

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday 14 March 2022 12:56
To: Housing WildBirdDeclarations
Subject: Public Consultation on Wild Birds Derogations - urban seagull issues

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Dear Sir/Madam,

My name is [REDACTED] I am writing to you regarding the ongoing and worsening public health issues regarding seagulls in the Dublin area.

[REDACTED] Balbriggan in North County Dublin. Seagulls have become a serious problem with residents here for many years now. I have experienced issues first hand. I used to go to school at Ardgillan Community College in Balbriggan who have major nest problems on their roofs. Oftentimes students would be unable to go outside at break with food due to the viciousness of the seagulls nesting nearby. Schools around Balbriggan have seen a heavy volume of seagull nesting and in turn have been covered in seagull droppings. Seagull droppings pose a huge threat to public health as seagulls are leading carriers of AMR - Antimicrobial Resistance. Schools are one of many different environments around Balbriggan experiencing a huge problem with seagull faeces, others including Tesco shopping centre, the town square and the train station. This has resulted from the 1485 and counting nests that were recorded in Balbriggan by the national Urban Gull Survey in 2021.

However, Balbriggan is not the only area in Dublin to experience issues with gulls. Seagulls continue to disrupt schools and colleges around Dublin, including my college TUD in both Aungier St. and Grangegorman campuses. I work in Dublin City Centre. From working on Grafton St. I have experienced customers entering the building after being swooped down on and attacked by seagulls. One woman had cuts which caused bleeding to her head that required medical attention from our staff. I have been attacked both on O'Connell St and St. Stephen's Green while I was holding food. Seagulls have become a huge problem in the city too, leading to people to leave areas like parks entirely in order to feel safe.

Seagulls continue to cause a huge problem to public health and safety that is only going to get worse until action is taken. Within my housing estate that I live in, some neighbours feel unsafe to even walk their dogs for fear of seagulls swooping down on them. This is particularly worse when the seagull's young are nearby. This is why the derogation is vital in Balbriggan and is needed in the wider Dublin area.

These problems outlined above have been experienced by a huge population. These issues will continue to persist and intensify unless protection to communities is expedited. I hope you will take an informed examination into this email with regards to this imperative matter on urban seagulls.

Regards.
[REDACTED]