

The Rt Hon George Eustice MP
Secretary of State
Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
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Dear Secretary of State,

I am writing to you on behalf of the British Association for Shooting and Conservation (BASC), the largest shooting organisation in the UK. There are over four million people that participate in shooting sports in the UK and shooting contributes over £2 billion a year to the UK economy. Shooting supports the equivalent of 74,000 full time jobs.

We fully support the government's fight to defeat Covid 19, protect the NHS and minimise the number of infections and deaths. BASC has worked with government and the police to keep members and the wider shooting community informed. We have helped ensure that no shooting happens in the countryside, apart from essential pest control to protect crops and livestock.

We all look forward to the day restrictions on outdoor recreations such as shooting are lifted or changed. When that is being considered we would welcome the opportunity of working with you. It is worth bearing in mind that until August the main forms of live quarry shooting available are pest control and deer management, both of which are often solitary sports which can be done while still observing the rules on social distancing.

Shooting contributes not only to personal well-being but also benefits and shapes the natural environment and supports livelihoods and local communities across the UK. Shoots are already facing difficult choices ahead of this year's game shooting season with some taking the decision not to shoot next season. Any relaxation of the current shut down on shooting would help build confidence in the future.

We look forward to working with Defra as we come out of the current crisis.

Yours sincerely,



Ian Bell
Chief Executive

Together – for shooting, conservation, the future and for you

The British Association for Shooting and Conservation Limited
Registered Society N° 28488R

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