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From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday 9 February 2021 18:42
To: WildBirdDeclarations
Subject: Control of Seagulls in urban areas

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Hi,
I wish to support the continued control of seagulls, in particular by means of the derogation provided to Balbriggan residents in recent years. This derogation allows the removal of nests and/or eggs from dwellings and buildings to control numbers of nesting birds.

This has brought significant benefits to local populations and should be continued. The benefits are well known although one benefit that should be stressed is the removal of risks to health, something which has been brought into sharp relief by the Coronavirus pandemic.

Outbreaks of avian flu have been reported from several Irish localities and while this does not easily spread to humans, humans can be infected by some strains of avian flu after coming in close contact with birds, their faeces or their corpses. Serious illness, and even death can ensue. Humans infected with avian flu cannot normally spread the disease to other humans but the risk remains that this virus could mutate, as did the bat strain of coronavirus, and become contagious in the general population

It follows, therefore, that reducing the presence of this opportunistic feeder from our residential areas reduces the risk of infection with bird flu and the reduction of the risk of the evolution of pandemic-causing mutations.

A link to a UK National Health Service advisory on this topic is given below.

[Bird flu - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](http://www.nhs.uk)

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