



# Deer (Amendment) (Scotland) Act 1996

## 1996 CHAPTER 44

An Act to amend the Deer (Scotland) Act 1959; and for connected purposes. [18th July 1996]

Be it enacted by the Queen's most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:—

### Commencement Information

**II** Act not in force at Royal Assent see [s. 14\(2\)](#); Act wholly in force at 18.10.1996.

## **1 Constitution, functions and membership of Deer Commission for Scotland.**

(1) With effect from the coming into force of this section—

- (a) the name of the Red Deer Commission shall be changed to the “Deer Commission for Scotland”; and
- (b) certain changes shall be made to the functions of the Commission,

and, accordingly, for subsection (1) of section 1 (general functions of the Commission) of the <sup>M1</sup>Deer (Scotland) Act 1959 (in this Act referred to as “the principal Act”) there shall be substituted—

“(1) There shall be constituted a commission to be known as “the Deer Commission for Scotland” (in this Act referred to as “the Commission”) which shall—

- (a) in accordance with the provisions of this Act, further the conservation, control and sustainable management of deer in Scotland and keep under review all matters, including their welfare, relating to deer; and
- (b) exercise such other functions as are conferred on them by or under this Act or any other enactment.

(1A) It shall be the duty of the Commission, in exercising their functions, to take such account as may be appropriate in the circumstances of—

---

*Status: Point in time view as at 18/10/1996.*

*Changes to legislation: There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Deer (Amendment) (Scotland) Act 1996 (repealed 19.11.1996). (See end of Document for details)*

---

- (a) the size and density of the deer population and its impact on the natural heritage;
  - (b) the needs of agriculture and forestry; and
  - (c) the interests of owners and occupiers of land.”
- (2) In subsection (3) of that section—
- (a) after the words “The Commission shall” there shall be inserted the words “be appointed by the Secretary of State and ”; and
  - (b) for the words from “twelve” to “subsection” there shall be substituted the words “such number of other members, being not less than nine nor more than twelve in total, as the Secretary of State considers appropriate to represent the interests of persons or organisations concerned with each of the matters mentioned in paragraph (a) of subsection (3A) below; and subsections (3A) and (3B) below ”.
- (3) After subsection (3) there shall be inserted the following subsections—
- “(3A) Subject to subsection (3) above and to subsection (3B) below, the Secretary of State may appoint any person who appears to him—
- (a) to have knowledge or experience of one or more of the following matters—
    - (i) deer management;
    - (ii) agriculture (including crofting)
    - (iii) forestry and woodland management; and
    - (iv) the natural heritage,
 in so far as that matter may be affected by the Commission’s exercise of their functions; and
  - (b) generally, to be an appropriate person, to be a member of the Commission; and, subject to subsection (3B)(c) below, of the persons so appointed, at least one third shall be persons having knowledge or experience of deer management.
- (3B) Before making an appointment under subsection (3A) above, the Secretary of State shall—
- (a) afford to such organisations as appear to him to represent the interests of persons concerned with the matters mentioned in subsection (3A) (a) above an opportunity to suggest the name of any person who would in their view be an appropriate person for such an appointment;
  - (b) consider any such suggestions; and
  - (c) where names have been suggested by organisations representing the interests of deer managers, select the one third of the Commission referred to in subsection (3A) above from among those names.”.
- (4) Subsections (4) and (5) of that section shall cease to have effect.

---

**Marginal Citations**

**M1** 1959 c. 40.

---

*Status: Point in time view as at 18/10/1996.*

*Changes to legislation: There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Deer (Amendment) (Scotland) Act 1996 (repealed 19.11.1996). (See end of Document for details)*

---

## **2 Appointment of panels.**

In section 2(1) of the principal Act (appointment of panels), for the words from the beginning to the words “quorum, and” there shall be substituted the following words—

“(1) Subject to the approval of the Secretary of State, the Commission may appoint for any locality a panel for the purposes of this section consisting of such number of persons, not exceeding nine, as they consider appropriate, one of whom shall act as chairman.

(1A) Before making an appointment under subsection (1) above, the Commission may afford to such persons or organisations as they think fit an opportunity to suggest the name of any person who would in their view be an appropriate person for such an appointment.

(1B) Where the Commission have sought suggestions as mentioned in subsection (1A) above, they shall consider any such suggestions before making an appointment under subsection (1) above.

(1C)”.

## **3 Particular powers of the Commission.**

For section 4 of the principal Act (particular powers of the Commission) there shall be substituted the following section—

### **“4 Particular powers of the Commission.**

(1) The Commission shall have power—

- (a) to issue guidance or advice, whether general or particular, to any person or organisation; and
- (b) to conduct, or to collaborate with any person or organisation which is conducting—
  - (i) any research, inquiry or investigation into questions of practical or scientific importance; or
  - (ii) any experiment, trial or demonstration,relating to the conservation, control or sustainable management of deer, or to any other aspect of the Commission’s functions.

