

From: [REDACTED] (NE)
To: [REDACTED] (NE);
Subject: FW: Applications for Raptor Licences
Date: 11 March 2013 11:51:15
Attachments: [REDACTED] [Application \[REDACTED\].doc](#)
[REDACTED] [Application \[REDACTED\].doc](#)
[REDACTED] [Application \[REDACTED\].doc](#)
[REDACTED] [Letter.doc](#)

fyi

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 10 March 2013 22:06
To: Wildlife, Bristol (NE); [REDACTED] (NE); [REDACTED]@naturalengland.org.uk
Cc: [REDACTED]; [REDACTED] (Defra); [REDACTED] (NE); [REDACTED]
Subject: Applications for Raptor Licences
Importance: High

To: NE Wildlife Licensing [REDACTED]

On behalf of [REDACTED], I attach applications for licences to control buzzards and sparrowhawks at three pheasant shoots he runs in [REDACTED]. I also attach a letter to [REDACTED] about the shoot at [REDACTED] from the landowner there, [REDACTED].

These applications are further to a meeting last week, on site, between [REDACTED] (NE), [REDACTED] (NE), [REDACTED] and myself and they follow [REDACTED] made in 2011 and 2012.

These applications are urgent as any approved nest destruction and spring control will need to be carried out within weeks. There is a further urgency to the [REDACTED] application in that if it is granted, game crops will have to be sown, also within weeks, whereas if it is not granted, the shoot there will not be going ahead (see attached letter). [REDACTED] and the farmers there thus need quick answers. Can I also remind you that your Director [REDACTED], has given me [REDACTED] personal assurance (in a letter dated 3/9/12) that raptor licence applications will be dealt within thirty working days unless by mutual consent between the applicant and NE. The applicant does not consent to an extension in this case, not least [REDACTED] have gone months over the thirty days [REDACTED] been the subject of a

formal complaint against NE that was upheld. By my reckoning, taking tomorrow Monday 11 March as 'day 1', determinations of these applications must be with [REDACTED] by **Tuesday 23 April** at the latest.

I think we all know the 'political' background here, but for the sake of completeness can I remind you of the Minister's letter to the NGO dated 22/11/12, which states that the tests to be used in determining applications such as these are those numbered 1 to 4 in Defra's Overarching Wildlife Management Policy.

Can I also refer you to my notes of the meeting held between the National Gamekeepers' Organisation, NE and Defra at Bristol on 9/10/12, approved by both [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] (with additions by the latter), and in particular the acceptance by NE that public opinion cannot be taken into account when determining applications (point 3), and that applications must be determined fairly and on the facts known at the time of the application (point 6).

May I also remind you of NE's principle of 'consistency', not least in relation to the licensing of different species ([REDACTED] is regularly granted licences by NE to control gulls and cormorants), and of Defra's policy, in line with Wednesbury principles, that *"No licence shall be unreasonably withheld."*

[REDACTED] applications make reference to the NGO being prepared to take refusal of his requirements this year to Judicial Review and I confirm that would be the case. We need to provide a legitimate route for those genuinely suffering serious damage as a result of increasing raptor populations. Unless a workable way forward can be found, there will simply be more problems, and, frankly, more wildlife crime.

I do hope that [REDACTED] can make progress.

Finally, there is of course a sensitivity to this issue and for the safety of all concerned please can the matter be kept appropriately confidential.

With thanks and best wishes,

[REDACTED]

National Gamekeepers' Organisation