

# Wild Animal Welfare Committee

Scottish Charity No. SC045958

## Trustees' Annual Report and Accounts Year ended 30 September 2024 Wild Animal Welfare Committee (WAWC) SCIO

The Wild Animal Welfare Committee (WAWC) Trustees present their report together with the financial statements for the year ended 30 September 2024.

### 1. Reference and Administrative Information

#### Charity name

Wild Animal Welfare Committee SCIO  
Charity No SC045958

#### Address

c/o 9 Craighill Gardens, Edinburgh EH10 5PY

#### Current Trustees

### 2. Structure, Governance and Management

#### Constitution

The Charity is a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO). It was registered in its current legal form on 4 September 2015. It has a two-tier structure.

#### Appointment of Trustees and Members

WAWC appoints Trustees by consensus. [REDACTED] became a Trustee on 1 October 2024 after assuming the chair following the retirement of [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] became full members during the period and [REDACTED] joined the committee with a view to potential appointment as a full member in 2025.

#### Objects

The organisation's Objects are to advance animal welfare by:

- Providing an independent evidence base for evaluating, monitoring, assessing and improving decisions affecting the welfare of free-living wild animals in the UK;

- Increasing awareness of the importance and value of wild animals in general;
- Promoting the welfare of individual wild animals in particular;
- Highlighting harm to, and suffering of, wild animals caused by human activity, with the aim of reducing these negative impacts.

### Activities

In furtherance of these Objects, the WAWC:

- Disseminates objective information on a range of wild animal welfare topics;
- Commissions and publishes independent reports, statements and other contributions on contemporary wild animal welfare issues of public and political concern;
- Works to promote the awareness and improvement of wild animal welfare;
- Engages with organisations that can contribute to its evidence base.

### 3. Achievements and Performance

The WAWC continued its programme of engagement with the public policy agenda, by way of expert responses to consultations, events and own-initiative papers. Members met four times between October 2023 and September 2024, twice in Edinburgh and twice online.

At its meeting on 3 October 2023, members considered the inter-relationships between One Health, Equality Diversity Inclusion (EDI) and the need to embrace “other-than-human” animals in developing a more holistic and less anthropocentric view of wild animal welfare. Some of this shift in thinking – from objects to processes and relationships, from hierarchies to networks, from objective knowledge to contextual knowledge – informed the committee’s approach to its conference in May 2024, and subsequent follow-up work.

In February 2024, WAWC signed a letter from welfare and conservation NGOs to Steve Barclay MP, Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, calling on the UK government to consult on regulations to give effect to the Animals (Low Welfare Activities Abroad) Act 2023. The Act allows Ministers to prohibit the sale and advertising in England and Northern Ireland of cruel and abusive activities overseas, such as elephant riding and dolphin shows, that would be illegal in the UK. However, implementation depends on the introduction of regulations specifying the relevant activities and these have not been produced by either the previous or the current administration. NGO lobbying continues.

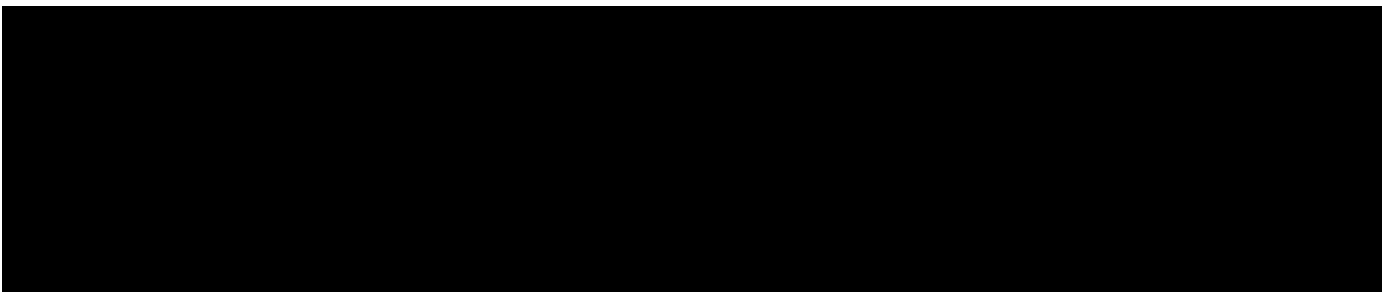
In March 2024, WAWC responded to a Scottish Government consultation on deer management. While acknowledging that increased lethal control may be required for both environmental and, to some extent, welfare reasons, WAWC stressed the ongoing need to strengthen competence requirements for the shooting of deer, including third-party assessment of ability. WAWC also welcomed the inclusion of “fitness” criteria in the government’s proposed register of authorised persons and stressed the general expectation that shotguns should not be used to kill deer.

