

Daniel O'Brien

From: [REDACTED]
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SUBMISSION BY [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
Balbriggan,
Co. Dublin.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
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I have lived at the address above for forty-three and a half years, moving here on 16th August 1977. In recent years my quality of life has been impacted negatively by a substantial increase in the population density of Herring Gulls in the immediate area, particularly between the months of May to September when they are nesting and feeding their young. Hampton Cove comprises mainly semi-detached houses in blocks of two. I have surveyed the houses between numbers 87 and 96 since 2018 for evidence of nesting herring gulls. These ten houses provide five potential nest sites between the chimney and ridge tile. Since 2018 there have been three nests each year on those five roofs. Prior to 2018 and since the houses were constructed in 1976/77 there were no attempts to nest on these houses by herring gulls.

The impacts on my quality of life are as follows:

1. Health and well-being. I am elderly and have a number of challenging health issues. I suffer from persistent sleep deprivation during the herring gull nesting and rearing season, starting at 4.00 am approx, from the noise of their constant screeching while feeding their young, while having aggressive territorial disputes, and while moving about on our roof.
2. Hygiene Issues. Gulls' faeces is particularly disgusting and potentially toxic, and the front of our house, our front windows, cars and driveway have been consistently badly soiled since the increase in the the population density.
3. Damage to Property. I had to get part of my car door re-painted after the 2018 nesting season because of damage caused by herring gull faeces.

I urge the Minister to renew the derogation granted in recent years permitting the removal of herring gulls' nests from roofs, because of the reasons which I have outlined above, and also because of the health and safety threat this species brings, not just to elderly people like me, but also to pre-school children, school-going children, business premises and the overall urban environment here in Balbriggan and also in neighbouring coastal towns.

Finally, I do not accept the argument that a decrease in the population of Herring Gulls in Europe should have any influence on a decision to implement population control measures in the greater Dublin area. Herring Gulls in Ireland are mainly sedentary, do not migrate long distances, and allowing the population

density to increase to an unsustainable level in urban coastal towns in Fingal will have no positive impact on the Herring Gull conservation status in Europe.

██████████ 16th February 2021

Sent from my Galaxy