

Introduction

Policy proposals and consultation questions - About you

1. Would you like your response to this consultation to be confidential in the event of an access to information request (see confidentiality and data protection above)?

Yes

If you answered 'Yes' please give your reason(s) :

Fear of violence or retribution involving animal suffering by members of the hunt community on our village, should they know who dares to speak against them.

2. Provide your full name

Provide your full name:



3. Provide your email address or, alternatively, your full postal address

Provide your email address or, alternatively, your full postal address :



4. In what capacity are you completing this consultation?

as an individual

If other, please specify:

5. If you are responding on behalf of an organisation, what is the name of that organisation?

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N/A

6. This consultation is for proposals that would apply only in England and Wales. Where are you, or the organisation you are representing, located?

England

If other, please specify:

Policy proposals and consultation questions - Proposed Legislative Approach

7. Do you agree with the proposed definition of "trail hunting"?

No

Please explain your reasons including, if applicable, your preferred definition of "trail hunting":

As trail hunting is almost exclusively a smokescreen for illegal hunting, banning the use of animal based scents would only require the hunts to find a new smokescreen. The definition should include traditional fox hunting deliberately (or claimed to be accidentally) created by the activity of trail hunting.

8. What types of conduct should be covered by 'engagement' or 'participation' in trail hunting?

Please explain the reasons for your answer:

Trail hunting is a smokescreen for actual hunting. Hunting wild mammals with dogs must be properly banned by the new legislation.

Conduct to assist hunting includes:

Terrier work

Searching or taking hounds to an area where wild animals are known or could reasonably be expected to be

Claiming a trail has been laid through inaccessible land

Unmounted hunt members directing the hunt or its prey

Blocking hunt activity from public view

Breeding or enabling the breeding of foxes

Trespass

Cub hunting - the particularly vile practice of training young hounds to kill by practicing on fox cubs

9. In relation to offences or conduct which would assist unlawful trail hunting to take place, we intend that it should be an offence for the owner or occupier of land to knowingly cause or permit another person to engage or participate in trail hunting on that land. Do you agree?

Yes

Please explain the reasons for your answer:

10. In relation to offences or conduct which would assist unlawful trail hunting to take place, we intend that it should be an offence for the owner or person responsible for a dog to knowingly cause or permit another person to use the dog for trail hunting. Do you agree?

Yes

Please explain the reasons for your answer:

11. Are there any other forms of conduct which should be considered as possible offences in relation to offences or conduct which would assist unlawful trail hunting to take place?

Yes

Please explain the reasons for your answer:

Killing a wild animal during any hunt by any means, unless for humane purposes

Pursuing a wild animal for any distance at all

Badger sett blocking

Taking the hunt onto or across public roads

Taking hounds into residential areas - pets are at risk

12. Do you consider that any other legislative changes are necessary to ensure that a ban on trail hunting is effective?

Yes

Please explain the reasons for your answer:

The penalties for hunting must be a sufficient deterrent. A fine of a few hundred pounds is just the cost of taking part, much like green fees for golf. A lifetime ban from membership of any hunt, fines of at least £10k and corporate responsibility causing significant fines for that business, should be considered.

Also, hunting should be a reportable crime so that police forces are credited for their work. Clear up rates would be very high as hunt monitors are usually able to provide plenty of credible evidence.

The existing law is ineffective due to abuse of exemptions. These should all be removed and care taken not to introduce new ones. The new legislation will be scrutinised by the hunts' barristers to find new loopholes ahead of the next season.

Killing as a result of reckless or negligent behaviour, as well as by "accident" or unintentionally, should be illegal

13. Do you think that it is possible for dogs to be appropriately trained for specific purposes other than trail hunting without the use of either animal based scents or artificial scents which mimic an animal based scent?

Yes

Please explain the reasons for your answer and, if applicable, explain the circumstances where you think it necessary to continue to permit the use of such scents in training dogs.:

Your specific example highlights a potential loophole: hunts can describe a fox as a pest and then claim their hunt is for pest control purposes. This they will surely do!

If dogs are trained for other purposes, they should be kept on a lead at all times and the handler should have full responsibility for any unintended consequences

14. Do you think that it should remain lawful, in certain circumstances, for animal based scents, or scents which mimic animal based scents, to be used in training dogs for certain purposes?

Do not know

Please explain the reasons for your answer and, if applicable, what training purposes should be permitted.:

15. Do you agree that this is an accurate description of drag hunting?

Yes

Please explain the reasons for your answer and, if you wish, propose a different description.:

16. Do you think that there is a risk that dogs engaged in drag hunting will deviate from the pre-laid trail by the scent of a wild mammal and then pursue the wild mammal?

Yes

Please explain the reasons for your answer:

Any dog is capable of chasing a wild animal that it can sense. Control of the dogs is the critical factor. If the dogs are allowed to stray any distance from the responsible person ,animals will be at risk.

17. Do you agree that this is an accurate description of 'clean boot' hunting?

No

Please explain the reasons for your answer and, if you wish, propose an alternative description.:

A clean boot hunt has human runners who set a clear and unequivocal trail for bloodhounds to follow. They do not go into brambles, copses, etc., where wildlife can live and rest. All the routes will be available for the public to see and all landowners have given permission.

18. Do you think there is a risk that dogs engaged in clean boot hunting will deviate from their pursuit of human runners to the pursuit of wild mammals?