A full-day international online conference *Translating wildlife welfare into practice: wildlife management in the 21st century* was held on 16 May 2024. Distinguished speakers from around the world discussed how and why wild animal welfare could be integrated into wider contexts, such as land management and conservation projects. There were 149 registrations for the conference,

from over 30 countries, of which 23 were free places allocated to delegates from global south countries.

The aims of the 2024 Conference were to:

- focus on developing more inclusive, integrative systems thinking, so that wildlife managers value and consider the welfare of individual wild animals as part of wider land stewarding
- shift the paradigm to ensure wildlife ethics, welfare and flourishing are at the centre of decision-making by organisations and others responsible for the ecosystem health of the land that they manage
- start to develop approaches to help engagement with those who hold differing views or are unaware of how individual animal welfare considerations can be incorporated into management practices
- explore routes to enhanced engagement with organisations with wildlife management responsibilities, to encourage more awareness of and concern for wildlife welfare.



All presentations were later made available on the WAWC YouTube channel  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=glQ7Oz0g2mQ&t=1417s>

One week after the online conference, an in-person follow-up seminar was held in Edinburgh with invited guests and speakers from NGOs, government agencies and academia. Representatives from RSPB and the National Trust discussed in more detail how they apply the international consensus principles of ethical wildlife control, and how this has affected practice across their organisations. Dr Penny Hawkins from the RSPCA and Dr Stephen Wickens of UFAW, a WAWC member, discussed existing ethical review bodies in scientific establishments and UK zoos, and how these approaches could apply to wildlife management decisions.

Following this meeting, work began on a toolkit for environmental NGOs, building on the experience of working with RSPB and the National Trust and including model terms for an ethical review body. The toolkit has now been completed and used in an approach to a Scottish rewilding charity, where it was well received and is expected to facilitate an ethical principles approach to deer management and translocations.

Also in May, WAWC submitted a critical response to DEFRA proposals to evolve badger control policy for England and introduce additional cattle measures, strongly disagreeing with the UK government's targeted badger intervention policy due to its focus on culling. Following the UK general election in July 2024, the incoming government stated that it would replace culling with a vaccination strategy to protect both cows and badgers, including a new "badger vaccinator field force" as well as a survey of the badger population and TB infection rates. However, it was also announced that culling would only be phased out by the end of the current parliament, and this has been criticised for allowing the ongoing killing of thousands more badgers. WAWC will continue to contribute to this debate.

A prompt end to the badger cull was one of 14 recommendations in the WAWC “manifesto” for improving and promoting the welfare of wild animals in the UK after the 2024 general election. Some recommendations covered longstanding issues, such as strengthening the Hunting Act 2004, consolidating outdated wildlife legislation and banning snares outright in England, as well as a wholesale review of the use of lethal and non-lethal wild animal traps in the UK. Others were intended to improve the welfare of marine mammals in UK waters and around the world, by addressing bycatch, unregulated wildlife tours, and the problem of commercial whaling. The need to apply ethical principles of wildlife control to interventions affecting free-living wild animals was stressed throughout.

In August 2024, NatureScot invited WAWC to comment on the draft grouse moor licensing code created under the Wildlife Management and Muirburn (Scotland) Act 2024. Options for improving welfare provision were limited by the terms of the legislation but both WAWC and the Scottish Animal Welfare Commission (SAWC) drew attention to an anomaly whereby the draft code referred to predator control guidance that had not been published (and still has not, as WAWC regularly reminds officials).

WAWC was also given sight of the proposed content of training courses for licensed crow cage and spring trap users in Scotland, introduced in autumn 2024 prior to the expected commencement of the relevant sections of the Act in early 2025. WAWC responded that the courses promoted lethal predator control (rather than alternative approaches) and missed opportunities to improve welfare. At the same time, it was noted that the eventual implementation of trap licensing – which is now significantly delayed – would provide a further opportunity to introduce welfare conditions, and WAWC began work with the animal welfare organisation OneKind to draw up suggestions for conditions to promote and protect wild animal welfare in trapping activities. Implementation of these provisions has been delayed due to other pressures on NatureScot, but discussions continue.

