

BAN OR LICENSE ?

**A SURVEY OF ATTITUDES SURROUNDING
DRIVEN GROUSE SHOOTING IN THE UK.**



THE ISSUE

Driven grouse shooting is a controversial hobby. It takes place on heather-clad British uplands, such as the Pennine chain in England and the Southern Uplands and Cairngorm regions in Scotland. Grouse shooting takes place in Northern Ireland and Wales but is a far less common land use in those two nations.

Wild Justice supports banning driven grouse shooting (the most intensive and most widespread form of grouse shooting). Our 2019 petition to the Westminster Parliament to ban driven grouse shooting reached 111,965 signatures in under three months when all petitions were stopped because of a pending general election.

Some other organisations concerned about the environmental damage of the management associated with grouse shooting, notably the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB), favour licensing

of grouse shooting in order to impose more controls on the activity. In Scotland, the government is moving slowly to introduce licensing and in England the Labour Party has committed to licensing being their preferred option. Wild Justice doubts that licensing would work, but it would delay the arrival of a ban, which will inevitably come.

Obviously, the grouse shooting industry opposes any form of change.

THE SURVEY

Wild Justice asked subscribers to our free newsletter two questions:

- a.) whether they preferred licensing or a ban, and
- b.) whether or not they are RSPB members.



THE RESULTS

We received 7303 responses – overall 6444 favoured a ban (88%).

87% of RSPB members were in favour of a ban, compared with 91% of non-members. There's not much difference is there?

We would not claim that these 7303 people are representative of the population as a whole nor necessarily of the RSPB membership but it's a big sample of people who are interested in this issue and we do not know of any similar polls that have been published.

At the very least these results should indicate to politicians and other decision makers that the licensing option is not seen by everyone as being a sensible middle ground, but many would regard it as a weak response to driven grouse shooting's environmental damage.

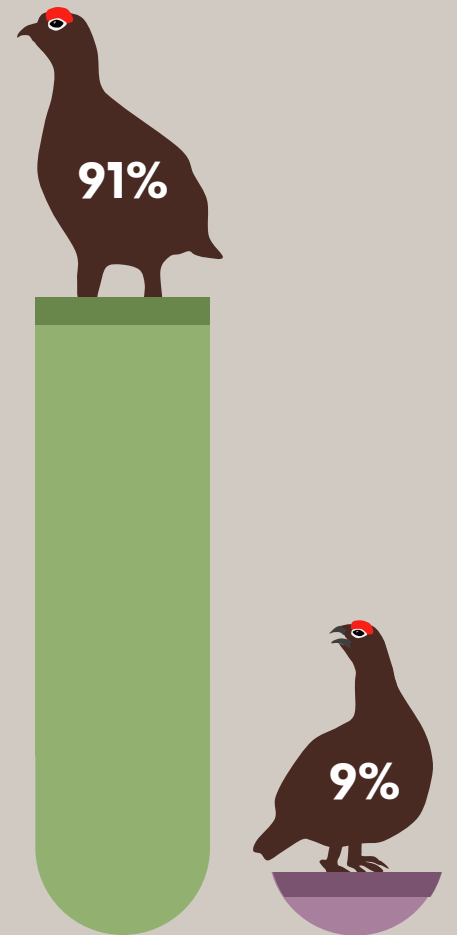
The RSPB should consider to what extent it is representing its members' views and whether its current favoured position is really what it should be seeking.



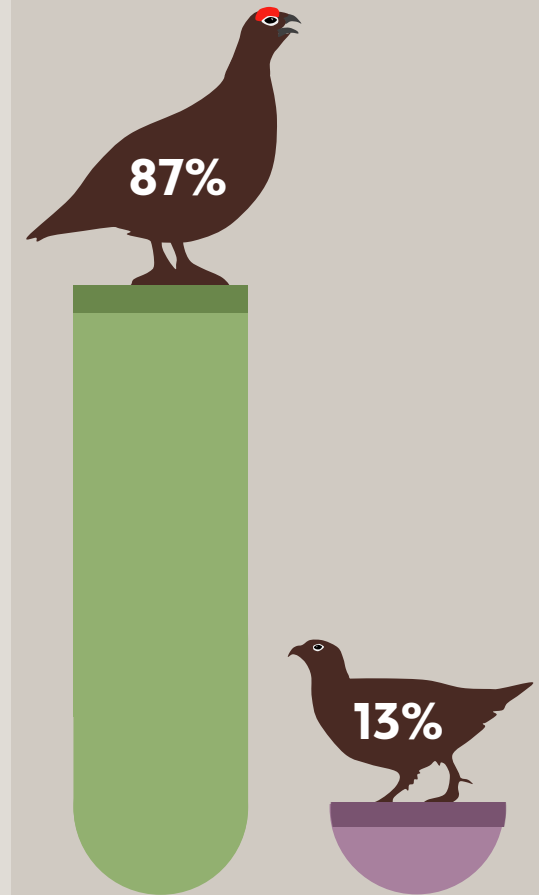
BAN



LICENSE



NON RSPB MEMBERS



RSPB MEMBERS

APPENDIX

	Ban	License	Total
RSPB Member	3716	578	4294
Not RSPB Member	2728	281	3009
Total	6444	859	7303

Table 1: Number of responses per category; respondents were asked a.) whether they preferred licensing or a ban and b.) whether or not they are RSPB members.

	Ban	License
RSPB Member	87%	13%
Not RSPB Member	91%	9%
Average	88%	12%

Table 2: Percentages of responses under each category; respondents were asked a.) whether they preferred licensing or a ban and b.) whether or not they are RSPB members.



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