(2) For the avoidance of doubt, it is provided that the Commission may exercise the powers conferred by subsection (1) above in relation to the general welfare of deer, in so far as that matter is not otherwise included in their functions under this Act.”.

## **4 Emergency powers of Commission to authorise killing of deer causing damage.**

(1) Section 6 of the principal Act (power of Commission to authorise killing of deer causing damage) shall be amended in accordance with this section.

(2) For subsection (1) there shall be substituted the following subsections—

“(1) Subject to the following provisions of this section, where the Commission are satisfied—

- (a) that deer—

---

*Status: Point in time view as at 18/10/1996.*

*Changes to legislation: There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Deer (Amendment) (Scotland) Act 1996 (repealed 19.11.1996). (See end of Document for details)*

---

- (i) are causing serious damage to woodland, to agricultural production (including any crops or foodstuffs); or
- (ii) are causing injury to livestock whether by serious overgrazing of pastures, competing with any such livestock for supplementary feeding, or otherwise; or
- (iii) constitute a danger or a potential danger to public safety;
- (b) that the killing of the deer is necessary to prevent further such damage or injury or to remove the danger or potential danger; and
- (c) that none of their other powers is adequate to deal with the situation, they shall authorise in writing, subject to such conditions as may be specified in the authorisation, any person who in their opinion is competent to do so to follow and kill on such land as may be mentioned in the authorisation such deer as appear to that person to be causing the damage or injury or constituting the danger or potential danger.

(1A) Where, as mentioned in subsection (1)(a)(iii) above, deer constitute a danger or potential danger to public safety, and, in the opinion of the Commission or the person authorised by them, the killing of the deer would itself constitute a potential danger to public safety, the person authorised by the Commission shall instead take and remove the deer from the land in question by such means as are appropriate.”

(3) After subsection (8) there shall be inserted the following subsection—

“(9) Where any deer has been killed or taken and removed from land under an authorisation granted by the Commission under this section the Commission shall have power to dispose of it by sale or otherwise.”

## 5 Prevention of damage to natural heritage.

After section 6 of the principal Act there shall be inserted the following section—

### “6AA Application of section 6 in relation to natural heritage.

Section 6 of this Act shall apply in relation to the natural heritage as it applies to woodland, where the Commission are satisfied that deer are causing serious damage to the natural heritage—

- (a) on enclosed land; or
- (b) on unenclosed land, but only if the Commission are also satisfied that the damage is being caused by reason of the presence on the land in question of a significantly higher density of deer population than is usual in all the circumstances.”

## 6 Control agreements and control schemes.

For section 7 of the principal Act (control schemes), there shall be substituted the following section—

### “7 Control agreements and control schemes.

(1) Subject to the following provisions of this section, where the Commission are satisfied that, on any land, deer—

---

*Status: Point in time view as at 18/10/1996.*

*Changes to legislation: There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Deer (Amendment) (Scotland) Act 1996 (repealed 19.11.1996). (See end of Document for details)*

---

- (a) have caused, are causing, or are likely to cause—
    - (i) damage to woodland, to agricultural production, including any crops or foodstuffs, or, whether directly or indirectly, to the natural heritage generally; or
    - (ii) injury to livestock whether by serious overgrazing of pastures, competing with any such livestock for supplementary feeding, or otherwise;
  - or
  - (b) have become a danger or a potential danger to public safety, and that for the prevention of further such damage, injury or, as the case may be, danger or potential danger, the deer in that locality should be reduced in number they shall form a preliminary view, having due regard to the nature and character of the land in question, as to what measures should be taken for that reduction in number; and, for the purposes of this section, “measures” includes the taking and removal of deer.
- (2) For the purposes of subsection (1) above “the natural heritage” includes any alteration or enhancement of the natural heritage which is taking place, or is proposed to take place, either naturally or as a result of a change of use determined by the owner or occupier of the land in question; and “damage” shall be construed accordingly.
- (3) Where it appears to the Commission that the circumstances obtaining in a particular area require the complete exclusion of all deer, or of all deer of any species, from that area, they may form the view that any deer within that area should be taken, removed or killed.
- (4) Thereafter it shall be the duty of the Commission to consult with such owners or occupiers of land as the Commission consider to be substantially interested, to secure agreement—
- (a) that measures require to be taken;
  - (b) as to what measures require to be taken, and within what time limit;
  - (c) as to who is to carry out such measures; and
  - (d) as to any other matters which appear to the Commission to be necessary for the purposes of such an agreement.
- (5) Where agreement is reached on the matters mentioned in subsection (4) above the Commission shall draw up an agreement (a “control agreement”) specifying the parties to it, and any such control agreement may—
- (a) describe the control area by reference to a map and specify the approximate extent of that area;
  - (b) specify the measures which are to be taken in relation to the deer in that area or any part thereof;
  - (c) specify, where the deer are to be reduced in number, the number and, if necessary in the opinion of the Commission, the species, sex and class, of the deer to be killed in or taken and removed from the control area or any part thereof, and the limit on the number of deer of each species, sex or class to be allowed to be established in the control area or any part thereof;
  - (d) specify the measures which are to be taken by the owners or occupiers for the time being of land in the control area or any of them for the purposes of the agreement; and

