

# PLAY YOUR PART SPEAK UP FOR GROUSE MOORS



## NOW IS THE TIME TO ACT

### Grouse moor management is firmly in the spotlight.

The Werritty Review, commissioned by the Scottish Government, could herald significant change with new legislation or further regulatory measures being progressed through the Scottish Parliament.

We are urging all those interested in country sports and rural life to **TAKE ACTION NOW**.

What you can do:

- Contact your local MSP and tell them why grouse shooting and moorland management are so important in your area.
- Ideally make an appointment to see them in their constituency office, typically on a Friday.
- Invite them to visit their local estate and see how the work of the estate benefits the local community.
- If it's not possible to make an appointment, send an email outlining your key points.

Engaging with MSPs should be a friendly and constructive interaction. We have a very positive story to tell which we hope they will recognise and support.

**See overleaf for more details of how to get involved.**



## HOW TO CONTACT YOUR MSP

Simply call your local MSP's constituency office or drop them an email, writing as a constituent and ask for a face to face meeting.

Jobs and livelihoods in rural communities are reliant on a thriving country sports sector.

### THANK YOU



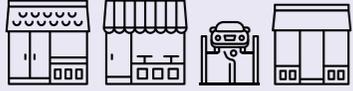
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# THE BENEFITS OF GROUSE MOOR MANAGEMENT

OVER  
**£23 MILLION**



A survey of 45 grouse estates, conducted by Scotland's regional moorland groups in 2017, found that over £23 million flows directly into local businesses, from mechanics to butchers to cafes and village shops



**2,640**

**FULL-TIME JOBS**

are supported as a direct result of grouse shooting in Scotland



**£350 MILLION ANNUALLY**

The value of the game and country sports industry into the Scottish economy

The following points could be raised when contacting your local MSP.

## ECONOMIC BENEFITS

Moorland management supports thousands of jobs in rural areas of Scotland, where alternative sources of employment are few and far between. These jobs keep workers and families in the glens and help prevent constant migration to major cities for employment.

There is no other use of moorland that would generate the same economic benefit for Scotland.



## LAND MANAGEMENT

The UK has 75% of the entire world's resource of open heather moorland, most of which is in Scotland. UK uplands store some 5 billion tonnes of carbon in the soil – more than all the forests of Britain and France combined.

Muirburn (controlled burning of heather) improves upland habitats for wildlife. Land managers follow a code of practice enforced by the Scottish Government. Properly carried out, muirburn avoids damaging peat and has been shown to help, not prevent, carbon storage.

Furthermore, controlled burning will reduce the risk of wildfires. The Scottish Fire & Rescue Service (SFRS) is adopting controlled burning from 2020 onwards to reduce the risk of wildfires caused accidentally by members of the public. Gamekeepers have been of huge help to the SFRS in combating wildfires.

## CONSERVATION

Well-managed moorlands provide habitats for at least 57 bird species in Scotland, as well as mountain hares, reptiles and amphibians.

Grouse moors are increasingly seen as centres of excellence for ground-nesting birds. Curlew, lapwing, black grouse, oystercatcher and golden plover are amongst the birds thriving on managed moorlands as a result of predator control and moorland management.

Shooting estates have undertaken a huge cultural shift in recent years, working collaboratively with public sector organisations and undertaking joint research on conservation issues. Initiatives such as Heads Up for Hen Harriers, Working For Waders and the Partnership Against Wildlife Crime Scotland are bearing fruit, with greater data sharing and cooperation for mutual benefit.

Wildlife crime is at an all-time low.

