

14<sup>th</sup> February 2014

Rt Hon Owen Paterson MP  
Secretary of State for Environment Food and Rural Affairs  
Defra  
Nobel House  
17, Smith Square  
London  
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*Owen Paterson*  
Secretary of State

**Public Forest Estate**

I am writing to you regarding government plans outlined in the document *Towards a new Public Forest Estate management body*.

You will appreciate the importance of the public forest estate to people that shoot, the income this produces through sporting leases and in the wider rural economy. There are also significant benefits for biodiversity that result from managing woodland for shooting.

The proposed new structure would include not only a Board to manage the new organisation, but also Guardians, representing the interests and expertise of the forest estate users who will support delivery of the new body. Both groups will focus on ways to maximise the economic, social and environmental value of the estate.

I would be grateful for any assurances the Department is able to provide to ensure that the new body takes advantage of the benefits provided by shooting.

With best wishes,

Yours sincerely,



The British Association for Shooting and Conservation Limited  
Registered Industrial & Provident Society N° 28486R

Patron: HRH The Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, KG KT

President: The Earl of Home, CVO CBE

Chairman: Martyn J R Howat

Chief Executive: Richard Ali, BSc (Hons) MSc