---

*Status: Point in time view as at 18/10/1996.*

*Changes to legislation: There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Deer (Amendment) (Scotland) Act 1996 (repealed 19.11.1996). (See end of Document for details)*

---

- (e) set out the time limits within which the owners or occupiers are to take any such measures,  
and the Commission shall send a copy of the control agreement to all the persons who were involved in the consultation referred to in subsection (4) above.
- (6) The Commission and any of the parties to a control agreement may agree at any time to vary its terms.
- (7) Where the Commission are satisfied—
- (a) that—
    - (i) it is not possible to secure a control agreement; or
    - (ii) a control agreement is not being carried out; and
  - (b) that—
    - (i) deer have caused and are causing serious damage to woodland or to agricultural production, including crops and foodstuffs, or serious damage, whether directly or indirectly, to the natural heritage, or serious injury to livestock however caused, or have become and remain a danger to public safety; and
    - (ii) action is necessary to prevent such serious damage, serious injury, or danger,
 they shall make a scheme (a “control scheme”) for the carrying out of such measures as they consider necessary for the purposes of subsection (1) or (3) above; and any such scheme before it comes into operation shall require confirmation by the Secretary of State.
- (8) Subsection (7) above does not apply in relation to any control agreement proposed or entered into for the purpose of altering or enhancing the natural heritage.
- (9) In this Act the area to which a control agreement or a control scheme relates is, in relation to that agreement or, as the case may be, scheme, referred to as the “control area”.
- (10) The Second Schedule to this Act has effect in relation to control schemes.”.

## 7 **Deer killed under authority of Commission.**

For section 13 of the principal Act (power of Commission to dispose of carcasses) there shall be substituted the following section—

### **“13 Deer killed under authority of Commission.**

Without prejudice to sections 6, 10, 11 and 12 of this Act, the Commission shall have no power to dispose of deer taken or killed under their authority.”.

## 8 **Close seasons.**

For section 21 of the principal Act (close seasons) there shall be substituted the following section—

---

*Status: Point in time view as at 18/10/1996.*

*Changes to legislation: There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Deer (Amendment) (Scotland) Act 1996 (repealed 19.11.1996). (See end of Document for details)*

---

## **“21 Close seasons.**

- (1) The Secretary of State—
  - (a) shall, in relation to the female of every species of deer; and
  - (b) may, in relation to the male of any species of deer,by order fix a period in each year during which no person shall take or wilfully kill or injure any deer of the sex and species named in the order; and different periods may be so fixed in relation to different species and in relation to the male and female of any species.
- (2) Before making an order under this section the Secretary of State may consult such persons or organisations as he thinks fit, or may direct the Commission to carry out such consultation on his behalf.
- (3) Where the Secretary of State has directed the Commission to carry out consultation on his behalf under subsection (2) above they shall report the results of that consultation, together with such advice as they may wish to tender in relation to the making of an order under this section, to him within such period as he may so direct.
- (4) Where the Secretary of State or the Commission have carried out consultation under subsection (2) or (3) above the Secretary of State shall have regard to the results of that consultation, and to any advice tendered by the Commission under subsection (3) above, before making an order under this section.
- (5) If any person contravenes an order made under this section he shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding level 4 on the standard scale for each deer in respect of which the offence was committed or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding three months, or to both such fine and imprisonment, and to the forfeiture of any deer in respect of which the offence was committed.”.

## **9 Illegal possession of deer or firearms.**

For section 25 of the principal Act (unlawful possession of deer and firearms) there shall be substituted the following sections—

### **“25 Illegal possession of deer or firearms.**

- (1) A person who is in possession of a deer or of firearms or ammunition in circumstances which make it reasonable to infer that—
  - (a) he obtained the deer by committing a relevant offence; or
  - (b) he had used the firearm or ammunition for the purpose of committing a relevant offence; or
  - (c) he knew that—
    - (i) a relevant offence had been committed in relation to the deer; or
    - (ii) the firearm or ammunition had been used for the purpose of committing a relevant offence,shall be guilty of an offence under this section and liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding level 4 on the standard scale or

---

*Status: Point in time view as at 18/10/1996.*

*Changes to legislation: There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Deer (Amendment) (Scotland) Act 1996 (repealed 19.11.1996). (See end of Document for details)*

---

to imprisonment for a period not exceeding 3 months or both, and to forfeiture of any deer found in his possession.

- (2) It shall be a defence in proceedings for an offence under this section for the accused to show that no relevant offence had been committed, or that he had no reason to believe that such an offence had been committed.
- (3) For the purposes of this section a “relevant offence” is an offence under any of sections 21, 22, 23, 23A or 24 of this Act.
- (4) A person shall not be guilty of an offence under this section in respect of anything done in good faith, including conduct which would otherwise constitute a relevant offence in relation to any deer, where what is done is done for purposes connected with the prevention or detection of crime or the investigation or treatment of disease.
- (5) It shall be lawful to convict a person charged under this section on the evidence of one witness.

