

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [REDACTED] (NE);  
**Subject:** Re: Applications for Raptor Licences  
**Date:** 21 March 2013 13:25:29

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Thanks [REDACTED]. I understand. [REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED] (NE)  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 21, 2013 11:02 AM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED] (NE)  
**Subject:** RE: Applications for Raptor Licences

Hi [REDACTED]  
Thanks for this.

As you'll know, we can't pre-empt the licensing decision but (as we discussed when we met), we will of course consider all options including the 'letter of comfort' route.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
Regulation Improvement & Specialist Services  
Natural England

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[mailto:\[REDACTED\]@naturalengland.org.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@naturalengland.org.uk)

<http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/>

We are here to secure a healthy natural environment for people to enjoy, where wildlife is protected and England's traditional landscapes are safeguarded for future generations.

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 20 March 2013 18:29  
**To:** [REDACTED] (NE)  
**Cc:** [REDACTED] (NE)  
**Subject:** Re: Applications for Raptor Licences

Hi [REDACTED]

Thanks for copying me in. [REDACTED] rang me after you had spoken with him and he says he will give you all the costing figures for the [REDACTED] shoots that he can.

He also said he had asked you about 'his chances' (you have to admire the directness of gamekeepers!) and he got the impression, rightly or wrongly, that a culling licence for [REDACTED] was unlikely. A refusal there would be very disappointing for us all, of course, given that the continuation of the shoot there is on the line.

Can I therefore repeat a suggestion we discussed when we met? It is that if [REDACTED] does have to be refused for a compelling reason, then perhaps it could at least be done by way of a strong 'letter of comfort' along the lines that if the thinning were to be done there this year as planned, and the brushings were left as required etc, and the shoot were to go ahead, then, in the event that losses of poults to raptors in the first couple of weeks after release were again very high (defined?), NE would urgently consider a re-application to control buzzards/sparrowhawks at [REDACTED] in late summer this year.

I do not know but it seems to me that such a letter might give enough 'comfort' to the landowners and to [REDACTED] to have the confidence to keep the shoot going there this year, whilst the suggested approach might also overcome the problem I can see NE may have at [REDACTED] namely that we cannot know at this stage whether the thinning/brushing piles would do the trick there (although of course [REDACTED] makes a compelling point that they haven't made a demonstrable difference elsewhere). For the NGO's part, I do not think we would regard such an approach at [REDACTED] as being unsatisfactory, assuming [REDACTED] gets what he needs elsewhere.

I am sorry this is a little 'conspiratorial' in tone and I know that NE must of course make its decisions fairly and on the facts but I hope this email may help. I have not discussed it with [REDACTED] or anyone else, nor do I intend to do so.

Best wishes,

[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED] (NE)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 20, 2013 4:37 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]; [REDACTED] (NE)  
**Subject:** Applications for Raptor Licences

[REDACTED]

(cc. [REDACTED] [REDACTED])

As discussed this afternoon, below is a table to show the costings for the [REDACTED] shoots you have applied for. As mentioned when we visited, it would be useful to have these costings to allow us to calculate the cost of birds at different return rates. I have included in the first column the costings you previously provided for [REDACTED] as an example. If you would be able to complete the columns for [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] (don't worry about the last [REDACTED] 'cost per bird' rows – we can calculate these) and send this back to me at your earliest convenience, that would be much appreciated. I assume that the quantities and rates for labour, feed, beaters and wheat will be about the same as indicated – please do alter the first column if anything has changed.

Item	[REDACTED] Cost (£) 2011-12 (Estimated)	[REDACTED]: Cost (£) 2012-13	[REDACTED]: Cost (£) 2012-13	[REDACTED] Cost (£) 2013-13
Labour (7 hours per week for 26 weeks at [REDACTED] per hour)	[REDACTED]			
Feed pellets – 2 tonne	[REDACTED]			
Beaters (6 @ [REDACTED] per day for 5 days)	[REDACTED] (@ [REDACTED] per day)			
Poults	[REDACTED] (for 8 wk old)			
Rent	[REDACTED] + [REDACTED]			
Maize	[REDACTED]			
Diesel	[REDACTED]			
Wheat (8 tonne)	[REDACTED]			
<b>TOTAL</b>	[REDACTED]			
Cost per gun	[REDACTED]			
Cost per bird @ 50% return	[REDACTED]			
Cost per bird @ 40% return	[REDACTED]			
Cost per bird @ 35% return	[REDACTED]			

Thanks for the updated figure for foxes shot since July 2012, and for discussing the returns figures. I understand the difficulties in accounting for pheasants moving between shoots, and agree that the poult numbers should be assigned to the shoot which paid for them. I also understand you using your own ex-layers predominantly on your own shoot.

I forgot to mention on the phone, but it would be good to have a copy of your original figures on our file, i.e. a photocopy of the figures in your diary. Would you be able to post (or scan and e-mail) a copy to us? (My address is below, if posting is easier.)

Many thanks.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]  
Regulation Improvement & Specialist Services  
Natural England

[REDACTED]

[mailto:\[REDACTED\]@naturalengland.org.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@naturalengland.org.uk)

<http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/>

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