

RAPTOR ALLIANCE – SUBMISSION TO LAW COMMISSION

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TEMPLATE LETTER TO MPs

Name MP
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

Date:

From: [Name]
[Address]

Dear Mr / Mrs / Ms / Miss []

I am a local pigeon fancier and constituent. I have been involved with homing and racing pigeon for xx years.

Since 1981 and the introduction of the Wildlife Act attacks on homing and racing pigeons by raptors have increased markedly given the growth in population numbers. This is now such a considerable problem that it threatens not only my enjoyment of the sport but almost the whole of our sport on a countrywide basis.

Previous enquiries regarding the issuing of licences, to remove individual problem raptors, under the Wildlife and Countryside Act to protect homing and racing pigeons in and around pigeon lofts have been unsuccessful.

Our understanding, following receipt of legal opinion and meetings with Natural England, DEFRA, ministers and others, is that under current legislation Natural England are unable to consider an application to control a bird of prey to protect homing and racing pigeons. This is due to the restrictions contained within the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, written and passed into law when raptor numbers were markedly lower than the present day.

The Law Commission has now completed its considerations of various wildlife laws, including the 1981 Act and we trust that it's eventually passage through Parliament will finally deliver the protection we seek for our sport.

The amended law would allow pigeon fanciers to make individual license applications to remove problem raptors from their specific loft, the amended law does not allow for a wider ranging class license nor do we seek one. Each application would have to be evidence based and will be judged on its merits by Natural England as required by the amended act.

As a result, I seek to persuade you to support the Law Commission proposals that will finally deliver our historic sport of pigeon racing a degree of protection from attack by raptors.

Yours sincerely

[Name]