#### **25AA Power of court in trial in one offence to convict of another.**

If, upon a trial for an offence under any of sections 21, 22, 23, 23A, 24 or 25 of this Act, or any rule of law relating to reset, the court is not satisfied that the accused is guilty of the offence charged but is guilty of another of those offences, it may acquit him of the offence charged but find him guilty of the other offence and he shall then be liable to the same punishment as for that other offence.”.

### **10 Authorisation by Commission of certain acts.**

- (1) After section 33 of the principal Act there shall be inserted the following section—

#### **“33A Authorisation by Commission of certain acts.**

- (1) Where a person does any act, in accordance with an authorisation given under subsection (2) or (3) below, which would otherwise be an offence under subsection (1) or (3A) of section 23 of this Act, he shall not be guilty of an offence under the said section 23.
- (2) Notwithstanding anything in any agreement between an occupier of agricultural land or of woodland and the owner thereof, but subject to subsections (7) to (10) below, the Commission may authorise such an occupier or any person nominated in writing by such an occupier to take or kill, and to sell or otherwise dispose of, any deer on any such land or woodland during the period specified in section 23(1) of this Act, where they are satisfied that the taking or killing is necessary to prevent serious damage to crops, pasture, human or animal foodstuffs, or to woodland, and no other means of control which might reasonably be adopted in the circumstances would be adequate.
- (3) Subject to subsections (7) to (10) below, the Commission may authorise the owner of any land which deer are on, or any person nominated in writing by him, to use any vehicle to drive deer in order to take or kill them for the purposes of deer management; and, for the purposes of this section—



---

*Status: Point in time view as at 18/10/1996.*

*Changes to legislation: There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Deer (Amendment) (Scotland) Act 1996 (repealed 19.11.1996). (See end of Document for details)*

---

“deer management” does not include driving deer in the course of any sporting activity, and

“vehicle” does not include any aircraft or hovercraft.

- (4) Where a person does any act, in accordance with an authorisation given under subsection (5) or (6) below, which would otherwise be an offence under section 21(5) of this Act, he shall not be guilty of that offence.
  - (5) Without prejudice to section 33(3) of this Act, notwithstanding anything in any agreement between an occupier of land and the owner thereof and subject to subsections (7) to (10) below, the Commission may authorise the owner or occupier of any land or any person nominated in writing by either of them to take or kill, and to sell or otherwise dispose of, any deer found on that land during the period specified in relation to that species and sex of deer in an order under section 21 of this Act, where they are satisfied that the taking or killing is necessary—
    - (a) to prevent serious damage to any unenclosed woodland which forms part of that land, or serious damage, whether direct or indirect, to the natural heritage generally; or
    - (b) in the interests of public safety,and no other means of control which might reasonably be adopted in the circumstances would be adequate.
  - (6) Subject to subsections (7) to (10) below, the Commission may, for any scientific purpose, authorise any person to take or kill deer during the period specified in relation to that species and sex of deer in an order under section 21 of this Act.
  - (7) The Commission shall not grant an authorisation under subsection (2), (3), (5) or (6) above unless they are satisfied that the person concerned is a fit and competent person to receive an authorisation under that subsection.
  - (8) An authorisation shall—
    - (a) be in writing; and
    - (b) specify the duration of its validity.
  - (9) No authorisation shall be granted under subsection (2) or (3) above unless a relevant code has been published under subsection (11) below, and any such authorisation shall contain a condition that the person concerned shall comply with the relevant provisions of any such code.
  - (10) An authorisation may contain such conditions, other than that mentioned in subsection (9) above, as the Commission thinks fit.
  - (11) The Commission shall prepare and publish, and from time to time revise, a code of practice for—
    - (a) night shooting; and
    - (b) the use of vehicles for the purposes of deer management,to which they shall have regard when exercising their power under subsection (2) or, as the case may be, (3) above.”
- (2) Where on the commencement of this section a code has been published under section 33(4D) of the principal Act, that code shall be treated, after that commencement, as if it had been published under section 33A(11)(a) of that Act.

---

*Status: Point in time view as at 18/10/1996.*

*Changes to legislation: There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Deer (Amendment) (Scotland) Act 1996 (repealed 19.11.1996). (See end of Document for details)*

---

- (3) Until a code is published under section 33A(11)(b) of the principal Act (which is inserted by subsection (1) above), section 23(3A) of that Act shall have effect as if for the word “any”, in the second place where it occurs, there is substituted the word “unenclosed”.

## 11 Farmed deer.

After section 34 of the principal Act there shall be inserted the following section—

### “34A Farmed deer.

- (1) Subject to subsections (2) to (4) below, this Act does not apply in respect of farmed deer.
- (2) The following provisions of this Act apply as respects farmed deer—
- (a) subsection (2) of section 23, and subsections (3) and (5) of that section in so far as they apply in relation to offences committed against subsection (2);
  - (b) section 23A;
  - (c) section 25AA;
  - (d) Part IIIA; and
  - (e) section 35A.
- (3) The provisions of Part IV of this Act shall apply in respect of an offence committed by virtue of subsection (2) above.
- (4) In this section “farmed deer” means deer of any species which are on agricultural land enclosed by a deer-proof barrier and are kept on that land by any person as livestock.”.

