

Mr Simon Jones
Scottish Beaver Trial Project Manager
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Cumbernauld
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10 June 2010

Dear Mr Jones

BEAVER REINTRODUCTION PROJECT

Thank you for your letter of 14 May to Hugh Dignon requesting a variation in your licence to conduct the Scottish Beaver Trial in order to introduce further replacement animals.

I am writing to notify you that, following consultation with SNH, Scottish Government is content to permit the release of replacement animals within the first two years of the trial ie up to 29 May 2011.

The conditions attached to the original licence will apply. Additional conditions relating to the replacement animals are listed in the attached Annex.

You state that the options for animals that cannot be returned to the trial would be euthanasia or return to captivity. Given the value of this resource, we consider the only option for healthy animals to be return to captivity. The option to euthanase animals on welfare grounds due to illness or injury would of course remain.

Finally, although two animals are still missing from the original release at Creagmhor, I understand that an animal was seen outside the trial area in autumn 2009 and one was seen in the last few weeks. We would expect the SBT to continue their efforts to relocate these animals.

Yours sincerely

ANDREW L TAYLOR

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BEAVER REINTRODUCTION PROJECT VARIATION TO LICENCE CONDITIONS

1. Replacement animals will only be used to replace dead or missing adult beavers in a pair.
2. Replacement animals will only be released within the trial site up to 29 May 2011.
3. Before any replacement animals are used agreement must be obtained from SNH.
4. Replacement animals will only be used in two circumstances; firstly in case of proven death of an adult, and secondly if an adult has been missing and no evidence seen for a period of six months. If the death was related to the trial then replacement animal would only be used if that factor or risk was satisfactorily removed or mitigated.
5. There should be a presumption that replacement animals should come from the remaining animals from the November 2008 import. Only if no suitable animal is available should other animals be considered.
6. The release arrangements, including the need for any fencing, should be discussed and agreed with SNH.
7. Released animals should have ear tags.
8. SNH should attend any release as observers.

**Natural Resources Division
June 2010**