

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday 13 March 2022 23:58
To: Housing WildBirdDeclarations
Subject: Control of birds doing damage to livestock.

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To whom it may concern,

My name is [REDACTED] of Mitchelstown and District Gun Club an N.A.R.G.C insured gun club of 35 members and we are affiliated to the Federation of Co.Cork Gun Clubs and I have been mandated by our club members to make their views know and the following are our observations;

We as a club is multi faceted, we hunt on lands owned by farmers in our parish and are always called upon by these landowners to help out with the control of vermin especially at this time of the year at lambing time. We use various methods to control these vermin species and we need the derogation to continue to provide this service to our landowners. On a personal level the worst thing that I have seen was a young lamb wandering about with a pitiful baaing after having its eyes plucked out by a gang of grey crows and magpies while its mother was trying to have a second lamb. The systematic hunting and raiding of bird nests by magpies and grey crows both of song birds and game birds is hard to watch. We are also tasked by people who have laying hens and live in built up areas to trap magpies and grey crows who are known for stealing eggs from hen houses. To conclude we would urge the continuation of the trapping derogation to allow our members to control these vermin and continue our clubs work in propagating song and game birds in our area.

On a personal observation the explosion of the Buzzard population in the countryside is frightening. We as a club are not convinced that these Buzzards are only interested in road kill, there are so many of them around the countryside and are multiplying rapidly and there is not enough road kill to feed their growing numbers. Its no wonder that we frequently observe crows doing aerial combat with these buzzard's to try and herd them away from their young. They the buzzards circle the sky in packs using their shrill screeching to try and frighten young birds and leveret's to give themselves away and then pick them up. They are apex predators that have no natural enemies short of the odd one getting hit by a car. Just an observation.

We thank you for this opportunity to participate in this process.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]