# Community in Moray concerned over aggressive gull attacks



A series of alarming incidents involving aggressive gull attacks has raised concerns within the community of Moray, Scotland. A pensioner was recently injured after a gull dive-bombed her as she was leaving her home. In her attempt to assist the elderly woman, her carer also faced an aggressive attack from the same bird. These incidents have sparked discussions among local officials and prompted calls for action to address the growing issue of urban gulls.

Former Scottish Conservative leader Douglas Ross highlighted the ongoing concern during topical questions at Holyrood. He noted that Moray Council has spent significant funds—over £50,000 in the past two years from the Elgin Common Good Fund—aimed at mitigating the issue, yet the situation persists. Ross recounted specifics of an incident involving an elderly resident whose injury from a gull led to a broken leg and a subsequent fear of leaving her home after returning from hospital. He urged for a ministerial meeting to discuss the rising problem of gull aggression in communities like Moray.

Agriculture minister Jim Fairlie responded by acknowledging the concerns raised by Ross, stating, “I appreciate that gulls can be a serious nuisance in urban areas but the answer is not to allow free reign to kill those birds.” He emphasised that all wild birds in Scotland are protected by law. Fairlie further explained that while some gull populations have seen a decline in their natural habitats, urban gull numbers have surged. To combat the issue, he suggested that local authorities and property owners take proactive measures to deter gulls from nesting.

Despite Fairlie’s insights, Ross deemed the minister’s response as “completely tone deaf,” indicating a disconnect between the government’s stance and the experiences of those affected. Additionally, Green MSP Mark Ruskell accused the Conservative Party of taking an adversarial approach towards wildlife, suggesting that the focus on gulls could lead to broader ramifications for other species, remarking, “It’s seagulls this week, it will be white-tailed eagles next week, and it will be beavers after that.”

As the debate continues in Parliament, the community remains vigilant about the presence of aggressive gulls, raising questions on how to address wildlife interactions in urban settings without compromising ecological laws.

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## References

* <https://morayclaims.co.uk/seagull-attacks-and-personal-injury-claims-2/> - This article discusses seagull attacks in Scotland, particularly during the breeding season, and highlights the challenges in making personal injury claims related to such incidents. It mentions aggressive behavior by gulls, especially in areas like Moray.
* <https://www.pressandjournal.co.uk/tag/seagulls/> - This webpage provides news and updates on seagull-related issues across the north and north-east of Scotland, including concerns about their aggressive behavior and the challenges faced by local communities.
* <https://www.grampianonline.co.uk/news/tone-deaf-government-response-to-seagull-scourge-blasted-b-376808/> - This article reports on the criticism of the Scottish Government's response to the seagull problem in Moray, highlighting the community's fear and the need for effective measures to address the issue.
* <https://www.noahwire.com> - This source is mentioned as the origin of the article discussing the seagull attacks and community concerns in Moray, Scotland.
* <https://www.gov.scot/publications/wild-birds-licence-to-kill-control-or-sell/> - This webpage from the Scottish Government provides information on the legal protections for wild birds in Scotland, which includes gulls, and the conditions under which licenses to control or kill them can be issued.