



Ministry
of Defence

JAMES CARTLIDGE MP
MINISTER OF STATE FOR DEFENCE PROCUREMENT

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
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4.6.1

12 May 2023

Dear Robert,

I am writing in response to the online petition raised by Protect the Wild, requesting that the Ministry of Defence (MOD) stop issuing 'trail hunting' licences on MOD land.

I can advise that trail and drag hunting are legal activities authorised by the Hunting Act 2004. Until the Government amends the legislation to disallow these types of hunting, they will continue to be conducted on the Government estate subject to the provisions of the Act.

The MOD position is that any organisation wishing to hunt on MOD land must be an organisation with a recognised governing body, hold a MOD issued licence and all persons participating in a hunt must be a member of such an organisation and comply with the law.

Whilst I understand the concerns of raised by your members, I can confirm that the terms of the MOD licence are clear, that only trail hunting and drag hunting carried out in accordance with the provisions of the Act are permitted; anything else, including the hunting of foxes with dogs would be a breach of licence but, more importantly, contravene the Hunting Act 2004. Licences are not issued for any activities that would contravene the hunting Act.

Rob Pownall
CEO
Protect The Wild
71-75 Shelton Street
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WC2H 9JQ

Email: contact@protectthewild.org.uk

I can assure you that if MOD officials suspect that an offence has taken place, they will report the matter to the police, as the police deal with complaints of illegal hunting. Decisions on the arrest and prosecution of those taking part in illegal hunting activities, are matters for the police and prosecuting authorities. If a member of the public sees any activity which they believe to be illegal this should be reported directly to the police.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'J. Cartlidge', written in a cursive style.

JAMES CARTLIDGE MP