## 12 Interpretation of the principal Act.

After section 35 of the principal Act, there shall be inserted the following section—

### “35A Interpretation.

- (1) In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires—
- “agricultural land” has the meaning given by the <sup>M2</sup>Agricultural Holdings (Scotland) Act 1991;
- “ammunition” and “firearm” have the meanings respectively given in the <sup>M3</sup>Firearms Act 1968;
- “animal foodstuffs”, for the purposes of sections 33(3) and 33A(2) of this Act, includes foodstuffs intended for consumption by farmed deer;
- “control agreement”, “control area” and “control scheme” have the meanings respectively given by section 7 of this Act;
- “deer” means fallow deer, red deer, roe deer and sika deer and any other species of deer specified in an order made under subsection (2) below and includes any hybrid of those species and, where appropriate, the carcass of any deer or any part thereof;

*Status: Point in time view as at 18/10/1996.*

*Changes to legislation: There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Deer (Amendment) (Scotland) Act 1996 (repealed 19.11.1996). (See end of Document for details)*

“deer management” includes the management of deer for sporting purposes;

“deer proof barrier” means a barrier which will, having regard to the character and nature of the land, prevent the entry of deer on to or, as the case may be, the escape of deer from any land;

“enclosed” means enclosed by a stock-proof fence or other barrier, and “unenclosed” shall be construed accordingly;

“fallow deer” means deer of the species *Dama dama*;

“farmed deer” has the meaning given in section 34A of this Act;

“functions” includes powers and duties;

“land” does not include a dwelling house or any yard, garden, outhouses and pertinents belonging thereto or usually enjoyed therewith;

“livestock” has the meaning given by the <sup>M4</sup>Agriculture (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1968 and, for the purposes of sections 6 and 7 of this Act, includes farmed deer;

“natural heritage” includes flora and fauna, geological and physiographical features and the natural beauty and amenity of the countryside;

“occupier” in relation to any land includes any tenant or sub-tenant, whether in actual occupation of the land or not;

“owner” in relation to any land includes any person who under the Land Clauses Acts would be enabled to sell and convey the land to promoters of an undertaking;

“red deer” means deer of the species *Cervus elaphus*;

“roe deer” means deer of the species *Capreolus capreolus*;

“sika deer” means deer of the species *Cervus nippon*;

“species” includes any hybrid of different species of deer;

“take”, in relation to deer, means take alive, and cognate expressions shall be construed accordingly;

“vehicle” includes an aircraft, hovercraft or boat; and

“woodland” means land on which trees are grown, whether or not commercially, and includes any such trees and any vegetation planted or growing naturally among such trees on that land.

- (2) The Secretary of State may, by order made by statutory instrument, specify other species of deer which are to be “deer” for the purposes of subsection (1) above.”.

#### Marginal Citations

M2 1991 c.55.

M3 1968 c.27.

M4 1968 c.34.

### 13 Minor and consequential amendments and repeals.

- (1) Schedule 1 to this Act, which contains minor amendments and amendments consequential upon the provisions of this Act, shall have effect.

---

*Status: Point in time view as at 18/10/1996.*

*Changes to legislation: There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Deer (Amendment) (Scotland) Act 1996 (repealed 19.11.1996). (See end of Document for details)*

---

- (2) The enactments mentioned in Schedule 2 to this Act (which includes spent provisions) are hereby repealed to the extent specified in the third column of that Schedule.

**Extent Information**

**E1** S. 13 extends to Scotland only except as mentioned in s. 14(4)

**14 Short title, commencement and extent.**

- (1) This Act may be cited as the Deer (Amendment) (Scotland) Act 1996.
- (2) This Act shall come into force at the end of the period of three months beginning with the day on which this Act is passed.
- (3) Until an order in relation to red deer stags and hinds is made under section 21 of the principal Act (close seasons), as substituted by section 8 of this Act, the period for the purposes of subsection (1) of the said section 21 for—
  - (a) such stags shall be the period commencing on the twenty-first day of October and ending on the thirtieth day of June; and
  - (b) such hinds shall be the period commencing on the sixteenth day of February and ending on the twentieth day of October.
- (4) Except for the repeals and amendments contained in paragraphs 3 and 4 of Schedule 1, and the related entries in Schedule 2, to this Act, which have the same extent as the Acts there repealed and amended, this Act extends to Scotland only.

