

Daniel O'Brien

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday 18 February 2021 12:44
To: WildBirdDeclarations
Subject: Public Consultation on Wild Birds Derogations - urban seagull issues

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Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing to you with regards to the continued and growing issue around urban seagulls in our communities.

They pose an urgent and pressing threat to our public health. I am a resident of Balbriggan in North County Dublin, however, I have experienced and witnessed dangerous attacks and behaviours posed by urban seagulls, on our public, around various parts of Dublin.

I used to work on Grafton Street for two years. During my time there I have attended to customers who were fleeing from seagulls swooping down on them on the street. One person came in with blood rolling down the side of her face. This was due to a seagull swooping down on her food. She was in severe shock and pain. Some of our medically trained staff had to look after her for a prolonged period of time.

There is an overwhelming issue of seagulls in public parks around the Dublin city centre and residing areas. Many of my friends and I have been attacked in parks like Stephens Green, St Annes Park and Griffith Park. The seagull attacks have forced us to drop our food and leave the area entirely in order to feel safe.

I am currently a student in TUD in Aungier Street. Along with the vicious and painful attacks, there is a huge problem with seagull droppings around public areas. The entire front porch and steps are covered in seagull faeces as well as the courtyard within the buildings premises. This is not my first experience with this. I attended Ardgillan Community College in Balbriggan and there were some days where we were not allowed outside at break or for P.E due to the dangers posed by seagulls. Many of the outdoor seating in the school would be covered in seagull droppings due to the enormous volume of seagulls nesting on the roof of the school and other surrounding premises. This is a major concern to our health as seagulls have been proven to be carriers of Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) as well as salmonella and campylobacter.

Following on from this, seagulls have caused extensive damage to buildings, homes and vehicles in many areas. In particular, upon roofs where they are nesting, this is a period where many residents would feel particularly unsafe to leave their homes. They would not be able to walk their dogs around the block, due to the extreme nature of the parent's attacks when their chicks are on the ground.

These problems outlined above have been experienced by a huge population. These issues will continue to persist and intensify unless protection to communities is expedited. I hope you will take an informed examination into this email with regards to this imperative matter on urban seagulls.

Regards,
[REDACTED]

