

Statutory Returns & Records



The aim of this guide is to summarise the statutory records which NatureScot* requires deer managers to keep.

Overview

There are three types of statutory record required by NatureScot:

- Annual Cull Returns;
- Authorisation Returns;
- Venison Dealer's Records.

The table below details who is required to keep these statutory returns and how the information collected can be used.

All information related to individuals is treated as confidential unless the provider agrees to release cull data to their local Deer Management Group (DMG). The release of this information is important as not all owners/occupiers are members of their local DMG and their cull returns allow the setting of a more accurate DMG cull target.

NatureScot Annual Cull Return

Who it applies to

All owners/occupiers that cull deer in Scotland and who are requested to do so by NatureScot.

Information required/requested

The number and sex of each species of deer culled between 1st April - 31st March of each year.

What you do

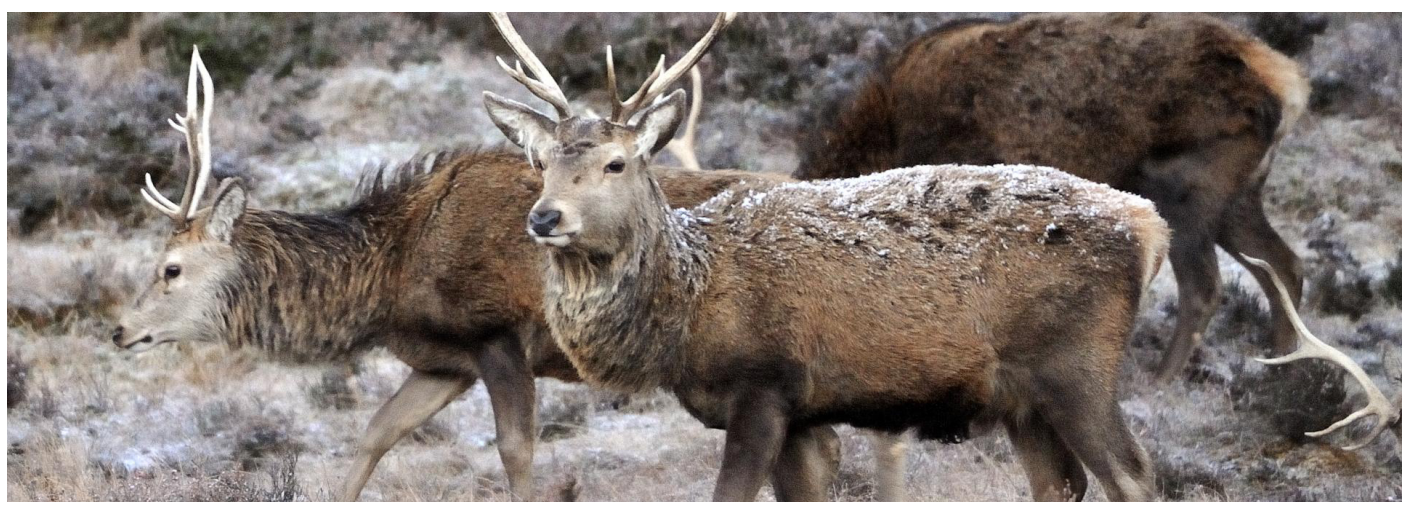
In April each year NatureScot will send a notification requesting these details. You are required to submit the return within 36 days. If you cull deer in Scotland and have not previously received a notification requesting this information you should inform NatureScot. Deer Larder Records** will assist when completing Annual Cull Returns.

What it is used for

Index of the total number of deer culled in Scotland. Index of the distribution of species of deer. As NatureScot is currently unable to identify all landholdings where deer are shot, the total cull figure record represents only the majority of deer culled in Scotland.

* NatureScot is the operating name for Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH), which remains the organisations's formal, legal identity.

** See BPG Cull Records.



NatureScot Authorisation Returns

Who it applies to

All owners/occupiers in Scotland that cull deer under a NatureScot Authorisation.

Information required/requested

Varies depending on type of authorisation. A NatureScot email is sent out which will allow authorisation returns to be submitted by post or electronically.

What you do

You are required to submit your completed cull return details to NatureScot within 7 days of the Authorisation expiry date. For further information see NSSG Approvals & Authorisations, NSSG Driving Deer with Vehicles and the NSSG Night Shooting Codes of Practice.

What it is used for

Provides an understanding of how many deer have been shot under Authorisations throughout the year and where. Can help to identify where significant economic loss may be incurred by farmers or foresters.

Venison Dealer Records

Who it applies to

All Licensed Venison Dealers in Scotland (See BPG Supply of Venison).

Information required/requested

NatureScot requests that all Venison Dealers submit their records of all purchases and receipts of venison for the period 1st April - 31st March each year to NatureScot.

What you do

You may be requested to submit records annually or monthly, by post or email to NatureScot. You are required to keep records for three years and to produce records for inspection by NatureScot or a Police Officer and to allow them to take copies.

What it is used for

Provides a summary of the quantity of venison being sold. Acts as a check when investigating illegal sales of venison.

Frequently asked questions

- Q** I cull deer in Scotland but have not previously received a NatureScot letter requesting a Statutory Annual Cull Return; do I need to contact NatureScot?
- A** If you are the owner/occupier or agent of the land over which you cull deer please telephone NatureScot on: 01463 725634 or email NatureScot at licensing@nature.scot. If not, you should contact the person from whom you obtained permission to shoot deer to check that cull returns for the land are being made to NatureScot.
- Q** Why are the NatureScot Annual Cull Figures different to those for my local DMG?
- A** NatureScot cull figures usually exceed those for the local DMG, as cull data from owners/occupiers who are not DMG members is included in the NatureScot cull totals for an area.
- Q** How can I get a NatureScot Venison Dealer's Record Book or the standard NatureScot format for electronic and email records?
- A** The NatureScot Venison Dealer's Record Book is available for issue to venison dealers at no cost.
- Should you wish to receive a copy please telephone NatureScot on: 01463 725634 or email: enquiries@nature.scot
 - The standard format for electronic and email records is available on the NatureScot website at: www.nature.scot. These should be emailed monthly to: licensing@nature.scot
- Q** Where can I find information resulting from analysis of the data gathered in these returns and records?
- A** Available on the NatureScot website: www.nature.scot