

## GROUSE SHOOTING ON ILKLEY MOOR

Dear Councillor Hinchcliffe

I write with reference to the forthcoming vote on whether or not to allow grouse shooting on this public land currently under your jurisdiction and thank you for a moment of your time.

I will presume that you will be familiar with the arguments against renewing the licence when it expires in 2018 so I will not reiterate them all again here. Suffice to say they are scientifically proven, widely supported, robust and morally right. I would therefore ask you to vote to end this practice. And here's why . . .

You have been elected to a position of important responsibility and to dispense good evidence based governance, to represent the views, wishes or demands of you constituents and to make positive progress in the maintenance or restoration of your respective communities. You are of the people and for the people. This is of course a significant and at times difficult undertaking but ultimately it comes down to making choices about what is the right or wrong thing to do. And in this instance there is no ambiguity.

Driven grouse shooting will not continue as it is practised today. It has been exposed, its wrongs have nowhere to hide and its lies garner no traction. This world is running out of wildlife – fast, and the faster that loss the more vociferous the demand to conserve what is left will become. So do you want to act now to lead the way forward or allow history to show that you failed to do the right thing when your venerable office allowed you that opportunity. In short do you want to lead . . . or be forced to follow with all the unfortunate baggage such ignominy bestows?

It's a no-brainer. It's the time to stop grouse shooting on Ilkley Moor.

Yours sincerely

Chris Packham  
Conservationist and Broadcaster