

PRESS RELEASE

22 May 2018

SCOTTISH MOORLAND GROUP STATEMENT ON HEN HARRIERS

The Scottish Moorland Group has issued the following statement regarding today's appeal for information on satellite tagged hen harriers.

Tim Baynes, Director of the Scottish Moorland Group, said: "When the satellite tag on any protected bird ceases to work it is a cause for concern and we support any appeal for information on these two hen harriers. Anyone with information should call the police on 101.

"It is disappointing that it has taken so long – more than three months in one case – for a call for information to be issued. It is perplexing for their disappearance to be linked to "driven" grouse moors as there are no driven grouse moors near Moffat, and the grouse moor community in Angus has made a wide commitment to Harrier conservation through the PAWS/SNH 'Heads Up For Harriers' project. We believe that Police Scotland are not pursuing a formal investigation into either disappearance.

"What this matter does highlight is the need to establish independence in how satellite tag data is processed. It is not unknown for tags to stop transmitting for a variety of reasons and confidence needs to be provided to all organisations with an interest in this area. This can only be achieved by an independent body being responsible for data from satellite tags rather than being processed by organisations actively seeking restrictions on grouse shooting."

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NOTES TO EDITORS

The Scottish Moorland Group is part of Scottish Land & Estates, a membership organisation for landowners, rural businesses and rural professionals.

Scottish Land & Estates promotes the wide range of benefits land-based businesses provide: tourist attractions, leisure facilities and landscapes enjoyed by the public, as well as, housing, employment, tourism & enterprise and farming opportunities.

For more information, visit www.scottishlandandestates.co.uk