

From: [REDACTED] (NE)
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: WLM/2011/1801 - Buzzard predation of laying hens
Date: 23 December 2011 13:53:00

Dear [REDACTED],

We would like to give you an update on your licence application to shoot Buzzards before NE enters the festive break. Apologies for the delay in making a decision on your case.

As I mentioned to you before, applications to shoot birds-of-prey to prevent/ reduce predation of livestock etc, are rare and highly political. Our policy position, guided by Defra and above, is not yet finalised. Therefore, although it is regrettable, these higher level discussions have resulted in a delay in a determination of your case. It may be just one or two Buzzards to you, but it is the setting of a precedent at a national level which is of concern. However, the good news is that I and the next level of peer review have submitted for consideration our recommendation that a licence be issued in this case, i.e. we have not at this time decided to reject the application. I should stress, however, that no licence has been issued and therefore no lethal action can occur. Please do not shoot any Buzzards since to do so could be regarded as an offence.

It is important that you maintain a clear record of the dates and numbers of hens predated by Buzzards and other predators. I'd also advise keeping a record of actions attempted to keep Buzzards away – not every time you walk up to the field, but anything significant, like moving the sheds, providing more cover for hens or even if you decide to bang nails into all the fencepost tops to stop Buzzards perching on them; it would be prudent to write this down AND if such action had any effect on the presence of Buzzards. All this information might be requested e.g. by Defra or NE, at a later date.

Any questions, please call me in the New Year.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]
Wildlife Management Adviser
Wildlife Management & Licensing
Natural England
[REDACTED]



<http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/ourwork/regulation/wildlife/default.aspx>

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.