

# Citizen Space at The Scottish Parliament

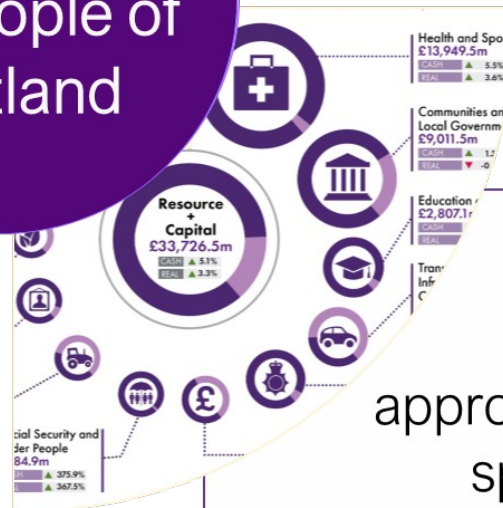


The Scottish Parliament  
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba



Date  
14 March

Presented by  
Ali Stoddart



Make and  
change laws



Check and approve Government spending and tax decisions

# To do that the Parliament:

- Engages with the people of Scotland to support:
- Inquiries
- Looking at Draft Legislation
- Questioning Government to hold them to account



# This session Citizen Space has supported:



[Home](#) [Find Calls for Views](#)



## Scottish Parliament Calls for Views

Welcome to Scottish Parliament's Calls for Views site. This site will help you find and participate in the work of Committees that interest you.

Recently updated Calls for Views are displayed below. Alternatively, [search for](#) opportunities to participate in the work of Parliament by keyword or, interest etc.

### Open Calls for Views

#### [Your views on the Children \(Care and Justice\) \(Scotland\) Bill](#)

The Bill makes changes to the law in relation to the care of children and the involvement of children in the criminal justice system. The changes relate to the children's hearings system



**16**  
Committees



**115**  
Calls for Views



**26,000**  
Responses

# Use of Citizen Space has led to:

- Increased participation from the public in our Call for Views
- More efficiency in administration
- Allowed more flexibility in how we approach Calls for Views
- BUT...



What happens if we get overwhelmed by responses?

What if there is a high interest Call for Views on a polarising subject?

How are all voices taken into account?



# Hunting with Dogs (Scotland) Bill

The Bill would make it an offence to hunt a wild mammal using a dog except in limited circumstances.

A Bill is detailed and uses technical language, so we needed to find ways to ensure the public could engage in a meaningful way...



# Approach: Short survey vs detailed consultation

- Short survey: 17 quantitative questions, 1 qualitative
- Detailed consultation: 29 qualitative questions on specific parts of the Bill
- We used “offline” consultation option to build a public overview page that explained process and linked to both processes.

Give us your views

[Complete the \*\*short survey\*\* about the Bill](#)

[Complete the \*\*detailed consultation\*\* about the Bill](#)



# Approach: Use of Fact Banks

- Displaying questions of both options in the overview page
- Explaining terms in more detail

▼ [More information about the purposes and conditions relevant to this exception.](#)

The specified purposes are set out in section 7(2) and are—

- a) Preserving, protecting or restoring a particular species;
- b) Preserving, protecting or restoring animal or plant diversity; and/or
- c) Eradicating an invasive non-native species from an area.

The conditions are set out in section 7(3) and are that—

- a) No more than two dogs are used (unless licensed);
- b) Dog is under control;
- c) Reasonable steps are taken to stop the dog joining a pack;
- d) Permission has been given by the landowner or statutory power of entry used;
- e) Wild mammal is either captured, shot dead/killed by a bird of prey as soon as reasonably possible or observed and then allowed to escape; and
- f) Where a wild mammal has not been shot dead/killed by a bird of prey, reasonable steps are taken to kill it to cause the minimum possible suffering.

