



DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT  
2 MARSHAM STREET LONDON SW1P 3EB

01-276 3000

My ref: R/PSO/3244/89

Your ref:

NITCF  
Political?

10 APR 1989

*Dear Prime Minister,*

Nicholas Ridley and Michael Howard both wrote to you, most recently on 8 February, about the use of land for clay pigeon shooting.

I am now writing to let you know that we have completed our consideration of the responses to the consultation paper we issued on 16 December, which sought views on whether the Town and Country Planning General Development Order 1988 should be amended to increase from 14 to 28 the maximum number of days in a calendar year that land could be used for clay pigeon shooting without specific planning permission. We have concluded that the Order should be so amended, and an appropriate amending Order is being laid before the House.

In reaching our decision we have taken particular account of two arguments. First, that the change from 28 to 14 days permitted use could result in less control and safety if shoots were to take place for 14 days on one piece of land and 14 days on another. Secondly, the Department has concluded negotiations with the Clay Pigeon Shooting Association on a draft Code of Practice for clay pigeon shooting, which would apply to all clay pigeon shoots. The draft Code is now being issued for consultation. Subject to comments from consultees, when finalised it will be approved by the Secretary of State under the Control of Pollution Act 1974.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Christopher Chope'.

CHRISTOPHER CHOPE

The Rt Hon Mrs Margaret Thatcher MP