

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

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

Animal Concern is a pressure group registered as a non-profit making Limited Company (Co. No. SC109126) incorporated in 1988 as Animal Concern (Scotland) Ltd.

Animal Concern incorporates the Scottish Anti-Vivisection Society which was founded in 1876.

Issued 10am Saturday 7th May 2016

First Minister Nicola Sturgeon has been asked to create a new Ministerial post when she announces her new Cabinet. Pressure group Animal Concern wants the Scottish Government to appoint a Minister for Animal Welfare and Environmental Conservation. Currently these issues are dealt with by the same Minister who deals with agriculture, aquaculture and commercial fisheries.

There are several issues concerning the welfare of animals where promised Government action has failed to materialise. It is over two years since a public consultation on using animals in travelling circuses was completed yet promised Government action has not materialised. A decision on whether or not to give legal protection to wild beavers was promised last year but still has not been made. Meanwhile beavers, including lactating mothers, are quite legally being shot and killed leaving young animals to starve to death.

John Robins of Animal Concern said;

“The problem is that our Environment Ministers have been so busy campaigning for bigger cod quotas for Scottish trawlers and taking foreign jaunts to sell farmed salmon to China and the USA, they have not had time to improve animal welfare or protect our environment. The Minister with the job of conserving wild fish stocks should not be fighting for bigger fishing quotas. The Minister who should be protecting our coastal habitat and the animals that live there should not be flogging salmon produced in Norwegian owned floating factory farms which pollute our seas and endanger our wild salmon and seatrout with plagues of sea lice. The Scottish wild environment and the creatures which inhabit that environment are a vital part of our tourist economy and deserve protection from a dedicated Ministry with no conflicting interests.”

EDITORS NOTES: Our appeal to Nicola Sturgeon is copied below. Best numbers to get me on today (Saturday) are 01389841111 until 14.30hrs and 07721-605521 after then.

From: JFRobins [mailto:john@jfrobins.force9.co.uk]
Sent: 07 May 2016 07:28
To: Nicola Sturgeon (FirstMinister@gov.scot)
Subject: Your new Cabinet

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Ms Nicola Sturgeon MSP,
The First Minister,
The Scottish Government,
Edinburgh.

Dear First Minister,

Congratulations on being re-elected as an MSP and for retaining your position as First Minister of the Scottish Government.

I write to ask you to consider making one change in your new Cabinet of Ministers by creating a new post of Minister for Animal Welfare and Environmental Conservation.

At present there are extreme conflicts of interest with the promotion of agriculture, aquaculture and fisheries being included in the same portfolio as animal welfare and environmental conservation. It is impossible for the one person or department to properly deal with the conflict which exists between those who make their living from exploitation of animals and the environment and those who seek to protect animals and their habitat.

The most sensible approach to this is to have a Minister for Agriculture, Aquaculture and Fisheries and another Minister for Animal Welfare and Environmental Conservation.

It has been truly ridiculous in recent years to see Government Ministers, who should be protecting our marine environment and dwindling fish stocks, fighting in Europe for bigger catch quotas for Scottish trawlers. Those same Ministers go to the USA and the Far East as international fishmongers flogging salmon produced in Scotland by mainly Norwegian owned companies whose floating factory farms pollute our seas and endanger our wild salmon and seatrout with plagues of sea lice.

There are several outstanding issues on which your Government long ago promised action, action which has never happened.

Two items which should have been easily dealt with are the ban on the use of animals in circuses and the protection of beavers in the wild in Scotland. It is now over two years since the end of your consultation on the use of animals in travelling circuses and over a year since your Government indicated you would take action following a case where three lions and two tigers were over-wintered in small cages on an Aberdeenshire croft. We were promised a decision on the beavers last year but nothing has happened and beavers are still being shot, leaving orphaned baby animals to starve to death.

If you had a Minister concentrating on these issues long delays and all the suffering caused by such delays could be avoided.

Scotland needs a Minister for Animal Welfare and Environmental Conservation. Please give us one in your new Cabinet.

Yours sincerely,

John F. Robins,
Secretary to Animal Concern