**14. Do you agree with the definition of 'wild mammal' in section 1(3) of the bill?**

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Neutral
- ☐ Don't know

► [What is the definition of a 'wild mammal' in section 1\(3\) of the bill?](#)

## Short survey

If you wish to provide a short response with your views on the Bill overall, please complete the survey

► [Read the questions in the short survey](#)

If you are a stakeholder who would like to comment at length on the specific provisions in the Bill, please share your views in the detailed consultation

## Detailed consultation

► [Read about the issues you will be asked to comment on in the detailed consultation](#)



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Result:



**71**

Detailed: 23 orgs; 48 individuals



**2,692**

Survey



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# Analysis:

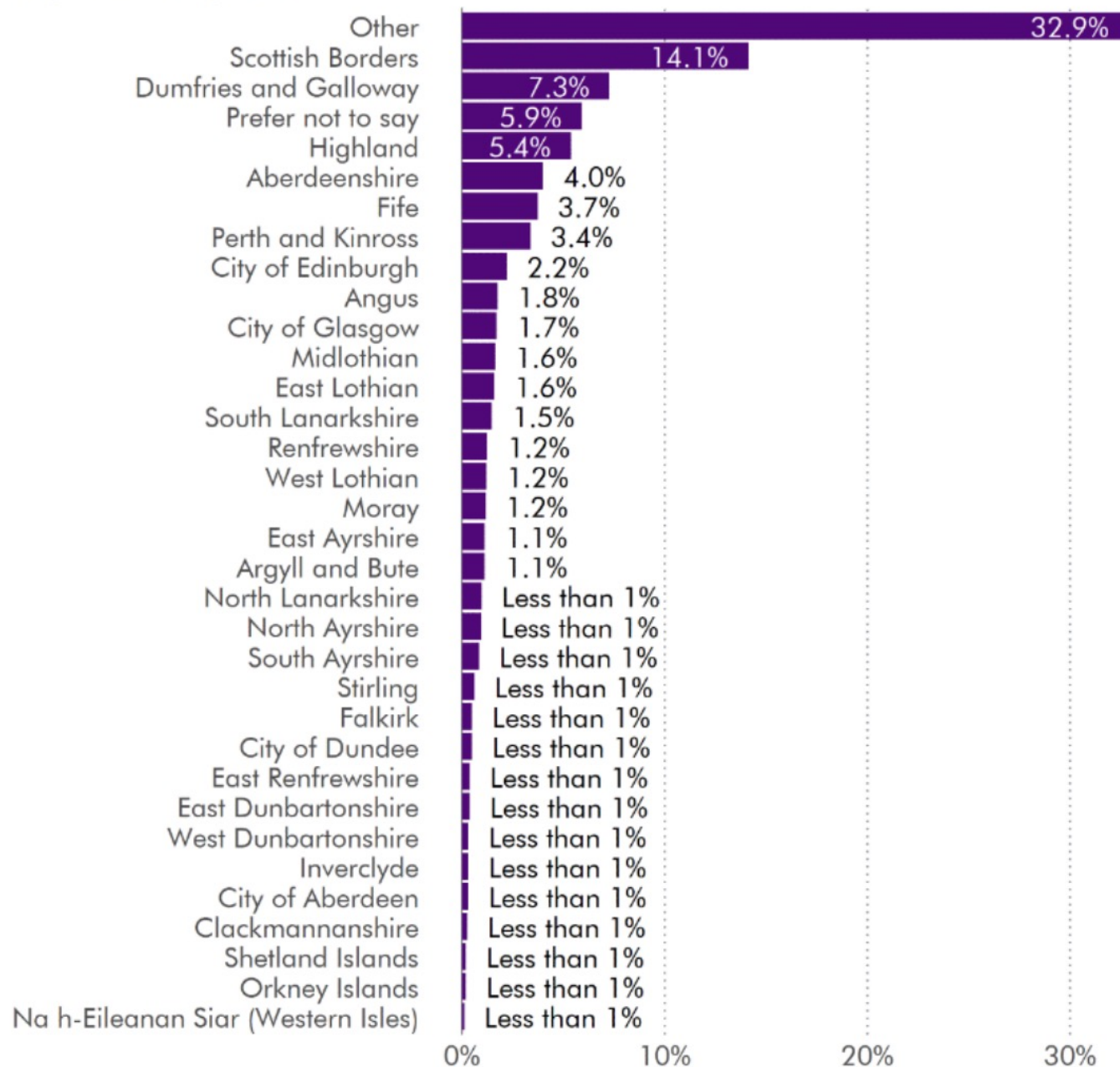
71 detailed responses summarised and provided as evidence to the Committee

2692 survey responses: Quant responses provided in full and Qual responses analysed via automated tools and sampling



