

DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING, LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND HERITAGE
DECLARATION
UNDER REGULATION 3(1)(A) OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES (BIRDS DECLARATIONS) REGULATIONS 2023
(S.I. No. 576 of 2023)

The Minister of State for Nature, Heritage and Biodiversity, hereby derogates by declaration from the provisions of Articles 5, 6, 7 and 8 of the EU Birds Directive (Directive 2009/147/EC of the European Parliament) on the conservation of wild birds:

- in the interests of public health and safety;
- to prevent serious damage to crops, livestock, forest, fisheries and water; or
- for the protection of flora and fauna.

The Minister, being satisfied that no other satisfactory solution exists, hereby declares pursuant to regulation 3(1)(a) of the European Communities (Birds Declarations) Regulations 2023 (S.I. No. 576 of 2023) that:

- for the purpose of preventing the disease, injury or damage specified in column (4) of the Schedule, by the species mentioned in column (1)
- the said species may be captured or killed, or captured and killed, or otherwise interfered with on any property by any of the means, arrangements or methods specified in column (2)
- this can be carried out during the period specified for each species in column (3)
- this can occur in any location in the State, as specified in column (5) of the Schedule,
- this can be carried out by the owner or occupier of any such property or the servant or agent of the owner or occupier of any such property.

Any owner or occupier of any such property or the servant or agent of any such property that carries out any activity under this Declaration must provide details of that activity by way of an annual return to National Parks & Wildlife Service using the approved Returns Form.

Details can be found here: <https://www.npws.ie/legislation/eu-directives/birds-directive/eu-birds-directive-article-9-derogations>

Schedule 1

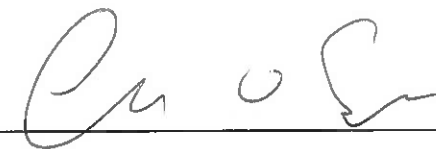
1	2	3	4	5
Species Type	Means, Arrangement or Methods of Capture/Kill	Period covered by Declaration	Condition of Risk	Location
Hooded (Grey) Crow <i>(Corvus corone)</i>	Shooting with rifle or shotgun. Cage traps with or without live decoys subject to conditions in Note below. ¹	1 January 2026 to 31 December 2026	In the interests of public health and safety and vector in the spread of animal diseases	Throughout the State
		1 January 2026 to 31 May 2026 and 1 December 2026 to 31 December 2026	Prevent serious damage to livestock	
		1 February 2026 to 30 September 2026	Protection of fauna, notably the nests and young of game birds	
Magpie (<i>Pica pica</i>)	Shooting with rifle or shotgun. Cage traps with or without live decoys subject to conditions in Note below ¹ .	1 January 2026 to 31 December 2026	In the interests of public health and safety and vector in the spread of animal diseases	Throughout the State
		1 January 2026 to 31 May 2026 and 1 December 2026 to 31 December 2026	Prevent serious damage to livestock	
		1 February 2026 to 30 September 2026	Protection of fauna, notably the nests and young of game birds	
Rook (<i>Corvus frugilegus</i>)	Shooting with rifle or shotgun.	1 February 2026 to 31 December 2026	Prevent serious damage to cereal crops, brassicas and root crops such as potatoes and beet	Throughout the State
		1 January 2026 to 31 May 2026 and 1 November 2026 to 31 December 2026	Prevent serious damage to livestock caused by the contamination of feedlots	
1	2	3	4	5

¹ NOTE: Where a live wild bird is used as a decoy it is necessary to ensure that the live decoy bird may only be used to hunt birds of the same species and that the live decoy bird must be regularly provided with ample food and water and that when caged must only be kept in a cage which is of sufficient dimensions to enable the bird to move and exercise freely

Species Type	Means, Arrangement or Methods of Capture/Kill	Period covered by Declaration	Condition of Risk	Location
Jackdaw (<i>Corvus monedula</i>)	Shooting with rifle or shotgun.	1 February 2026 to 31 December 2026	Prevent serious damage to cereal crops, brassicas and root crops such as potatoes and beet	Throughout the State
		1 January 2026 to 31 May 2026 and 1 November 2026 to 31 December 2026	Prevent serious damage to livestock caused by the contamination of feedlots	
Wood Pigeon (<i>Columba palumbus</i>)	Shooting with rifle or shotgun.	1 January 2026 to 31 December 2026	Prevent serious damage to arable crops, including cereals, legumes and brassicas	Throughout the State
Feral Pigeon (<i>Columba livia</i>), Collared Dove (<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>)	Shooting with rifle or shotgun. Non-meat based poisoned or anaesthetic bait may be used as a method of control but only under permit with prescribed conditions as issued by the National Parks and Wildlife Service prior to control action taking place	1 January 2026 to 31 December 2026	In the interests of public health and safety notably contamination of food storage	Throughout the State
Note: The following specified members of the Pigeon family are not included: Stock Dove (<i>Columba oenas</i>), Turtle Dove (<i>Streptopelia tortur</i>), Wild Rock Dove (<i>Columba livia</i>), Carrier Pigeon, Homing Pigeon or any other domestic types of Rock Dove				

GIVEN under my hand

11th December 2025



Minister of State for Nature, Heritage and Biodiversity