



Chris Heaton-Harris
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Dear Constituent,

Thank you for contacting me about driven grouse shooting.

I understand that many people have strongly held views about this subject. I too want to see a vibrant, working countryside enhanced by a diverse environment. While there are no current plans to carry out a review of the management of grouse moors, I recognise that it is vital that wildlife and habitats are respected and protected, and that the country's conservation laws are observed, which are among the toughest in the world.

It is important to recognise, however, the conservation and economic benefits that shooting sports bring to rural communities. It is estimated that shooting as a whole is worth about £2 billion a year to the economy, much of it in some of our remotest communities, and supports thousands of jobs.

Finally, it is worth noting that all wild birds are protected from illegal killing by the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. Raptor persecution, including of hen harriers, is a national wildlife crime priority and there are strong penalties in place for offences committed against birds of prey, as well as other wildlife. Most wildlife crimes carry up to an unlimited fine and/or a six-month custodial sentence.

Ministers will continue to work to ensure a sustainable, mutually beneficial relationship between shooting and conservation.

Thank you again for taking the time to contact me.

Yours faithfully,

CHRIS HEATON-HARRIS MP
MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT FOR DAVENTRY