# Which local authority area do you currently live in?

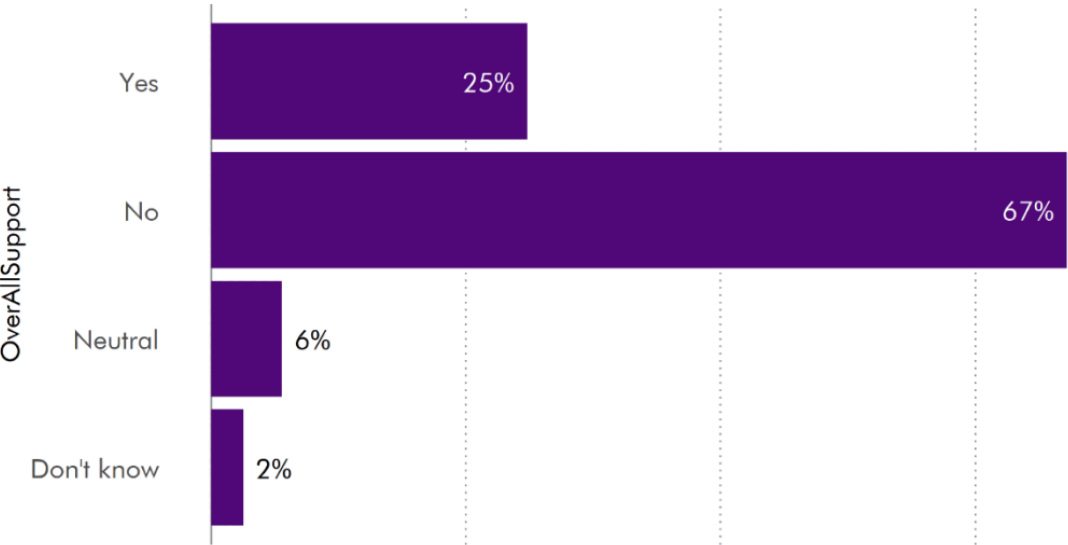
Proportion of responses



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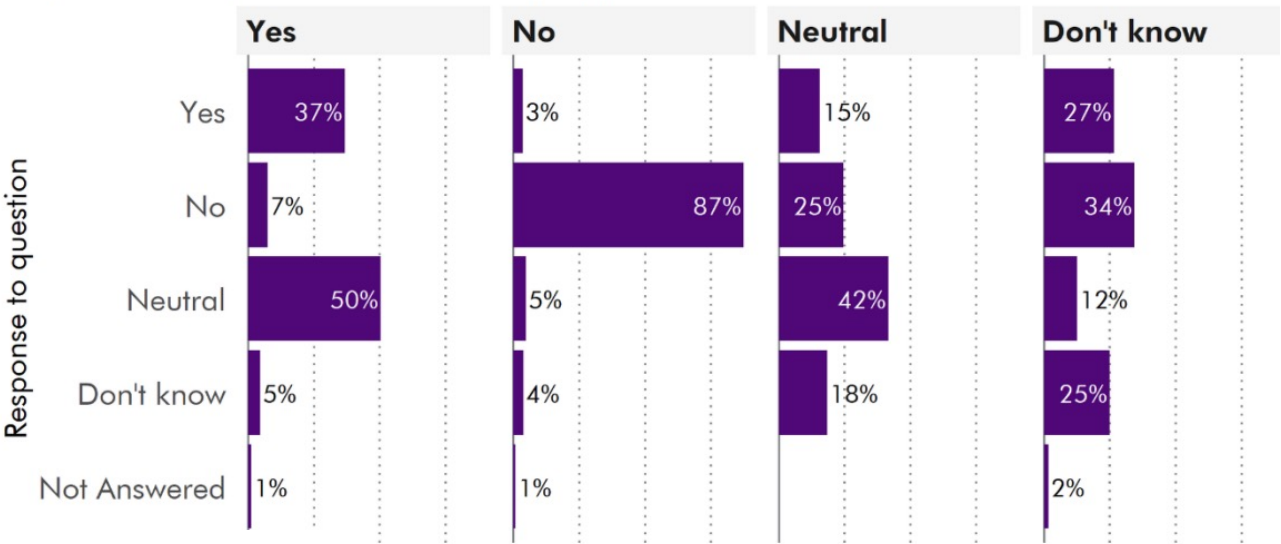
# Do you support the Bill?

