



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

July 2019

Ref: A Call To Action

As parliamentarians, we see first-hand the political challenges that shooting faces, which are greater than we have ever known. It is, therefore, more important than ever that the shooting community comes together to promote best practice and high standards.

One year ago, the British Game Alliance (BGA) was launched with the aim of safeguarding shooting by reviving the game market on a national scale and improving self-regulation. Since then, over 500 shoots have joined the BGA, ranging from small syndicates to large enterprises, representing over a third of the birds shot in the UK. This is a terrific achievement, but this initiative needs the support of everyone involved in shooting.

We are all lifelong shooting enthusiasts and, along with many of our colleagues, continue to promote and defend shooting in Parliament. The work of the BGA is crucial as it allows us to point to proper self-regulation that investigates and acts on incidents of bad practice and assurance that game only comes from shoots adhering to the highest standards. That is critical not least because whilst the current government recognises the benefits that shooting brings to individuals, the environment and the rural economy, this view is not shared by everyone. We only need look to Wales where the Welsh Assembly has moved to ban pheasant shooting on public land, or Scotland where the Scottish Government has reintroduced sporting rates on shooting estates and the current Werritty review to understand what the future could hold.

The growing popularity of shooting is a success story, providing jobs and investment in some of our most rural communities. We know the damage that would be caused if shooting were to be restricted or lost all together, which is why it is essential that everyone who runs a shoot is committed to best practice and high standards. Membership of the BGA is a clear and obvious demonstration of such commitment.

From where we sit we understand the threats the sport faces and the urgent need for all of us who enjoy shooting to work together. Through the BGA, shooting has the opportunity to take action on the key challenges we face and put ourselves on the front foot. We strongly urge every shoot in the country no matter of size or personal circumstances regarding game to join the BGA and help safeguard the future of shooting.

Mr Alister Jack MP, Dumfries and Galloway
Mr Bill Wiggin MP, North Herefordshire
Mr Bim Afolami MP, Hitchin and Harpenden
Sir Henry Bellingham MP, North West Norfolk
Sir Hugo Swire MP, East Devon
Mr Jonathan Djanogly MP, Huntingdon
Mr Julian Knight MP, Solihull
Mr Julian Sturdy MP, York Outer
The Lord Dear Kt QPM DL
The Earl of Home KT CVO CBE
The Lord Marlesford DL
The Earl of Shrewsbury DL
Mr Mark Garnier MP, Wyre Forest
Mr Mark Spencer MP, Sherwood
The Rt. Hon the Lord Robathan
Mr Craig Mackinlay MP, South Thanet
The Lord Marland of Odstock
The Rt Hon the Lord Strathclyde CH
Mr Jim Shannon MP, Strangford

Mr Charles Walker OBE MP, Broxbourne
Sir Graham Brady MP, Altrincham & Sale West
Mr Nigel Evans MP, Ribble Valley
Mr Steve Double MP, St Austell and Newquay
Ms Antoinette Sandbach MP, Eddisbury
Earl of Cork and Orrery
Sir William Cash MP, Stone
The Rt Hon Ed Vaizey MP, Wantage and Didcot
Dr Caroline Johnson MBBS MRCPCH MP, Sleaford and North Hykeham
Mr Nigel Adams MP, Selby and Ainsty
Rt Hon Philip Dunne MP, Ludlow
Rt Hon Richard Benyon MP, Newbury
Mr Rishi Sunak MP, Richmond (Yorks)
Mr Simon Hart MP, South & West Pembrokeshire
Sir Geoffrey Clifton-Brown MP RICS, The Cotswolds
Rt Hon Sir Nicholas Soames MP, Mid Sussex
Ms Victoria Prentis MP, North Oxfordshire