



**An Roinn Tithíochta,  
Rialtais Áitiúil agus Oidhreachta**  
Department of Housing,  
Local Government and Heritage

***Reporting of Alleged Breaches of the Wildlife Act 1976 as amended, the Wildlife (Amendment) Act 2000 as amended, the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011, and related regulations***

**(Privacy Statement)**

The Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage is the Government Department responsible for housing and water, for physical and spatial planning, for local government, for weather forecasting and for built and natural heritage.

The Department is committed to protecting and respecting your privacy. This privacy statement explains how the Department, as the Data Controller, will process the personal data provided to it in respect of reports of alleged breaches of the Wildlife Act 1976 as amended, the Wildlife (Amendment) Act 2000 as amended, the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011, and related regulations; how that information will be used, and what rights you may exercise in relation to your personal data.

**Categories of personal data**

The Department processes the following personal data in respect of the prevention, investigation, detection and prosecution of criminal offences related to wildlife crime under the Wildlife Act 1976 as amended, the Wildlife (Amendment) Act 2000 as amended, the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011, and related regulations; Your name, address, phone number and email address.

**Source of the personal data**

Your personal data is provided to the Department through contact with National Parks and Wildlife Service regional staff; communications with internal staff, phone/email, local authorities, other government departments or Non-Government Organisations (NGOs).

### **Purposes of the processing**

The Department will use the information provided in order to prevent, investigate, detect and prosecute criminal offences related to wildlife crime.

### **Lawfulness of processing**

The Law Enforcement Directive (LED), as transposed into Irish law by the Data Protection Act 2018, deals with the processing of personal data for 'law enforcement purposes' by controllers who fall within the definition of being a 'competent authority' for the purposes of LED. Processing for 'law enforcement purposes' means where personal data is being processed for the prevention, investigation, detection, or prosecution of criminal offences, or the execution of criminal penalties. A 'competent authority' is a body authorised by law to exercise public authority and public powers for 'law enforcement purposes'.

The processing of your personal data is lawful under Section 71(2) of the Data Protection Act 2018. The Department is a 'competent authority' under the Wildlife Act (1976) and European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations (2011).

### **Security of your personal data**

The Department implements appropriate technical and organisational measures to protect your information from unauthorised access. However, despite these efforts, no security measures are perfect or impenetrable, and no method of data transmission can be guaranteed against any interception or other type of misuse. In the event that your personal data is compromised as a result of a breach of security, the Department's Breach Management policy and procedures will be implemented.

### **Recipients of the data**

Personal data may be shared with other Government Departments, local authorities, agencies under the aegis of the Department, or other public bodies, in certain circumstances where this is provided for by law.

### **How long will your data be kept?**

The Department will only retain your personal data for as long as it is necessary for the purposes for which it was collected and processed.

### **Your rights**

The Department's [Data Protection Policy](#), which sets out how we will use your personal data, as well as providing information regarding your rights as a data subject (including details regarding right of access, right to rectification, right to erasure, right to restriction of processing, right to object), is available on our website. The policy is also available in hard copy upon request. If you consider that your rights have been infringed, you have the right to complain to the Irish Data Protection Commission ([www.dataprotection.ie](http://www.dataprotection.ie)), and you have the right to seek a judicial remedy.

### **Contacting Us**

The Department is the Data Controller when processing your personal data for the purposes outlined above. The Department's contact details are available at: <https://www.gov.ie/en/organisation-information/839bc-contact-the-department-of-housing-local-government-and-heritage/>

The Department has appointed a Data Protection Officer to support its compliance with data protection law. The contact details for the Department's Data Protection Officer are:

Data Protection Officer  
Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage  
Newtown Road  
Wexford  
Email: [data.protection@housing.gov.ie](mailto:data.protection@housing.gov.ie)

Date: 22 August 2024