

From: Alison [alison.vaughan4@btinternet.com]

Sent: 15 February 2010 14:21

To: +Comm. Environment Public Email

Subject: WILDLIFE AND NATURAL ENVIRONMENT BILL. PUBLIC CONSULTATION.

from Barbara Haig, 136 Clea Lough Road, Crossgar Co Down BT30 9LX

Dear Sirs

I write to you as a member of the public, and also as a member of Lecale Conservation and the Green Party, with regard to the Wildlife and Natural Environment Bill.

I would ask for a ban on the use and possession of snares, as well as more robust powers and sentencing in respect of wildlife crime.

The draft bill fails to provide better protection for Irish hares, which are under threat and in decline. Although listed as a priority species, the Irish hare remains on the quarry list and may be hunted and coursed. I therefore wish that the Irish hare be added to Schedule 5 (animals that are protected at all times) of the NI Wildlife Order.

It is of extreme importance that these methods of trapping be banned, that heavier sentencing is carried out to those guilty of wildlife crime, and that the Irish hare, a declining species, is given total protection.

Yours faithfully

Barbara Haig