Written evidence submitted by Michael Stevenson

This submission relates to the Government petition: “Make grey squirrel rescue exempt from Invasive Alien Species Order 2019”.

The submission has been made by myself (Michael Stevenson) in a personal capacity and not on behalf of an organisation.

*I would ideally like the Government to make the Grey Squirrel exempt from Invasive Alien Species Order 2019 for the following reasons:*

- It is true that Grey Squirrels have in places displaced Red Squirrels but they have caused no suffering in this process. It has been slow to occur and gradually one type has replaced the other.

- Grey Squirrels are not pests in the sense of being a health hazard to humans or other wildlife.

- Throughout history many species have displaced others. This is an ongoing process. Many camels now exist in Australia after they were introduced. However, there is no move to eradicate them all. Please note that even humans have displaced other species over time.

- Trying to eradicate Grey Squirrels is a difficult task, which would take a long time and I’m not sure it could ever be totally achieved.

- Trying to eradicate Grey Squirrels will cost the tax payer a great deal of money.

- Finally, I feel that trying to eradicate Grey Squirrels will cause an immense amount of suffering to the wildlife. Killing methods are not that quick or humane.

Thank you for letting me present my views to this committee.

*May 2019*