

[REDACTED]

Sent: Saturday 5 March 2022 18:54
To: Housing WildBirdDeclarations
Subject: Request for a nest/egg removal derogation on seagulls in Balbriggan

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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To: National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS)
Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage
E: WildBirdDeclarations@housing.gov.ie

From: [REDACTED]

Re: Public Consultation Process (PCP)
Wild Birds Derogations Declaration for 2021.22

I urge the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) to issue a derogation from the EU Birds Directive and amend the Wild Birds Declaration to allow the removal of seagull nests and eggs in the Balbriggan area.

Fingal County Council's (FCC) Drone study in July 2018 showed large seagull colonies in housing estates and on three schools around Balbriggan that were filmed at the time.

The Derogation is essential on a recurring basis in the interests of **public health and safety**.

If the authorities continue to claim people feeding seagulls is a problem, then they should apply fines/prosecutions as already done by Dublin City Council (pigeons) and Limerick Council (gulls).

Antimicrobial Resistance is a very serious public health threat and seagulls are contaminated and dispersing AMR in their faeces. It is a disgrace that this has not been widely publicised, especially to schools, the elderly and immuno-compromised people. A clear warning about the dangers of AMR was given to the Department by two university professors in February 2020.

Your Department is legally obliged by the Birds Directive to manage, control and protect wild birds, but also to **protect people and public health and safety**.

See the National Urban Gull Survey 2021 figures for Herring Gulls:

- 1,485 nests Balbriggan
- 460 nests Howth
- 249 nests Skerries
- 360 nests Drogheda

NB Why were Dublin City and suburbs not included in the survey given the very high numbers throughout as regularly reported in recent years?

The main impacts of exploding seagull numbers in urban residential areas are noise, sleep deprivation for

months, constant high levels of fouling, impacts on schools and children, damage to property and vehicles, and damage to other bird species.

PLEASE COULD YOU MAKE A DEROGATION UNDER THE EU BIRDS DIRECTIVE TO ALLOW THE REMOVAL OF GULL NESTS AND EGGS WITHOUT HARMING THE BIRDS.

Over time, this will encourage gulls to nest away from residential areas and schools in Balbriggan and Balrothery.

Kind regards



5 March 2022