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From: [REDACTED]
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Dear Sir/Madam,

Please disregard our previous submission.

On behalf of Carlow Regional Game Council I wish to make a submission to the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.

Carlow Regional Game Council was founded in the 1960's and we have approx. 500 members representing 23 gun/game clubs. Our clubs rear and release pheasants and ducks each year which supplements the wild stock. Over the last few years a number of our clubs have got involved in the Partridge Project run by the National Association of Regional Game Councils. Our clubs have managed to release several hundred partridge back into the wild. For this Project and the release of pheasants and ducks to be successful clubs need to be able to control the vermin in their area especially hooded crows and magpies. They are a serious predators to all ground nesting birds as mentioned above but also to snipe, grouse, curlew etc. They also can be seen regularly hedge hopping in the spring raiding song birds nests taking eggs and young chicks. The Derogations List issued each year allow clubs to control these predators.

As regards other species of pigeons, crows etc. which attack crops after sowing and before harvesting the most effective method of controlling them for the farmer is shooting and again the Derogation allows us the help the farmer. It is quick and effective and the only other way around this for a farmer is to apply for a Section 42. However by the time that this may be granted is too late, especially at harvest time as due to bad weather crops tend to lodge which draws hundreds of pigeon and crows to the fields it is too late.

The controlling of hooded crows and magpies at lambing time needs no introduction, they attack the ewe and lamb after the birth pecking the eyes as they lay in the field. Again the Derogations allow us to control these species. They also can be seen raiding feeding troughs left out by the farmer and polluting the feed which can cause disease to the farmers stock.

To conclude we in Carlow Regional Game Council urge the Minister to continue with the Derogations List as issued last year and help us to continue with the control of Covid's etc.

Regards

[REDACTED]
Hon. Secretary Carlow RGC.