

Daniel O'Brien

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday 18 February 2021 14:51
To: WildBirdDeclarations
Subject: Public Consultation on Wild Birds Derogations

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

To whom I may concern,

I would like to make a brief submission to this public consultation in the context of urban gulls. I live in Hampton Green, Balbriggan, County Dublin. For several months each year, we are directly and negatively impacted by the large numbers of urban gulls that gather in our housing estate; this is particularly acute during breeding season. The gulls are numerous and aggressive. I have experienced being 'dive-bombed' while trying to walk our family dog on numerous, frightening occasions. Both my daughters have also experienced this when walking to school in the mornings. During breeding season, the gulls screech continuously and swoop backwards and forwards across the street, making it very difficult to safely enjoy a simple walk or run, never mind sitting outside for some food. This also interferes with sleeping patterns. There are still residents in the street who throw out food for the gulls, further compounding the issues. Bin days bring mess strewn all around the street as the gulls scavenge. Our windows and cars are fouled with bird mess on an almost daily basis during the main season.

I feel it is imperative that the derogation for Balbriggan on urban gulls continue to be observed at the very least. Apart from the issues I have mentioned above, a substantial body of literature supports the fact that gulls are an important vector for antimicrobial resistance, further highlighting the public health issue posed by uncontrolled urban gull populations.

Thank you for considering my submission,

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]