

**From:** [REDACTED] (ERG-BIO)  
**To:** [REDACTED] (NE);  
**cc:** [REDACTED] (NE); [REDACTED] (NE); [REDACTED] (ERG-WAC);  
**Subject:** Buzzards  
**Date:** 04 May 2012 14:01:01  
**Attachments:** [RE URGENT Application for a licence to shoot buzzards predating on free-range chickens - IN CONFIDENCE.msg](#)

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[REDACTED]

I do apologise, but I can't see when I sent my email to you feeding back my thoughts on the buzzard application. I was on the train coming back from London on Weds and did have some trouble with the connection, It's not showing as sent, so don't know what happened or if it arrived. Anyway here it is again if you don't have it:

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Defra

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Tel: [REDACTED]

Mob: [REDACTED]

**To:** [REDACTED] (NE)  
**Cc:** [REDACTED] (ERG-BIO); [REDACTED] (NE); [REDACTED] (NE); [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] (ERG-WAC)  
**Subject:** RE: URGENT: Application for a licence to shoot buzzards predating on free-range chickens - IN CONFIDENCE

My thoughts:

I think the technical assessment is incorrectly dated – Date of report should be 27/02/2012 not 2011?

I don't understand the calculation on pg 3 of the tech asst. If you replace hens, then you also replace the egg laying process and feed the new hens? Surely the loss is therefore just the cost of replacing the hens, because they are choosing to do this at one point in the year is their choice- couldn't there be a regular in flow of new birds to manage this a bit more?

On the licence review doc at para 8, I'm disappointed to see a statement of this being a "novel" application, for which there is "no specific policy guidance". There is policy guidance which applies across species and it's unrealistic to expect there to be tailored guidance for every circumstance. You need to work within the policy framework which exists.

A lot of "think", "feel", "are sure", "suspect" but I'm getting anecdotes not facts? This is important because for example in "Case A" records are having to be kept and facts established- is the same level of proof being sought here?

There is a note that predation was suspected into have cause lower egg production because of stress in October but losses were later found to be due to a feed problems, have you bottomed out the financial effects of this episode ?

Not clear that the elimination of two buzzards will resolve the problem, so is it a suitable solution?

It is not clear which buzzards are responsible, so how will the correct "rogues" be targeted?

Happy to discuss

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

**Defra**

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

**Tel:** [REDACTED]  
**Mob:** [REDACTED]

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**From:** [REDACTED] (NE)  
**Sent:** 29 April 2012 20:57  
**To:** [REDACTED] (ERG-BIO)  
**Cc:** [REDACTED] (ERG-BIO); [REDACTED] (NE); [REDACTED] (NE); [REDACTED] (ERG-WAC)  
**Subject:** URGENT: Application for a licence to shoot buzzards predated on free-range chickens - IN CONFIDENCE  
**Importance:** High

Dear [REDACTED]

As discussed on Friday, [REDACTED] have approved, in principle, the issue of a licence to control buzzards to prevent serious damage to a free-range poultry unit. Before making a final decision we wanted to give the Department the opportunity to comment on the case.

As I explained, Natural England will be advising key stakeholders (specifically: the RSPB, the National Gamekeepers Organisation and other parties involved in the Working Group) of our intention to issue a licence due to their interest in this topic. As agreed, we will not do this until you have provided your feedback on the case.

I would be grateful for early feedback, as we are keen to progress the case swiftly.

Enclosed

- 1) Summary of case
- 2) Adviser's report

<< File: wlm-11-1801 - Buzzard - [REDACTED] - assessment - ver 4a - 27-02-12 redacted.pdf >> << File: wlm-11-1801 - Buzzard and poultry v3.doc >>

Regards

[REDACTED]  
29 April 2012

[REDACTED]  
Wildlife Management and Licensing  
Natural England  
Address:

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Tel: + [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

[www.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.**

In an effort to reduce Natural England's carbon footprint, I will, wherever possible, avoid travelling to meetings and attend via audio, video or web conferencing.