WAWC and OneKind continue to meet quarterly with the Scottish Government and NatureScot.

#### **4. Financial review**

As in previous years, meetings expenses have constituted the main ongoing cost of the WAWC. Hospitality was provided for speakers at the in-person seminar in Edinburgh in May. WAWC manages an extremely frugal budget, and fundraising remains a constant priority. The online conference in May 2024 generated income of over £3,400 which will allow continued operation for at least two more years, although other sources of funding will continue to be sought.

#### **5. Reserves policy**

The Trustees do not currently have a reserves policy as the income to date has been fully expended in furtherance of the Organisation’s Objects.

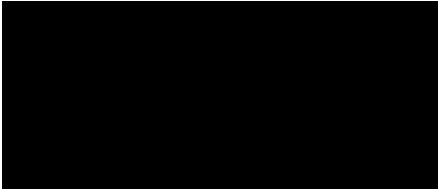
#### **6. Plans for future period**

The Trustees intend to continue organising meetings and directing a work programme of research and publications covering the state of wild animal welfare in the UK, with the aim of improving the welfare of sentient individual wild animals. Following the conference and workshop in May 2024, ethical review materials have been produced for NGO use and are being promoted through individual outreach, building on successful engagement with the National Trust and RSPB. WAWC will continue to work with official and non-governmental partners to promote the International Consensus Principles for Ethical Wildlife Control, which underpin much of its work.

## **7. Accounts**

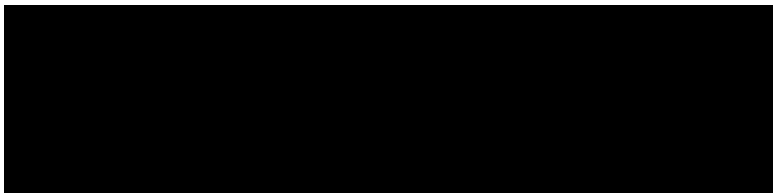
The charity has income below £250,000 and as such is eligible to prepare its accounts on a Receipts and Payments Basis. The governing document does not require the charity to prepare fully accrued accounts and neither does it require an audit.

(Signed)



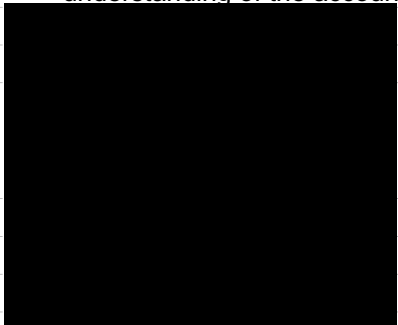
**May 2025**

**Wild Animal Welfare Committee**



## APPENDIX 3



		<b>Independent examiner's report on the accounts</b>						v2
<b>Report to the trustees/members of</b>  <b>Registered charity number</b>  <b>On the accounts of the charity for the period</b>  <b>Set out on pages</b>	Charity name	WILD ANIMAL WELFARE COMMITTEE						
	Registered charity number	SC045958						
	Period start date	Day	Month	Year	to	Day	Month	Year
	1		OCTOBER	2023		30	SEPTEMBER	2024
Set out on pages	1 - 6						(remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)	
<b>Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner</b>	<p>The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the terms of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) 2005 Act and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended). The charity trustees consider that the audit requirement of Regulation 10(1) (d) of the Accounts Regulations does not apply. It is my responsibility to examine the accounts as required under section 44(1) (c) of the Act and to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.</p>							
<b>Basis of independent examiner's statement</b>	<p>My examination is carried out in accordance with Regulation 11 of the 2006 Accounts Regulations. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeks explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and, consequently, I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.</p>							
<b>Independent examiner's statement</b>	<p>In the course of my examination, no matter has come to my attention [other than that disclosed on the attached page*]</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>to keep accounting records in accordance with section 44(1) (a) of the 2005 Act and Regulation 4 of the 2006 Accounts Regulations, and</li> <li>to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with Regulation 9 of the 2006 Accounts Regulations</li> </ul> <p>have not been met, or</p> </li> <li>to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.</li> </ol>							
<b>Signed**:</b>							<b>Date:</b>	5 June 2025
<b>Name:</b>								
<b>Relevant professional qualification(s) or body (if any):</b>								
<b>Address:</b>								

\*Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply. If the words do apply, set out those matters which have come to your attention on the following page.

