



Ms S. Wallace
PO Box 1251
Glasgow
G12
By email: sylvia.wallace@gmail.com

Our ref:A159639

7 March 2008

Dear Ms Wallace,

Thank you for your request of 11 February for copies of correspondence on eagle deaths or disappearances, and autopsies, at or in areas, up to 10 km, surrounding Scottish windfarms. We have considered your request under the Environmental Information (Scotland) Regulations 2004.

SNH does not hold any eagle autopsy reports. With the exception of the information we supplied to you in response to your last request, we do not hold any correspondence relating to incidents of eagle deaths or disappearances at or in areas of up to 10 km surrounding windfarms. SNH is not required to routinely collect or hold information on any eagle deaths. Nor do we have any mandate to investigate the deaths or disappearances of eagles.

SNH works in partnership to improve surveillance, monitoring, and understanding of raptors through the Scottish Raptor Monitoring Scheme. Other organisations involved in this project are the Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC), the British Trust for Ornithology (BTO Scotland), the Rare Breeding Birds Panel (RBBP), the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB Scotland), the Scottish Ornithologists' Club (SOC), and the Scottish Raptor Study Groups (SRSG). SNH relies on these organisations to supply us with relevant data or information when we make any decisions that might affect raptors. You may wish to contact the Secretary for the Scottish Raptor Study Groups, Patrick Stirling-Aird, via the raptor study group website <http://www.scottishraptorgroups.org/> for more information on raptors in Scotland. The BTO provides permits for ringing birds and may also hold some information that may be of interest to you.

As we intimated in our last letter, the Police and the State Veterinary Service are likely to hold records of eagle deaths where such incidents are reported as wildlife crime. SNH issues licences for radio tracking of eagles in Scotland. However, without further details of the case you cite, it is difficult for us to find any information to address this issue.

You may also be interested in the independent scientific research on the effects of various land uses, including windfarms, on eagles available in the literature. For example:

Fielding, Alan H; Whitfield, D Philip; McLeod, David RA 'Spatial association as an indicator of the potential for future interactions between wind energy developments and golden eagles *Aquila chrysaetos* in Scotland'. *Biological Conservation* Vol. 131, no. 3, pp. 359-369. Aug 2006.

Madders, Mike; Whitfield, D Philip 'Upland raptors and the assessment of wind farm impacts' *Ibis* [Ibis]. Vol. 148, no. s1, pp. 43-56. Mar 2006.

Eaton MA (Eaton, Mark A.), Dillon IA (Dillon, Ian A.), Stirling-Aird PK (Stirling-Aird, Patrick K.), Whitfield DP (Whitfield, D. Philip) 2007 'Status of Golden Eagle *Aquila chrysoetos* in Britain in 2003' *BIRD STUDY* (54) Pages: 212-220

Finally, we would like to highlight the fact that current evidence suggests that illegal persecution is the most influential man-made impact on raptor populations in Scotland.

If you are dissatisfied with how we have responded to your information request then please write to our Director of Strategy and Communications, John Thomson at Battelby, Redgorton Perth, PH1 3EW or email him via foi@snh.gov.uk. He will carry out a review of SNH's response and provide an outcome within 20 working days.

If you are not satisfied following this then you can make an appeal to the Scottish Information Commissioner. The Scottish Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

Scottish Information Commissioner
Kinburn Castle
Doubledykes Road
St Andrews
Fife
KY16 9DS

Yours sincerely



Jennifer Ryles
Information Officer