Proportion of responses broken down by support for the bill



# Will the bill make the law easier to understand and enforce the offence to hunt a wild mammal using a dog in Scotland?

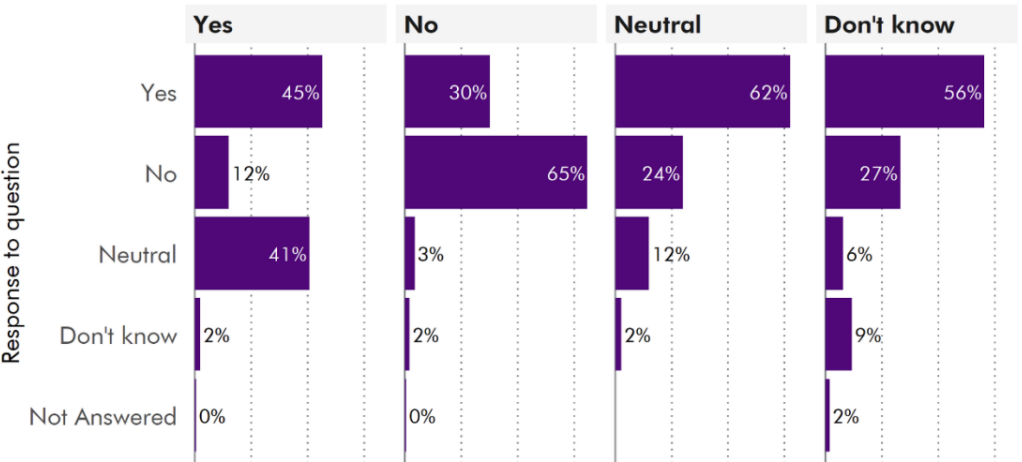
Proportion of responses broken down by support for the bill



Rats and mice included in definition

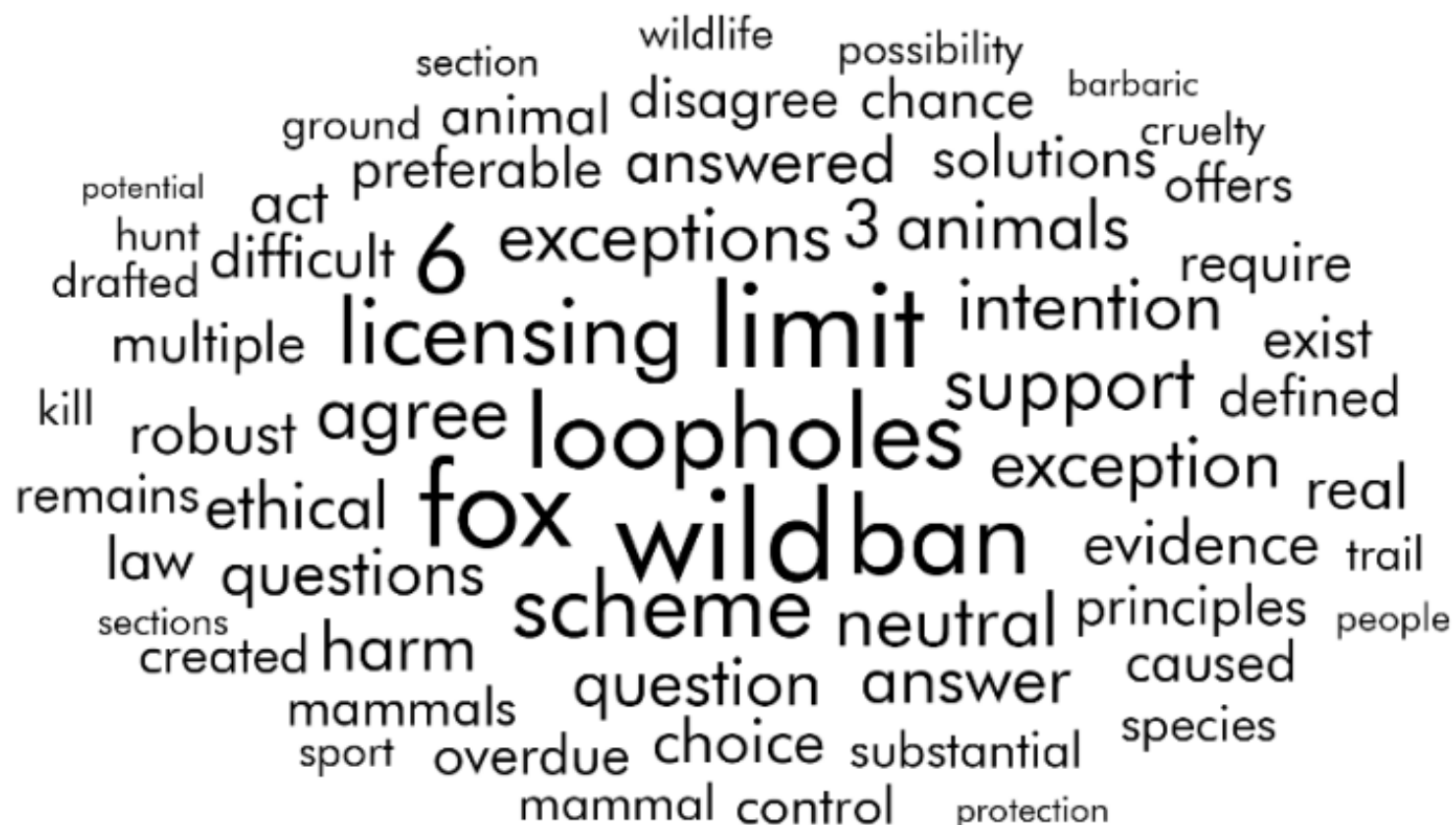
# Do you agree that rats and mice should be included in the definition of a wild animal?

