

From: [REDACTED] (NE)
To: [REDACTED] (Defra);
cc: [REDACTED] (NE); [REDACTED] (NE);
[REDACTED] (NE);
Subject: RE: [REDACTED]
Date: 23 April 2013 10:13:27

Hi [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] spoke to [REDACTED] yesterday, I understand, and he may have briefed you already. It have just received confirmation that the decision in this case has been approved by the CEO so can explain where we are and what is happening. I'm afraid that this is rather brief as I have to draft the licences this morning.

- [REDACTED] applied for licences to kill and destroy nests of sparrowhawks and buzzards at 3 of [REDACTED] (these were the ones where problems were claimed to be most severe)
- Following assessment by [REDACTED], peer review by [REDACTED] and a final QA by myself it was recommended to:
 - reject the application in respect to sparrowhawks at all 3 shoots
 - reject the application to kill buzzards at all 3 shoots
 - issue a licence to permit buzzard nest destruction at 2 shoots
- This recommendation was approved by [REDACTED] this morning (and has been agreed at Executive Director and CEO level)
- Assessment in brief

Sparrowhawks: There was insufficient evidence that sparrowhawks were causing serious damage and / or further non-lethal measures needed to be employed.

Buzzards:

- At one shoot it insufficient habitat management had been carried out (despite our previous advice), and it was decided that this needed to be addressed before a licence could be justified.
- At the two remaining shoots there was a better case, but this was still considered

to be marginal. On balance, it was decided that weaknesses in the case for 'serious damage' and inconsistencies in the application of non-lethal methods were too great to justify permitting lethal control.

It was, however, decided that there was a justifiable case to permit nest destruction. This is a less severe option and applying the principle that the level of evidence should be commensurate with the impact of the derogated activity on the protected species, we felt this option was justified. Furthermore, it fitted with the principle of taking a stepwise approach to problems.

Although there is no research on the efficacy of this technique, it is logical that displacing breeding pairs away from vulnerable sites will help reduce predation and, in the event that it proves unsuccessful, the impact on the buzzards will be modest.

- Nest steps

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I hope this captures the main points. Let me know if you need anything further.

Regards

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]@naturalengland.org.uk

From: [REDACTED] (Defra)

Sent: 22 April 2013 15:27

To: [REDACTED] (NE)

Subject: [REDACTED]

Hi [REDACTED]

When I spoke to [REDACTED] last week he said you were close to determining the applications for [REDACTED] – probably discussing them last Thurs in a meeting. I wondered if you had made any decisions and if so if you could let us know, and also do let us know if there's anything we can help out with?

Thanks

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Defra

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Tel: [REDACTED]

Mob: [REDACTED]