



Department  
for Environment  
Food & Rural Affairs

Nobel House  
17 Smith Square  
London SW1P 3JR

T 03459 335577  
helpline@defra.gsi.gov.uk  
[www.gov.uk/defra](http://www.gov.uk/defra)

The Rt Hon George Howarth MP  
House of Commons  
London  
SW1P 0AA

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**From Rory Stewart OBE MP**  
Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Environment and Rural Affairs

Dear George,

Thank you for your email of 4 February on behalf of a number of your constituents about the use of snares.

I fully appreciate your very understandable concerns about snares. Used according to best practice however, snares can be an effective and practical means of managing wildlife where other forms of control would not work or would be impractical.

In 2012 Defra published research on the extent of use and humaneness of snares in England and Wales. Following publication of the report, officials worked with stakeholders to explore options in light of the report's findings. I am considering options and will make an announcement in due course.

The Animal Welfare Act 2006 contains protection for animals under the control of man to help prevent unnecessary suffering and would cover any animal held in a snare. Any suspected cases of illegal use should be reported to the Police.

**RORY STEWART**