Yes

Please explain the reasons for your answer:

Any dog is capable of chasing a wild animal that it can sense. Control of the dogs is the critical factor. If the dogs are allowed to stray any distance from the responsible person ,animals will be at risk.

19. Do you think that a new law to ban trail hunting would need to include any additional provisions in relation to drag hunting or clean boot hunting?

Yes

Please explain the reasons for your answer:

There is a risk that these forms of hunting will be taken over by fox hunters. There need to be provisions to disband any hunt responsible for a kill and to prevent the responsible members from ever belonging to any kind of hunt thereafter. Responsible persons need to be defined to include key officers of the hunt and its business, not just the persons in charge on the day of the incident

20. Are there any equestrian activities other than drag hunting, for example point to pointing, which you think are at risk from being affected by the proposed ban on trail hunting?

No

Please explain the reasons for your answer:

None that can't adjust to the new environment.

21. How do you think the introduction of a ban on trail hunting will affect dogs used for trail hunting? For example, will they be able to be re-directed to other activities?

Please provide your answer:

Hunts claim that they retire their dogs to puppy walkers, so that would still work. The question requires knowledge of the temperament of individual hounds. Some make good pets. If hunts stop breeding the hounds, this will be a short term problem.

22. Do you think that there should be a transition period following the introduction of a ban on trail hunting and if so, how long should that period be?

No

Please explain the reasons for your answer:

Is 20 years not enough!!
One last season would be absolute carnage in the countryside. PLEASE NO!

Policy proposals and consultation questions - Community and Social Impacts

23. Do you think that the proposed legislation to ban trail hunting in England and Wales will affect people and/or communities more widely?

No

Please explain the reasons for your answer including, if applicable, which groups of people/communities could be affected and in what way:

I assume you mean negative effects. A proper ban will be a huge relief to rural communities. Hunts cause road chaos, risk to domestic animals and pets, trespass, intimidate locals and cause us all to hate the day we see the hunt nearby, dreading the consequences. Only 7% of the rural community support hunting and over 85% want to see them consigned to the past.

Policy proposals and consultation questions - Business and economic impacts

24. How do you think the proposed ban on trail hunting might affect the income and activities of the hunts currently involved in this activity?

Please explain the reasons for your answer:

If the hunts convert to legitimate forms of hunting - clean boot or drag - there need be no effect on their finances. The effect on their activities will be the end of killing wildlife for fun.

Should we be concerned about the livelihood of criminal gangs if we, as a society, have determined that their criminal activity must end?

25. How do you think the proposed ban on trail hunting might affect the income and activities of businesses directly linked with hunts which currently engage in trail hunting?

Please explain the reasons for your answer:

Hunt horses are used for other purposes out of season, so farriers should see no reduction in business. Horse boxes and quad bikes often appear to be in very poor state, so it is unlikely that mechanics see much business from the hunts anyway. Vets will probably see a drop off in business as horses are injured during hunts, but vets will easily find legitimate business to replace it.

Pubs and hotels may currently benefit from hosting a hunt ball or other fundraiser, this should not change if hunts make the switch to lawful sport.

26. Do you think that the proposed ban on trail hunting in England and Wales might affect other businesses not directly linked with hunts?

No

Please explain the reasons for your answer including, if appropriate, which types of businesses you think might be affected and how.:

Businesses not directly linked to hunts will find it easier to replace any lost income. They will adapt as every other business does.

Policy proposals and consultation questions - Environmental impacts

27. How do you think that the proposed ban on trail hunting could affect the environment or wildlife?

Please explain the reasons for your answer.:

The effect of a ban would be entirely positive for the environment and wildlife.

The effect on fox populations will likely be little changed. Hunts breed foxes to ensure they have plenty available to hunt and they kill a large number while hunting, so the end of hunting will leave fox populations to take their natural course, being controlled by availability of food and territory.

Foxes are far more valuable to the countryside than many people realise. By preying on rabbits—the primary food source of rural foxes—they provide a natural form of pest control that saves British crop farmers £millions every year. Over the course of its life, a single fox can generate significant additional revenue for arable farmers by reducing crop damage. Their benefits extend beyond agriculture: foxes also protect young woodlands by feeding on rabbits and field voles, two of the species most responsible for damaging new plantations. By keeping these populations in check, foxes support healthy forest growth and help prevent costly losses to the forestry industry.

Badgers will particularly benefit, as hunts will no longer need to block their setts to stop foxes from going to ground.

Further Considerations

28. Are there any other matters, including possible alternatives to primary legislation, which you feel should be taken into account in developing the legislation to ban trail hunting?

Yes

Please explain the reasons for your answer:

Anyone taking packs of dogs into the countryside should pass a competency test.

New laws should require anyone using firearms to shoot wildlife to demonstrate competence, with stricter gun licensing requirements.

Clear guidance is essential to help police identify traditional fox, stag, and other mammal hunts.

Any new legislation will be ineffective without proper enforcement. Police should be trained to recognise and respond to hunt-related offences, prioritising law enforcement over community relations and crowd control.

29. Is there any other evidence you would like us to consider?

Please use the box below to tell us briefly what you are going to send and why:

Consultee Feedback on the Online Survey

Overall, how satisfied are you with our online consultation tool? Please give us any comments you have on the tool, including suggestions on how we could improve it.

Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied

Please give us any comments you have on the tool, including suggestions on how we could improve it.: