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From: [REDACTED]
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The following is a list of the main issues impacting communities that we have been addressing on the Minister's Consultative Committee on urban seagulls:

1. Noise day and night for over five months April to Sept. - serious sleep deprivation impacting people at work, driver safety, machinery safety et al
2. Extensive faecal mess on homes, schools, play areas, food premises; a serious public health issue as urban seagulls are implicated in dispersal of Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) in the environment as well as salmonella and campylobacter
3. Immune compromised people, the very young and elderly are particularly vulnerable to serious injury or contamination/infection from seagull attacks
4. Aggressive foraging, attack and injury of people by seagulls in schools, in home gardens, on the streets, at shops and at supermarkets, at picnics, having street food
5. Very aggressive attacks on people during breeding time and when chicks are on the ground, including serious injury and referral to hospital for treatment and prescriptions
6. Expensive damage to house roofs, flashing (flooding), solar panels, windows, cars - including to schools and to business premises, €000s.
7. People feeding seagulls which encourages the birds to nest near a regular food source and to pester all people for food; it is noteworthy the Dublin City Council and Limerick County Council prosecuted/fined people in 2020 for feeding seagulls and pigeons in urban residential areas.

I had the occasion to witness an attack on a child in a buggy while being wheeled by her Mother and older brother.

The child aged around 2 years old was sitting in the buggy and a seagull swooped down and bit the child on the hand and forehead, the child has nothing in her hands, no food, sweets or even a toy. It was an extremely frightening experience for both the child, Mother and brother. This is an ongoing problem in the town of Balbriggan and needs to be addressed. People in houses are feeding the birds which draws them back to these houses as they know there is food there for them. This needs to be addressed as a matter of urgency before the season commences.

These issues have arisen and escalated since Landfills closed in 2013 after which high density seagull colonies established and continue to expand in residential estates, schools and on business premises. Ireland remains the only country in Northern Europe, including Northern Ireland and Great Britain, that a) does not provide proactive protection to communities impacted by urban seagull colonies and b) does not recognise the public health dimension of the problem – despite overwhelming evidence and precedents where all neighbouring countries have been addressing these issues for years.

Some conservation groups argue that research and study of urban seagulls is necessary before any action can be taken to protect communities. We fundamentally disagree. While research may be necessary, we believe that such can be done in parallel with protecting communities as is the case in many neighbouring

jurisdictions. There is also a strong argument that urban gull research has already been done in other countries that are more advanced in dealing with this issue than we are.

Kind regards

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