

John F. Robins, Secretary and Campaigns Consultant, Animal Concern, Post Office Box 5178,
Dumbarton G82 5YJ. Tel. 01389-841-639, Mobile: 07721-605521.

E-MAIL: animals@jfrobins.force9.co.uk Website: <http://www.animalconcern.org/>

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Rt. Hon. Michael Fallon MP,
Secretary of State for Defence,
Whitehall,
London.

Dear Secretary of State,

Forgive me for sending this e-mail to your MP e-mail address. Despite extensive searching I could not find the e-mail address for your ministerial position on the Government website.

I write concerning media reports that during a private Royal shooting party at Balmoral on 9th September this year “dozens of soldiers” were used “to do the beating and drive the grouse towards the waiting guns” (see links below for articles referred to).

As you may be aware there is great public concern over the morality of driven grouse shooting and the damage such shooting and the “land management” associated with it causes to the environment and the native wildlife which inhabits that environment.

Surely a private shooting party is just that, private and the only public funded officials in attendance should be personal protection officers for senior members of the Royal family?

Under the relevant Freedom of Information legislation I now request the following information for each of the last five years.

1: How many serving military personnel have been employed on grouse beating or similar duties on Balmoral and on other Royal Estates?

2: How much has this cost per deployment in wages, accommodation and any other costs?

3: How much, if anything, has the Royal family paid for this service (just as football clubs would pay for the services of police officers on match days)?

In addition I would like to know when the practise of using military personnel for such duties first started?

Yours sincerely,

John F. Robins,
Animal Concern

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3783559/I-m-driving-seat-Kate-Queen-proves-control-chauffeurs-granddaughter-law-Scottish-estate.html>

<http://www.mirror.co.uk/news/uk-news/queen-chauffeurs-kate-middleton-grouse-8813220>

<http://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/queen-chauffeurs-kate-middleton-grouse-8813220>