\*\* OSCR will accept digital or typed signatures

**APPENDIX 3**

**Disclosure section**

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight material problems.

**Give here brief details of  
any items that the  
examiner wishes to  
disclose**

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Receipts and payments accounts							
For the period from	Period start date			to	Period end date		
	Day	Month	Year		Day	Month	Year

## Section A Statement of receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Expendable endowment funds	Permanent endowment funds	Total funds current period	Total funds last period
	to nearest £	to nearest £	to nearest £	to nearest £	to nearest £	to nearest £
<b>A1 Receipts</b>						
Donations					-	
Legacies					-	
Grants					-	
Receipts from fundraising activities					-	
Gross trading receipts					-	
Income from investments other than land and buildings					-	
Rents from land & buildings					-	
Gross receipts from other charitable activities					3 456	414
					-	
<b>A1 Sub total</b>	-	-	-	-	3 456	414
					error	
<b>A2 Receipts from asset &amp; investment sales</b>						
Proceeds from sale of fixed assets					-	
Proceeds from sale of investments					-	
<b>A2 Sub total</b>	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total receipts</b>	-	-	-	-	3 456	414
					error	
<b>A3 Payments</b>						
Expenses for fundraising activities					-	
Gross trading payments					-	
Investment management costs					-	
Payments relating directly to charitable activities					3 273	579
Grants and donations					-	
Governance costs:					-	
Audit / independent examination					-	
Preparation of annual accounts					-	
Legal costs					-	
Other					-	
					-	
<b>A3 Sub total</b>	-	-	-	-	3 273	579
					error	
<b>A4 Payments relating to asset and investment movements</b>						
Purchases of fixed assets					-	
Purchase of investments					-	
<b>A4 Sub total</b>	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total payments</b>	-	-	-	-	3 273	579
					error	
<b>Net receipts / (payments)</b>	-	-	-	-	3 456	(414)
<b>A5 Transfers to / (from) funds</b>						
					-	
<b>Surplus / (deficit) for year</b>	-	-	-	-	183	(165)
					error	



## Section B Statement of balances

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Expendable endowment funds	Permanent endowment funds	Total current period	Total last period
		to nearest £	to nearest £	to nearest £	to nearest £	to nearest £	to nearest £
<b>B1 Cash funds</b>	Cash and bank balances at start of year	1 876				1 876	2 041
	Surplus / (deficit) shown on receipts and payments account	183				183	(165)
						-	
						-	
	<b>Cash and bank balances at end of year</b>	<b>2 059</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>2 059</b>	<b>1 876</b>
	(Agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	183	-	-	-	-	-

Categories	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Market valuation	Last year
			to nearest £	to nearest £
<b>B2 Investments</b>				
		<b>Total</b>	-	-

Categories	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (if available)	Current value (if available)	Last year
			to nearest £	to nearest £	to nearest £
<b>B3 Other assets</b>					
		<b>Total</b>	-	-	-

Categories	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due	Last year
			to nearest £	to nearest £
<b>B4 Liabilities</b>				
		<b>Total</b>	-	-

Categories	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (estimate)	Last year
			to nearest £	to nearest £
<b>B5 Contingent liabilities</b>				
		<b>Total</b>	-	-

Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees

Signature\*

Print Name

Date of approval

Libby Anderson	LIBBY ANDERSON	20 May 2025

## Section C Notes to the Accounts

### C1 Nature and purpose of funds *(may be stated on analysis of funds worksheets)*

Income was generated by an online conference in May 2024. Funds were used for meetings including an in-person workshop, also in May 2024 - members' travel expenses and subsistence, room hire and catering etc. Other expenses included website domain hosting.

### C2 Grants

Type of activity or project supported	Individual / institution	Number of grants made	£
Total			-

### C3a Trustee remuneration

If no remuneration was paid during the period to any charity trustee or person connected to a trustee cross this box (otherwise complete section 3b)	X
--	---

### Authority under which paid

### C3b Trustee remuneration - details

	£

### C4a Trustee expenses

If no expenses were paid to any charity trustee during the period then cross this box (otherwise complete section 4b)	X
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### C4b Trustee expenses - details

	Number of trustees	£

### C5 Transactions with trustees and connected persons

Nature of relationship	Nature of transaction	Transaction amount (£)	Balance outstanding at period end (£)