---

*Status: Point in time view as at 18/10/1996.*

*Changes to legislation: There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Deer (Amendment) (Scotland) Act 1996 (repealed 19.11.1996). (See end of Document for details)*

---

## SCHEDULES

### SCHEDULE 1

#### MINOR AND CONSEQUENTIAL AMENDMENTS

##### *The Deer (Scotland) Act 1959 (c.40)*

- 1 (1) The principal Act shall be amended as follows.
- (2) In section 2 (appointment of panels), subsections (3) and (4) shall cease to have effect.
- (3) In section 3(1) (duty of Commission to advise the Secretary of State), for the words from “red” to “State” there shall be substituted the word “deer”.
- (4) In section 5 (returns as to numbers of deer killed)—
  - (a) in subsection (1)—
    - (i) the words “red deer or sika” shall cease to have effect;
    - (ii) after the word “each”, there shall be inserted the words “ species and of each ”;
    - (iii) after the word “been” there shall be inserted the words “ taken or ”; and
  - (b) in subsection (2), for the words “£200”, there shall be substituted the words “ level 3 on the standard scale ”.
- (5) In section 6 (power of Commission to deal with marauding deer)—
  - (a) in subsection (2), for the words “which appear to be causing damage as aforesaid” there shall be substituted the words “ mentioned in subsection (1) above ”; and
  - (b) in subsection (8), for the words “to follow and kill deer as aforesaid” there shall be substituted the words “ under this section ”.
- (6) Section 6A (further power of Commission to deal with marauding deer) shall cease to have effect.
- (7) In section 8 (content of control schemes)—
  - (a) in subsection (1), for paragraphs (b) and (c) there shall be substituted the following paragraphs—
    - “(b) specify the measures which are to be taken in relation to the deer in that area or any part thereof;
    - (c) specify, where the deer are to be reduced in number, the number and, if necessary in the opinion of the Commission, the species, sex and class of the deer to be killed in or taken and removed from the control area or any part thereof, and the limit on the number of deer of each species, sex or class

*Status: Point in time view as at 18/10/1996.*

*Changes to legislation: There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Deer (Amendment) (Scotland) Act 1996 (repealed 19.11.1996). (See end of Document for details)*

- to be allowed to be established in the control area or any part thereof.”; and
- (b) in subsection (3), the words “red deer or sika” shall cease to have effect.
- (8) In section 9(2) (penalty for refusal to comply with control scheme), for the words “£500” there shall be substituted the words “level 4 on the standard scale”.
- (9) In section 10 (enforcement of control schemes), at the end there shall be inserted the following words “; and where the carrying out of such a requirement involves the killing or taking of deer the Commission shall have power to dispose by sale or otherwise of any deer so killed or taken.”.
- (10) In section 11 (expenses of control scheme not recouped through sale of carcasses to be recoverable from owner concerned)—
- (a) for subsection (1) there shall be substituted the following subsection—
- “(1) Where any expenses incurred by the Commission in their performance of their duty under section 10 of this Act exceed the amount of the proceeds of the sale of any deer taken or killed in pursuance of that performance, the excess shall be recoverable from the owner or occupier concerned by the Commission.”;
- (b) in subsection (2)—
- (i) for the words “exercise of their functions as aforesaid” there shall be substituted the words “performance of their duty under the said section 10”; and
- (ii) for the word “carcasses” there shall be substituted the word “deer”; and
- (c) subsection (4) shall cease to have effect.
- (11) In section 12(1) (power of Commission to assist in killing or taking of deer)—
- (a) after the word “control” there shall be inserted the words “agreement or”; and
- (b) the words “red deer or sika” shall cease to have effect.
- (12) In section 14 (provision as to game licences), the words “red deer or sika” and the words “the provisions of this Part of” shall cease to have effect.
- (13) In section 15(1)(d) (power to enter on land for purposes of census), the words “red deer or sika” and the word “general” shall cease to have effect.
- (14) In section 16(3) (address for service), for the words “section twenty-six of the Interpretation Act 1889”, there shall be substituted the words “section 7 of the Interpretation Act 1978”.
- (15) In section 17 (penalty for obstructing execution of Act), for the words “£200” there shall be substituted the words “level 3 on the standard scale”.
- (16) In section 19 (saving for rights of compensation), the words “red deer or sika” shall cease to have effect.
- (17) Section 20 shall cease to have effect.
- (18) In section 22 (penalties for poaching)—
- (a) in subsection (1), after the words “legal right” there shall be inserted the words “to take or kill deer”;

---

*Status: Point in time view as at 18/10/1996.*

*Changes to legislation: There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Deer (Amendment) (Scotland) Act 1996 (repealed 19.11.1996). (See end of Document for details)*

