to be hosted on the Parliament's website to collect signatures online?

YES

How many signatures have you collected so far?

0

Closing date for collecting signatures online

04 / 03 / 2021

Comments to stimulate online discussion

Do you agree that a licencing system should be put in place to prevent damage to homes and that livelihoods downstream aren't compromised in order to shoot more grouse?