### C6 Other information

### Additional analysis (1)

#### Analysis of receipts and payments

##### 1 Donations

	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Expendable endowment funds to nearest £	Permanent endowment funds to nearest £	Total current period to nearest £	Total last period to nearest £
					-	
					-	
					-	
					-	
<b>Total</b>	-	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-	-

##### 2 Grants

	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £		Total current period to nearest £	Total last period to nearest £
				-	
				-	
				-	
				-	
<b>Total</b>	-	-		-	-
	-	-		-	-

##### 3 Gross receipts from other charitable activities

	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Expendable endowment funds to nearest £	Permanent endowment funds to nearest £	Total current period to nearest £	Total last period to nearest £
					3 456	414
					-	
					-	
					-	
					-	
					-	
					-	
<b>Total</b>	-	-	-	-	3 456	414
	-	-	-	-	-	-

##### 4 Payments relating directly to charitable activities

	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Expendable endowment funds to nearest £	Permanent endowment funds to nearest £	Total current period to nearest £	Total last period to nearest £
					3 273	579
					-	
					-	
					-	
					-	
					-	
					-	
					-	
					-	
<b>Total</b>	-	-	-	-	3 273	579
	-	-	-	-	-	-

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**Additional analysis (2)****5 Breakdown of unrestricted funds**

	Unrestricted fund 1 - enter name of fund below	Unrestricted fund 2 - enter name of fund below	Unrestricted fund 3 - enter name of fund below	Unrestricted fund 4 - enter name of fund below	Total unrestricted funds	Total unrestricted funds last period
<b>Receipts</b>						
Donations					-	
Legacies					-	
Grants					-	
Receipts from fundraising activities					-	
Gross trading receipts					-	
buildings					-	
Rents from land & buildings					-	
Gross receipts from other charitable activities					3 456	414
<b>Sub total</b>	-	-	-	-	3 456	414
					cross ref error	
<b>Receipts from asset &amp; investment sales</b>						
Proceeds from sale of fixed assets					-	
Proceeds from sale of investments					-	
<b>Sub total</b>	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total receipts</b>	-	-	-	-	3 456	414
					cross ref error	
<b>Payments</b>						
Expenses for fundraising activities					-	
Gross trading payments					-	
Investment management costs					-	
Payments relating directly to charitable activities					3 208	579
Grants and donations					-	
Governance costs:						
Audit / independent examination					65	
Preparation of annual accounts					-	
Legal costs					-	
					-	
<b>Sub total</b>	-	-	-	-	3 273	579
					cross ref error	
<b>Payments relating to asset and investment movements</b>						
Purchases of fixed assets					-	
Purchase of investments					-	
<b>Sub total</b>	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total payments</b>	-	-	-	-	3 273	579
<b>Net receipts / (payments)</b>	-	-	-	-	183	(165)
					cross ref error	
<b>Transfers to / (from) funds</b>					-	
<b>Surplus / (deficit) for year</b>	-	-	-	-	183	(165)
					cross ref error	
<b>Nature and purpose of funds</b>						

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**Additional analysis (3)****6 Breakdown of restricted funds**

	Restricted fund 1 - enter name of fund below	Restricted fund 2 - enter name of fund below	Restricted fund 3 - enter name of fund below	Restricted fund 4 - enter name of fund below	Total restricted funds	Total restricted funds last period
<b>Receipts</b>						
Donations					-	
Legacies					-	
Grants					-	
Receipts from fundraising activities					-	
Gross trading receipts					-	
Income from investments other than land and buildings					-	
Rents from land & buildings					-	
Gross receipts from other charitable activities					-	
<b>Sub total</b>	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Receipts from asset &amp; investment sales</b>						
Proceeds from sale of fixed assets					-	
Proceeds from sale of investments					-	
<b>Sub total</b>	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total receipts</b>	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Payments</b>						
Expenses for fundraising activities					-	
Gross trading payments					-	
Investment management costs					-	
Payments relating directly to charitable activities					-	
Grants and donations					-	
Governance costs:					-	
Audit / independent examination					-	
Preparation of annual accounts					-	
Legal costs					-	
					-	
<b>Sub total</b>	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Payments relating to asset and investment movements</b>						
Purchases of fixed assets					-	
Purchase of investments					-	
<b>Sub total</b>	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total payments</b>	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Net receipts / (payments)</b>	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Transfers to / (from) funds</b>					-	
<b>Surplus / (deficit) for year</b>	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Nature and purpose of funds</b>						