

Greens call for Inglorious 12th to be cancelled after avian influenza discovery



Green Party

11 August 2023

The Green Party has called for grouse shooting season which is due to begin tomorrow (August 12), on what is known as the Inglorious 12th, to be cancelled following reports of avian influenza in red grouse in Scotland [1].

Green peer Natalie Bennett has called for all shooting activity to stop and for the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) to investigate how prevalent Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza is among birds on grouse moors.

Bennett said:

“We have seen reports today that Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza, the disease that is cutting such a swathe through our wild bird populations, has just been found in red grouse in Scotland.

“Grouse moors, with their maximum annual population, are a bio-disaster waiting to happen tomorrow when the shooting season opens.

“It’s extremely concerning that, as things stand, tomorrow will see people walking and driving all over the moors, with their shotguns at the ready, about to pick up at least some of those lead-laced carcasses and spread them around the country.

“How, even given the prominent position of grouse moor owners and shooters in our corridors of power, can this biorisk be accepted?

“All shooting due to take place must be halted while this risk is fully investigated to ensure the safety of both wildlife and people across the country.”

ENDS

Notes

1

<https://raptorpersecutionuk.org/2023/08/10/highly-pathogenic-avian-influenza-confirmed-in-red-grouse-in-scotland/>

For more information or to arrange an interview contact the press office on press@greenparty.org.uk or call 0203 691 9401

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[Villiers Shell shareholding shows government failing to tackle climate crisis](#)



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Reacting to the revelation that former Environment Secretary Theresa Villiers had a substantial shareholding in oil giant Shell during her time in the Cabinet [1], Green co-leader Adrian Ramsay said:

“Of course it’s unacceptable that the former Secretary of State didn’t register the shares when her holding increased in value. However, what was the person in government with responsibility to deliver its key environment policies – including moving us away from fossil fuels – doing with shares in Shell at all?

“You have to question how serious the Conservatives are in tackling the climate crisis when the Cabinet contains people deriving financial benefit from fossil fuel company shares of any value.

“We need representatives in Parliament focussed on freeing us from our dependence on oil and gas which is destroying our planet and instead investing in the energy sources of the future – wind, sun and water.

“Investing in renewable energy now will create sustainable green jobs and

support workers in the oil and gas industry to transfer their skills and experiences to the energy sources of the future.”

NOTES

1

<https://www.mirror.co.uk/news/politics/top-tory-theresa-villiers-70k-30675878>

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New contractor appointed for Galgorm Surgery, Ballymena

The Department of Health can confirm that Rockfield Medical Centre has been appointed as the new contractor providing GP services to the patients of Galgorm Surgery, Ballymena.

Brookeborough and Tempo Practice

The Department of Health can confirm that the Western Health and Social Care Trust has agreed to take on the contract of Brookeborough and Tempo GP Practice located in Fermanagh.

Publication of ‘DVA Monthly Tests Conducted Statistics – July 2023’

The ‘DVA Monthly Tests Conducted Statistics – July 2023’ report, containing statistics up to July 2023, is now available