Introduction

• Currently agencies rely on reaching voluntary agreements

• Most landowners are willing to enter into voluntary agreements - around 5% are not

• Lack of powers of entry has impacted on American bullfrog, ruddy duck and monk parakeet eradication
Call for Powers

- Powers available to combat disease and pests, but not INNS
- Scotland took powers in 2011
- EAC 2014

“Clear need for species control agreements and species control orders to ensure effectiveness of rapid response plans to eradicate invasive species before they can become established.”

- EU IAS Regulation – Jan 2015
• Part 3 of the Infrastructure Bill introduces new species control provisions
• Environmental authority must first offer voluntary species control agreement
• If agreement not entered into/breached, environmental authority may make an order requiring an owner to act or carry out works themselves
• Environmental authority can make an “emergency” species control order in the public interest
Species Control Provisions - Overview

• Provisions backed by new powers of entry, criminal offences and right of appeal
• Code of Practice will set out detail
• Costs borne by Government, unless owner is responsible for release of the species
• Discretionary power to award compensation to owners but likely to be for incidental damage only
• Only expect 1-2 orders each year
Original Scope of Measures

- Species whose release into the wild is regulated by section 14 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981:
  - Animals not ordinarily resident or regular visitors to GB in a wild state; and
  - Species on Schedule 9 of the 1981 Act
- Species must be “invasive”

- Focus of measures on newly arrived species capable of eradication

- Powers available for widespread species only in limited circumstances – new Community Protection Notices more proportionate
Concerns Raised Over Scope

- Included eight native species on Schedule 9
- Included former native species e.g. beaver
- Defined former natives as “non-native”
- Could extend to natural colonisers?
Lords Report Scope Changes

• Removed all native species on Schedule 9
• Removed all species with a natural range in GB, other than where reintroduced without a licence
• Clarified that former natives are distinct from non-natives
• Natural colonisers outwith scope as within their “natural range”
Next Steps

• Final Stage in Commons this week
• Back to Lords to consider Commons Amendments – Feb
• Royal Assent – end of Feb
• Commencement – post May