Proportion of responses broken down by support for the bill



# Do you support the Bill? -**Yes**

## What were the most common words in the responses?



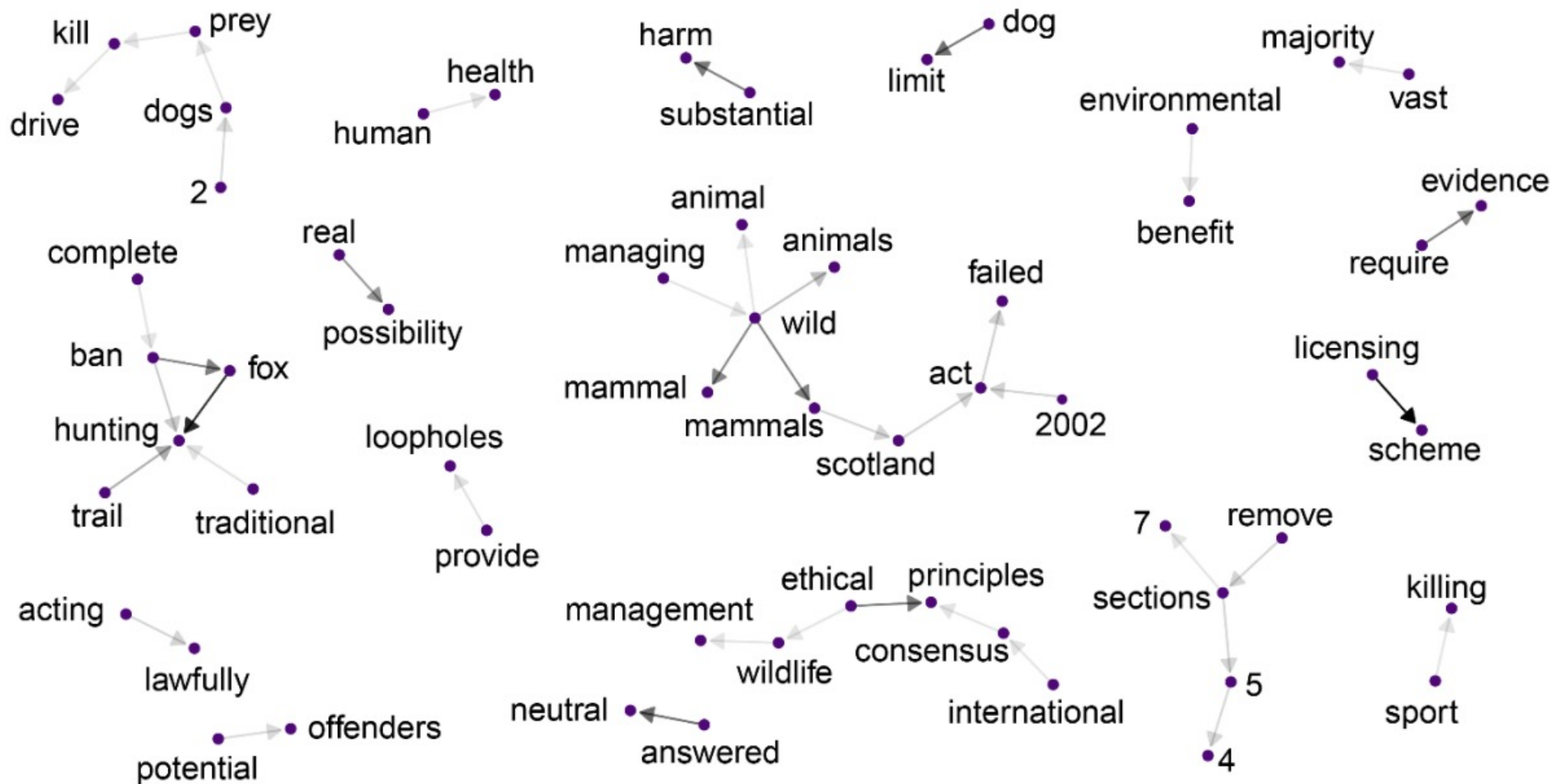
