

PE1601/A

Scottish Government Letter of 3 August

Dear Mr Howlett

CONSIDERATION OF PETITION PE1601

Thank you for your letter of 5 July 2016 to Iain Jaynes, Committee Liaison Officer, asking the Scottish Government to give its views on Petition PE1601 and when it is likely to conclude its consideration of the report by SNH, published in June 2015, and make a final decision on the status of beavers in Scotland. I have been asked to reply.

There are complex issues around the management and legal status of beavers in Scotland. In particular the large beaver population on Tayside, which was unlawfully released or allowed to escape, has significant impacts on some of the most productive agricultural land in Scotland. Further work needs to be undertaken on how and whether these impacts can be satisfactorily managed before any final decisions are made.

However, as Roseanna Cunningham, Cabinet Secretary for Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform, indicated during the Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform Committee meeting which took place on 28 June 2016 in the Scottish Parliament a decision on the reintroduction of beavers will be made by the end of the year.

Yours sincerely

John Gray