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From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday 15 February 2021 07:52
To: WildBirdDeclarations
Subject: wild bird declarations

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To whom it may concern,

I am writing to address the necessity of the continuation of a year-round derogation for the shooting of Wood-pigeons, to prevent serious damage to arable crops. Last year the derogation initially excluded June, July & August for the protection of crops by shooting. This caused a huge amount of stress for farmers to whom I provide wildlife management services. I am aware that a permission may be issued under section 42 of the wildlife act 1976 amended. The use of a section 42 permission is largely ineffective and impractical in relation to wood-pigeon, as they move quickly from one farm to another, it is likely that serious damage will be caused before a section 42 permission can be exercised, the section 42 permission is specific to a particular farmland.

By maintaining a year-round derogation in the case of wood-pigeon causing serious damage to arable crops, farmers will be empowered to protect their livelihoods and pest controllers will be better positioned to perform their duties. The use of the derogation for the Wood-pigeon is the most equitable solution because it ensures that Wood-pigeons will only be controlled to prevent "serious damage" to arable crops. Wood-pigeon numbers are estimated to be at 2.8 million and the species is not of a conservation concern in Europe or Ireland so the culling of the species for the prevention of serious damage to arable crops will not affect the health of the species (NPWS, 2018, pp.33).

I am, therefore, requesting the implementation of a year-round derogation for the shooting of Wood-pigeon, alongside Jackdaws and Rooks to prevent damage to arable crops and livestock feedlots.

Best Regards,
[REDACTED]