



# NPWS

An tSeirbhís Páirceanna  
Náisiúnta agus Fiadhúlra  
National Parks and Wildlife  
Service

**CIRCULAR: 1 / 2024**

21 December 2023

## **BIRDS OF PREY LICENCE APPLICATIONS AND INSPECTIONS 2024**

Dear Sir / Madam

All current Bird of Prey possession and falconry licences issued under the Wildlife Act 1976 (Birds of Prey) Regulations 1984 (S.I. No.8/1984) will expire on **31st January 2024**. It should be noted that it is an offence under the above Regulations to be in possession of or to hunt with a bird of prey without a licence.

If you wish to renew your licence(s) you will find the relevant application forms on the National Parks & Wildlife Service (NPWS) website here: <https://www.npws.ie/licencesandconsents/possession/birds-of-prey>.

The relevant application form should be completed and emailed to [wildlifelicence@npws.gov.ie](mailto:wildlifelicence@npws.gov.ie).

When submitting your application form you should include proof of payment of the appropriate fee, which is €12.70 annually each for possession and falconry licences. Your name should be included as the reference on the electronic funds transfer (EFT). This office will issue an acknowledgement to all applicants confirming receipt of their application. Payments should be made by EFT to the Department of Housing, Local Government & Heritage bank account:

<b>Company Name:</b>	Department of Housing, Local Government & Heritage
<b>Account Name:</b>	PMG Receipts – Public Bank Account
<b>BIC:</b>	DABAIE2D
<b>IBAN:</b>	IE30DABA95159980001341

### **Inspection of Premises**

Part of the licensing process involves an inspection of the accommodation that you provide for your birds of prey and an examination of those birds:

- Current licence holders are required to assist NPWS staff in this inspection process.
- It is recommended that you should contact your local Conservation Ranger and arrange an inspection as a matter of priority.
- On the day of inspection, licence holders will be required to make themselves or their representatives available at the premises.
- Birds of prey should be presented in such a manner as to facilitate the easy identification of all birds on the licence/application form and comply with the requests of NPWS staff.



### **To Possess an Injured Wild Bird**

An application under **Section 22(g)(g) of the Wildlife Acts** should be applied for when an injured wild bird has come into your possession. This should be applied for immediately and your local Conservation Ranger should be contacted. For further details please see the NPWS website at <https://www.npws.ie/licencesandconsents/possession/keep-injured-or-disabled-protected-wild-animal-or-bird>

It is considered that generally all injured wild birds should be eventually rehabilitated and released back into the wild. In the event that a bird cannot be released back into the wild, you should apply for a licence under **Section 22(g)(h)** including details as to why the bird should not be euthanised. In the limited circumstances where such a licence is issued you should arrange to have the bird micro-chipped 'by a registered veterinary surgeon and make an application to the Department for it to be added to your possession licence.

**In terms of CITES, an injured wild bird cannot be used for primary commercial purposes, and therefore applications will only be considered on a case by case basis. Further information can be found on our [website](#) and any specific queries can be sent to [CITES@npws.gov.ie](mailto:CITES@npws.gov.ie).**

### **Adding and Removing Birds of Prey from Possession Licences**

When acquiring a bird of prey, it is important to remember that you must have the bird added to your possession licence **before** you take possession of it. To ensure this, you should complete the relevant application form and forward it by e-mail to [wildlifelicence@npws.gov.ie](mailto:wildlifelicence@npws.gov.ie). Your request will be referred on to the relevant regional NPWS staff for consideration. Applicants should ensure that adequate time is allowed for this process to be completed.

Upon approval, your possession licence will be amended and an updated licence will be issued to you. It is only at this stage that you can take possession of the bird. It is also recommended that you indicate to the prospective provider that you hold a current possession licence with the bird listed on it.

The relevant application form should be completed and returned when requesting to remove a bird of prey from a current possession licence. The form is available on our website <http://www.npws.ie/licences/possession/>.

### **Licence to Take a Bird of Prey from the Wild**

If you wish to apply for a licence to take a bird of prey from the wild during the coming breeding season, your application must reach this office **not later than 5pm Wednesday 31 January 2024**. **Please note that late applications for wild-take licences will not be considered.**

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<sup>1</sup> Article 66 of Council Regulation (EC) 865/2006 Live vertebrates other than captive born and bred birds shall be marked by means of a uniquely numbered unalterable microchip transponder conforming to ISO Standards 11784: 1996 (E) and 11785: 1996 (E)



There is no fee for the licence to take a bird of prey from the wild. Therefore, if you have no birds in your possession at the moment and are applying **(only)** to take a bird of prey from the wild, you should not send any fee with your application. However, if you are granted a wild-take licence and are successful in taking a bird of prey from the wild, you must apply for a possession licence to keep the bird and the fee will be required at that point. Again, an acknowledgement will be issued to all applicants confirming receipt of their application.

**Future Communication by the Department**

Future circulars and general correspondence will be issued via email to those who have supplied email addresses. Therefore, please ensure that your email address is stated clearly and correctly on your application form.

If you have any queries, please contact the Wildlife Licensing Unit [wildlifelicence@npws.gov.ie](mailto:wildlifelicence@npws.gov.ie)

**Wildlife Licensing Unit**  
**National Parks and Wildlife Service**  
**Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage**  
**90 North King Street**  
**Dublin 7**  
**D07 N7CV**