Do you support the Bill? - **No**

What were the most common words in the responses?



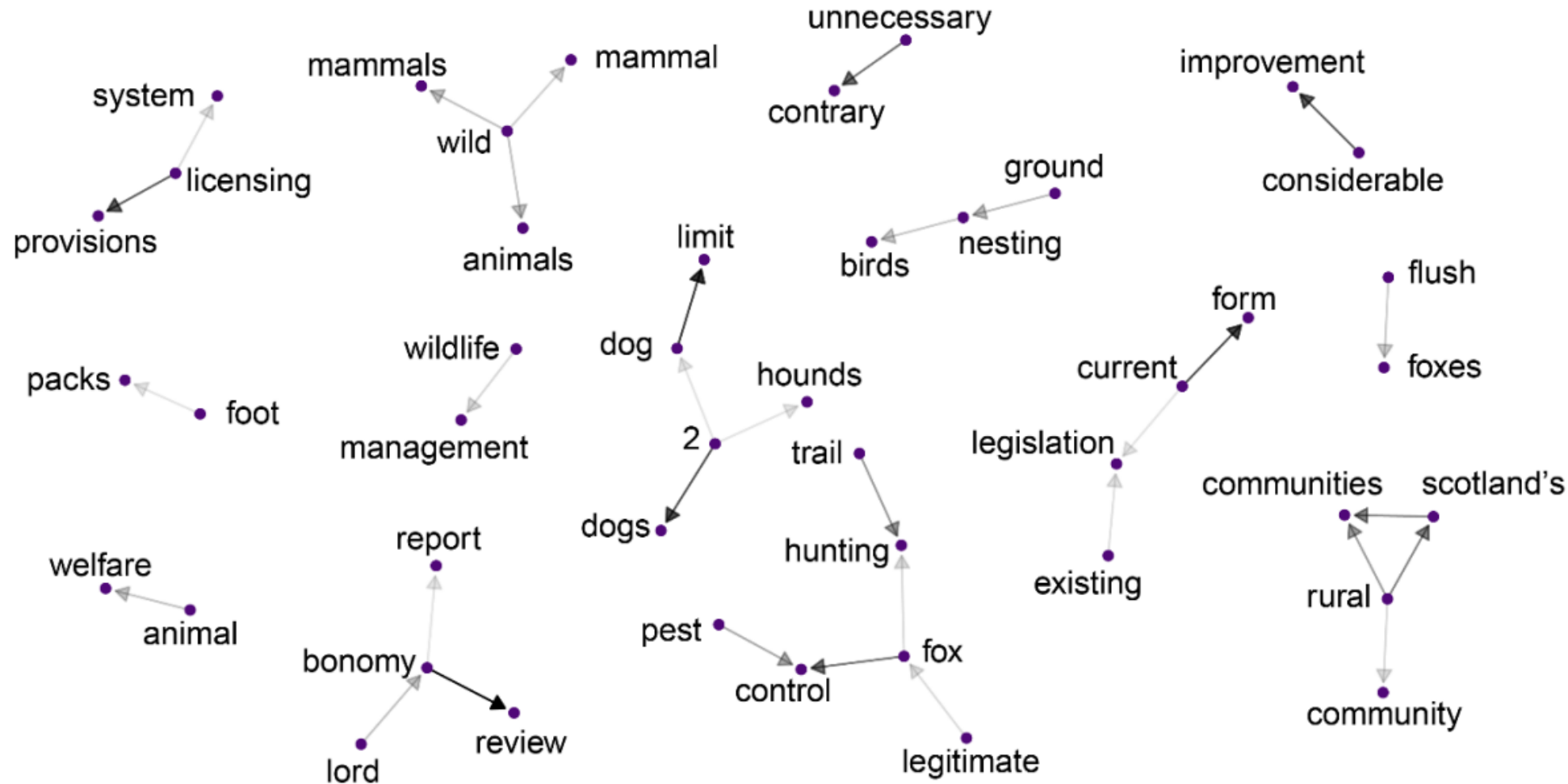
### What is the connection between these words?

