

From: Thompson, Guy (NE)
Sent: 25 October 2007 07:20
To: Woolford, Julian (NE)
Cc: Burgess, Stuart (NE)
Subject: FW: Sandringham persecution incident

Julian

A useful steer from Helen on the public line to take, once we have evidence.

Ian Fugler is on leave this week so suggest you contact Simon Baker in his absence to action Helen's cryptic msg.

Guy

-----Original Message-----

From: Phillips, Helen (NE)
Sent: 24 October 2007 22:50
To: Thompson, Guy (NE)
Cc: Fugler, Ian (NE); Belton, Adrian (NE)
Subject: Re: Sandringham persecution incident

Tx, think we should go in very hard, once we have evidence - perhaps Ian cld activate Richard Brunstrom link on this for us.

Helen

----- Original Message -----

From: Thompson, Guy (NE)
To: Phillips, Helen (NE)
Cc: Fugler, Ian (NE); Woolford, Julian (NE); Howat, Martyn (NE)
Sent: Wed Oct 24 20:29:00 2007
Subject: Sandringham persecution incident

Helen

I've just received a phone call from Mark Avery to inform me that there's likely to be a police investigation of a hen harrier persecution incident on the Sandringham estate tomorrow morning. Apparently a member of Natural England staff together with a Sandringham employee tonight watched two hen harriers coming into roost and getting shot from within the Sandringham estate. The police have been notified of the incident and are likely to request entry onto the Sandringham estate to investigate tomorrow.

Mark was fishing for how we might respond and tried to draw me on how this was an opportunity to demonstrate our credentials as a "trenchant champion". I think we can work on the assumption that RSPB will be going public with this asap and will want to make hay with it. There's not going to be a huge amount to be gained from jumping proactively on their bandwagon but clearly, if asked, we'd want to respond along the lines of "Natural England NE condemns the illegal persecution of wildlife. We understand that the matter is subject to a police investigation." I've asked Julian to ensure that someone gets back to Mark tomorrow to let him know who will be leading for Natural England and what our response will be and to get onto developing a line to take first thing.

Guy