---

- (b) the proviso to subsection (1) shall cease to have effect; and
  - (c) for the words “£500” in both places where they occur, there shall be substituted the words “ level 4 on the standard scale ”.
- (19) In section 23 (offences connected with deer)—
- (a) in subsection (1), after the words “section thirty-three”, there shall be inserted the words “ or 33A ”;
  - (b) in subsection (2)—
    - (i) for the words “to take or wilfully” there shall be substituted the words “ wilfully to ”; and
    - (ii) for the words from “as” to the end of that subsection there shall be substituted the words “ of a class prescribed in an order under section 23A(1) of this Act ”;
  - (c) in subsection (2A)—
    - (i) in paragraph (a), for the word “aircraft” there shall be substituted the words “ moving vehicle ”; and
    - (ii) in paragraph (b), for the words “section 23(5) of this Act”, there shall be substituted the words “ subsection (5) below ”;
  - (d) in subsection (3), for the words “£500” there shall be substituted the words “ level 4 on the standard scale ”; and
  - (e) in subsection (3A)—
    - (i) at the beginning there shall be inserted the words “ Subject to section 33A of this Act, ”;
    - (ii) for the word “unenclosed” there shall be substituted the word “ any ”; and
    - (iii) for the words “£500” there shall be substituted the words “ level 4 on the standard scale ”; and
  - (f) in subsection (5), the word “alive” shall cease to have effect.
- (20) In section 23A(3) and (5) (penalties for offences in respect of firearms and ammunition), for the words “£500” there shall be substituted the words “ level 4 on the standard scale ”.
- (21) In section 24 (unlawful killing or taking of deer by more than one person), in paragraph (a), for the words “section 289B(6) of the Criminal Procedure (Scotland) Act 1975”, there shall be substituted the words “ section 225(8) of the Criminal Procedure (Scotland) Act 1995 ”.
- (22) In section 25D (offences and penalties under Part IIIA)—
- (a) in subsection (2), for the words “£200”, there shall be substituted the words “ level 3 on the standard scale ”;
  - (b) in subsection (4), for the words “£500”, there shall be substituted the words “ level 4 on the standard scale ”;
  - (c) in subsection (5), for the words “£50”, there shall be substituted the words “ level 2 on the standard scale ”; and
  - (d) in subsection (6), for the words “£200”, there shall be substituted the words “ level 3 on the standard scale ”.
- (23) Section 25E shall cease to have effect.
- (24) In section 25F, for the definition of “deer” there shall be substituted the following definition—

*Status: Point in time view as at 18/10/1996.*

*Changes to legislation: There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Deer (Amendment) (Scotland) Act 1996 (repealed 19.11.1996). (See end of Document for details)*

““deer” means deer of any species, whether or not deer within the meaning of section 35A(1) of this Act, and includes farmed deer;”.

- (25) In section 26 (attempts to commit offences)—
- (a) for the words from “section”, where it first occurs, to the words “1954” there shall be substituted the words “ section 294 of, and paragraph 10 of Schedule 3 to, the Criminal Procedure (Scotland) Act 1995 ”;
  - (b) for the words “Part II or any order made thereunder”, there shall be substituted the words “ section 21(5) of this Act ”; and
  - (c) for the words “£500”, there shall be substituted the words “ level 4 on the standard scale ”.
- (26) In section 27(1) (powers of search and seizure) the words “firearm or ammunition, vehicle or boat” shall cease to have effect.
- (27) In section 28A(2)(c) (penalty for failure to surrender cancelled certificate), for the words “£50”, there shall be substituted the words “ level 2 on the standard scale ”.
- (28) Section 31(2) shall cease to have effect.
- (29) Section 32 shall cease to have effect.
- (30) In section 33 (exemptions for certain acts)—
- (a) in subsection (1), after the word “deprived” there shall be inserted the words “ , or about to be deprived, ”;
  - (b) in subsection (2)—
    - (i) after the word “control”, in both places where it occurs, there shall be inserted the words “ agreement or ”; and
    - (ii) at the end there shall be inserted the words “; and for the purposes of paragraphs (a) and (b) above “officer or servant of the Commission” includes any person engaged by the Commission under a contract for services.”;
  - (c) in subsection (3)—
    - (i) for the words from “section” to “thereunder”, there shall be substituted the words “ section 21(5) of this Act ”; and
    - (ii) for the words from “the carcasses” to the end there shall be substituted the words “any deer found, as the case may be, on—
      - (i) arable land, improved permanent pasture (other than moorland) and land which has been regenerated so as to be able to make a significant contribution to the productivity of a holding which forms part of that agricultural land; or
      - (ii) on enclosed woodland,

where the occupier has reasonable ground for believing that serious damage will be caused to crops, pasture or human or animal foodstuffs on that agricultural land, or to that woodland, if the deer are not taken or killed. ”; and
  - (d) subsections (3B) to (5) shall cease to have effect.
- (31) Before section 34, there shall be inserted the following section—



*Status: Point in time view as at 18/10/1996.*

*Changes to legislation: There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Deer (Amendment) (Scotland) Act 1996 (repealed 19.11.1996). (See end of Document for details)*

**“33B Information to be supplied to owner of certain land.**

– The occupier of any agricultural land or enclosed or unenclosed woodland shall supply, as soon as practicable after being requested to do so by the owner of the land, information to the owner as to the number, sex and species of deer taken or killed by him or by any other person, other than the owner or his servants in ordinary service, authorised or nominated by him under or by virtue of section 33(3) or section 33A(2) or (5) of this Act within the period of twelve months immediately preceding the request.”.