The network diagram shows how often words appear next to each other in the text. The arrow shows the direction of the connection and the colour shows how often it appears. The darker the colour the more often they appear next to each other.



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# Further Analysis via sampling to identify key themes:

## FOR

- The Bill provides an opportunity “to rectify the problems with the Protection of Wild Mammals act 2002”
- The Bill will allow wild “animals to be treated with respect”
- Those in favour strongly agreed with the intentions and principles of the Bill

Those in favour of the Bill also made comments to **improve the Bill** such as:

- While the “overall intention of the Bill is correct” “amendments are needed to ensure it is not full of loopholes” and “open to abuse.”
- “Several sections may be used as loopholes by those wishing to cause harm to wildlife. For example, 1,3, 4, 5, 7, 8.
- Concern that the Bill will provide exceptions that would be “exploited” and used “as a smokescreen for conducting activities in which “wild mammals are torn apart by dogs” and the opportunity to “claim that they believed they were acting lawfully under the exception as a defence.”
- “Several terms in the Bill rely on subjective opinion such as ‘no other solution which would be effective’, ‘serious damage to livestock or crops’, ‘spread of disease’, ‘human health’, ‘environmental benefit’ and ‘reasonable steps’.”
- Many respondents did not agree “with any licensing scheme for more than two dogs but if any are to exist, the licensing scheme must be robust and follow ethical principles”.

## AGAINST

- The provision to limit the number of dogs to flush out predators to two is “ineffective” “making (predators) impossible to manage”
- Hunting with a pack of dogs is “more effective” especially in “large woodland” and “vast fell ground.” The use of only two dogs would take a long time, less likely to be successful, and prolong distress to the animal being hunted
- Other predator control methods “are not selective” and newer technology does not fit into the “natural order of how the ecosystem works”.
- Predators such as foxes, badgers and mink need controlling in order to protect other wildlife such as “capercaillies, curlew, mountain hare and many of the suite of ground nesting birds” and “red list wader species”.
- Efficient predator control is required to protect “livestock and pets”
- Predator control with dogs is “an essential part of rural life.”
- The Bill “will harm the rural economy”
- An “obtainable and workable licensing system” is required as there is concern about whether the “licensing system will be able to work effectively as currently drafted”. “The need to continually apply for license and giving the same explanation each time is a waste of huntsman and magistrates time” and “a waste of public money”
- Rats and mice “should not be included in the Bill” as they “carry disease” and are “vermin, not wild animals.”



# All of this information used to inform questioning of witnesses and the final report



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**Rural Affairs, Islands and Natural Environment  
Committee**

**Stage 1 report on the Hunting with  
Dogs (Scotland) Bill**

Published 27 September 2022  
SP Paper 228  
8th Report, 2022 (Session 6)



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# Additional call for views was required to clarify issue on rough shooting

## Call for Views

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### Rough shooting and the Hunting with Dogs (Scotland) Bill



#### Share your views

Do you have any comments on this clarification from the Scottish Government about rough shooting and the Hunting with Dogs (Scotland) Bill?

Give us your views

[Click here to complete the submission form >](#)



# 232

Responses



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# ANY QUESTIONS?



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14 March

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