

Explanatory Memorandum to Tynwald Members

Issued by the Department of Environment, Food and Agriculture

To the Hon Stephen Rodan OBE MLC, President of Tynwald and the Hon Council and Keys in Tynwald assembled

1. Title of measure

Game (Amendment) Order 2020 [*SD 2020/0304*].

2. Changes in policy

To amend the closed season for the hunting of grey partridges.

3. Effects of the measure

On commencement of this Order on 1st August 2020 the closed season specified in section 9(2)(b) of the Game Act 1882 (i.e. 1st February to 12th September of each year) will apply to all partridges.

This is achieved by omitting article 4 of the Game Order 2009 [*SD 706/09*] to remove the additional closed season that was previously provided for grey partridges from 1st October to 31st January in any year.

4. Reasons for the measure

While there have been no sightings of the grey partridge on the Island in recent years, there is demand from farmers and landowners on the Island to be allowed to import and maintain flocks of grey partridges for the purposes of shooting.

Grey partridge have specific and well-researched habitat requirements and, while such habitats are present on the Island, these habitats are currently fragmented.

The reduction in the closed season for grey partridge will encourage the improvement of habitats for such birds, to the benefit of other wildlife, improving the Island's biodiversity.

5. Resource implications

There may be a slight increase in resource demand, for example in enforcement, following the proposed amendment. However, any such increase is envisaged to be undertaken using existing Departmental resources. The granting of additional licences under the Game Act 1882 is not anticipated to impact on existing resources.

6. Tynwald procedures

Tynwald approval is required under section 9(3) of the Game Act 1957.