(32) In Schedule 1 (constitution of Commission)—

(a) in paragraph 2A—

(i) after the word “chairman” where it appears for the first time, there shall be inserted the words “ or a member ”; and

(ii) for sub-paragraph (a) there shall be substituted the following sub-paragraph—

“(a) has had his estate sequestrated, has been adjudged bankrupt, has made an arrangement with his creditors, or has granted a trust deed for his creditors or made a composition contract;”;

(b) in paragraph 2B—

(i) for the word “chairman” there shall be substituted the words “ a member ”; and

(ii) the words “, with the approval of the Treasury,” shall cease to have effect;

(c) in paragraph 2C—

(i) the words “, with the approval of the Treasury,” shall cease to have effect; and

(ii) for the word “chairmen” there shall be substituted the word “ members ”; and

(d) for paragraph 4 there shall be substituted—

“4 The Secretary of State—

(a) shall pay to—

(i) the Chairman of the Commission such remuneration and such allowances; and

(ii) the other members of the Commission such allowances; and

(b) may pay to the other members of the Commission such remuneration,  
as he may determine.”.

*The Agriculture (Scotland) Act 1948 (c.45)*

2 (1) The Agriculture (Scotland) Act 1948 shall be amended as follows.

---

*Status: Point in time view as at 18/10/1996.*

*Changes to legislation: There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Deer (Amendment) (Scotland) Act 1996 (repealed 19.11.1996). (See end of Document for details)*

---

(2) In section 39 (control of injurious animals), after subsection (3) there shall be inserted the following subsection—

“(3A) In subsection (3) above “deer” means any species of deer which is not included in the definition of “deer” in section 35A of the Deer (Scotland) Act 1959 (interpretation).”.

(3) After section 42 there shall be inserted the following section—

**“0 Meaning of “animals” for purposes of section 40 to 42.**

- In sections 40 to 42 of this Act “animals” does not include any species of deer which is included in the definition of “deer” in section 35A of the Deer (Scotland) Act 1959 (interpretation).”.

*The Parliamentary Commissioner Act 1967 (c.13.)*

3 In Schedule 2 of the Parliamentary Commissioner Act 1967 (bodies subject to investigation)—

- (a) the entry relating to the Red Deer Commission shall cease to have effect; and
- (b) at the appropriate place, there shall be inserted—

“Deer Commission for Scotland.”.

*The House of Commons Disqualification Act 1975 (c.24.)*

4 In Part III of Schedule 1 to the House of Commons Disqualification Act 1975 (disqualifying offices)—

- (a) the entry relating to the chairman of the Red Deer Commission shall cease to have effect; and
- (b) at the appropriate place, there shall be inserted—

“Chairman of the Deer Commission for Scotland.”.

## SCHEDULE 2

### REPEALS

Chapter	Short title	Extent of repeal
1959 c. 40	The Deer (Scotland) Act 1959	Section 1(4) and(5).  In section 2, subsections (3) and (4).

---

*Status: Point in time view as at 18/10/1996.*

**Changes to legislation:** *There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Deer (Amendment) (Scotland) Act 1996 (repealed 19.11.1996). (See end of Document for details)*

---

		In section 5(1), the words “red deer or sika”.
		Section 6A.
		In section 8, in subsection (3), the words “red deer or sika”.
		In section 11, subsection (4).
		In section 12(1), the words “red deer or sika”.
		In section 14, the words “red deer or sika” and the words “the provisions of this Part of”.
		In section 15(1)(d), the words “red deer or sika” and the word “general”.
		In section 19, the words “red deer or sika”.
		Section 20.
		In section 22, the proviso to subsection (1).
		In section 23(5), the word “alive”.
		Section 25E.
		In section 27, in subsection (1), the words “firearm or ammunition, vehicle or boat”.
		In section 31, subsection (2).
		Section 32.
		In section 33, subsections (3B) to (5).
		In Schedule 1, in each of paragraphs 2B and 2C, the words “, with the approval of the Treasury,”.
1967 c. 13	The Parliamentary Commissioner Act 1967	In Schedule 2, the entry relating to “Red Deer Commission”.
1973 c.54.	The Nature Conservancy Council Act 1973.	In Schedule 1, paragraph 4.
1975 c. 24	The House of Commons Disqualification Act 1975	In Schedule 1, in Part III, the entry relating to

---

*Status: Point in time view as at 18/10/1996.*

**Changes to legislation:** *There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Deer (Amendment) (Scotland) Act 1996 (repealed 19.11.1996). (See end of Document for details)*

---

		“Chairman of the Red Deer Commission”.
1982 c.19.	The Deer (Amendment) (Scotland) Act 1982.	Section 1(1) and (4).  Section 3(a). Section 4. Section 6(a). Section 7.
1990 c.43.	The Environment Protection Act 1990.	In Schedule 9, paragraph 2.
1991 c.28.	The Natural Heritage (Scotland) Act 1991.	In Schedule 2, paragraph 2.

---

**Status:**

Point in time view as at 18/10/1996.

**Changes to legislation:**

There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Deer (Amendment) (Scotland) Act 1996 (repealed 19.11.1996).