

Friday 9th January 2015

Review of Section 40
Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht
7 Ely Place
Dublin 2

To whom it may concern

Ref: Review of Section 40 of the Wildlife Act – Burning/Cutting Controls

The aim of Countryside Alliance Ireland (CAI) is to promote and support the livelihood of rural people and their communities. We campaign for the countryside, country sports and the rural way of life. The conservation of Ireland's wildlife is an integral part of our work and an issue we consider very important.

We are an all-Ireland membership organisation, with 10,000 individual members and over 25,000 affiliated members, and we welcome the opportunity to represent our members' views in these matters.

CAI works alongside the Irish Red Grouse Association Conservation Trust Ltd (IRGACT) and were indeed one of the founding organisations of the Association. We support the vital work that the IRGACT undertakes and continue to be encouraged by the growth and strength of the Association.

Therefore, we wish to manifest our support for the IRGACT in their response to the Department regarding the review of Section 40. We reiterate the point that the burning of vegetation is an important countryside management tool and that measures should be in place to allow this practice to continue during March.

In addition, it is important that the proposed legislation does not place any unnecessary burden or an increase in bureaucracy on Ireland's farmers, yet provides adequate protection for our wild birds.

If you require any additional information or should have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact us on 01 690 3610 or info@caireland.org.

Yours sincerely



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Chief Executive

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