



8 March 2023

Hilary McGrady
Director General
National Trust
Heelis
Kemble Drive
Swindon, SN2 2NA

Via email only: [Redacted]

Dear Ms McGrady,

Re: Grouse shooting on High Peak Estate

I hope this letter finds you well. Like many others, Wild Moors welcomed the news that the National Trust [is ending grouse shooting at Park Hall](#) and will instead restore the moorland for nature, climate and people. This is the right thing to do. But while we applaud the Trust for making progress by ending the shooting lease, we are worried that your approach continues to fall short of the action needed to protect wildlife across the High Peak Estate.

It's with great concern that we've been alerted to fresh allegations of illegal wildlife persecution on the High Peak Estate. As you are likely aware, in recent days details have come to light that an individual was [found by the RSPB](#) placing blocks of poison commonly used in wildlife crime into holes that were suspected to be part of a badger sett.

Sadly, this is not an isolated incident and comes with a long backdrop of wildlife having been illegally targeted and killed on the Trust's moors. In our submission to the Trust's policy review in January, we alerted you to 11 other incidents since 2006 which included birds of prey having been shot, trapped, poisoned and vanishing under suspicious circumstances on the High Peak Estate. With wildlife crime posing a major threat to biodiversity the severe impact of these incidents on the survival of vulnerable species shouldn't be underestimated.

The National Trust now stands at a crossroads. It can either continue leasing land for grouse shooting and see wildlife persecution and environmental damage continue, or it can halt the practice because it continues to undermine the delivery of the Trust's [ambitious vision for the](#)

[High Peak Moors](#). We strongly encourage you to *do the right thing* by ending the three remaining grouse shooting leases on National Trust land and instead restore this vast expanse of moorland for nature, climate and people.

We look forward to your response.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Luke Steele', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Luke Steele, LLM
Executive Director