



**NPWS**

An tSeirbhís Páircenna  
Náisiúnta agus Fíadhúrla  
National Parks and Wildlife  
Service

**Derogation Number  
DER-BAT-2026-142**

**EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES (BIRDS AND NATURAL HABITATS) REGULATIONS, 2011  
(S.I. No 477 of 2011)**

**DEROGATION**

Granted under Regulation 54 of the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011, hereinafter referred to as “the Habitats Regulations”.

The Minister for Housing, Local Government & Heritage, in exercise of the powers conferred on him by Regulation 54 of the Habitats Regulations hereby grants to **David Hicks of Office of Public Works, North West Region, Marino House, Finisklin Business Park, Sligo, County Sligo, F91 W1WX** a derogation. It is stated that this derogation is issued:

- A. In the interests of public health and public safety, or for other imperative reasons of overriding public interest, including those of a social or economic nature and beneficial consequences of primary importance for the environment
- B. As there is no satisfactory alternative, and the action authorised by this derogation will not be detrimental to the maintenance of the population of **bats** referred to below at a favourable conservation status in their natural range.

This derogation authorises the following:

1. Roost disturbance
2. Actions authorised within the derogation

The derogation is issued in respect of the following **bat species**:

- **Soprano Pipistrelle**                      **Pipistrellus Pygmaeus**



### Terms and Conditions

1. This derogation is granted solely to allow the activities specified in connection with the works located at **Courthouse, Shannon Lodge, Carrick-on-Shannon, County Leitrim, N41 Y0F9** for **David Hicks**
2. All activities authorised by this derogation, and all equipment used in connection herewith, shall be carried out, constructed and maintained (as the case may be) so as to avoid unnecessary injury or distress to any species of **BAT**. Anything done other than in accordance with the terms of this derogation may constitute an offence
3. This derogation may be modified or revoked, for stated reasons, at any time. In addition, the Minister reserves the right to revoke the derogation where updated information indicates that the basis upon which the derogation was granted has materially changed.
4. The mitigation measures outlined in the application report (**Supporting information for application for derogation licence to exclude colony of Soprano pipistrelle bats *Pipistrellus pygmaeus* from the roof of the new courthouse building in Carrick on Shannon, Co. Leitrim**) together with any changes or clarification agreed in correspondence between NPWS and the agent or applicant, are to be carried out. Strict adherence must be paid to all the proposed measures in the application.
5. The actions which this derogation authorise shall be completed between **5<sup>th</sup> March – 31<sup>st</sup> December 2026 – with no works to be conducted between 1<sup>st</sup> May – 31<sup>st</sup> August 2026, inclusive.**
6. The works will be supervised by bat ecologist(s): **Caroline Shiel**.
7. **3 Schwegler 1FF bat boxes should be mounted on the rear of the building close to the exit beside the boiler room to provide temporary accommodation for the bats.**
8. If this derogation addresses works that are subject of a planning application, no such works permitted under this derogation can occur until planning permission is granted.
9. If this derogation expires prior to works permitted under this derogation commencing, a new application must be sought in advance, including the provision of any updated data or reports.
10. This derogation shall be produced for inspection on a request being made on that behalf by a member of An Garda Síochána or an authorised NPWS officer appointed under Regulation 4 of the Habitats Regulations.
11. The local **NPWS Conservation Ranger – Terence O'Connor**, [terence.oconnor@npws.gov.ie](mailto:terence.oconnor@npws.gov.ie), must be contacted prior to the commencement of any activity, and if bats are detected on site during the course of the work, under the terms of this derogation.
12. On completion of the actions which this derogation authorises, all recordings of bat species affected will be made using the standardised Returns form and must be submitted to the NPWS **within four weeks of the expiry date of this derogation**. Included with the Returns form, a report will also be submitted to [wildlife.reports@npws.gov.ie](mailto:wildlife.reports@npws.gov.ie) detailing results of works and success of mitigation. **Both documents must be submitted to constitute a derogation return.**



**For the Minister for Housing, Local Government & Heritage**

(an officer authorised by the Minister to sign on his behalf)

**05 March 2026**

Any query in relation to this derogation should be sent to [reg54derogations@npws.gov.ie](mailto:reg54derogations@npws.gov.ie)





## Derogation Assessment

**Name of Applicant: David Hicks**

**Location/Name of Project: Courthouse, Shannon Lodge, Carrick-on-Shannon, County Leitrim**

**Tick the following prohibition as chosen on the application:**

(a) Deliberately capture or kill any specimen of the relevant species in the wild	<input type="checkbox"/>
(b) Deliberately disturb these species particularly during the period of breeding, rearing, hibernation and migration	<input type="checkbox"/>
(c) Deliberately take or destroy eggs of the relevant species in the wild	<input type="checkbox"/>
(d) Damage or destroy a breeding or resting place of such an animal, or	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
(e) Keep, transport, sell, exchange, offer for sale or offer for exchange any specimen of the relevant species taken in the wild, other than those taken legally as referred to in Article 12(2) of the Habitats Directive.	<input type="checkbox"/>
(a) Deliberately pick, collect, cut, uproot or destroy any specimen of these species in the wild, or	<input type="checkbox"/>
(b) Keep, transport, sell, exchange, offer for sale or offer for exchange any specimen of these species taken in the wild, other than those taken legally as referred to in Article 13(1)(b) of the Habitats Directive.	<input type="checkbox"/>

### Test 1: A reason(s) listed in Regulation 54 (a)-(e) applies to the proposed activity

i. Tick which reason the applicant claims should be applied to the derogation

(a) In the interests of protecting wild flora and fauna and conserving natural habitats,	<input type="checkbox"/>
(b) To prevent serious damage, in particular to crops, livestock, forests, fisheries and water and other types of property	<input type="checkbox"/>
(c) In the interests of public health and public safety, or for other imperative reasons of overriding public interest, including those of a social or economic nature and beneficial consequences of primary importance for the environment,	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
(d) For the purpose of research and education, of re-populating and re-introducing these species and for the breeding operations necessary for these purposes, including artificial propagation of plants, or	<input type="checkbox"/>
(e) To allow, under strictly supervised conditions, on a selective basis and to a limited extent, the taking or keeping of certain specimens of the species to the extent specified therein, which are referred to in the First Schedule.	<input type="checkbox"/>



ii. Test 1: Conclusion

Please tick the following where it applies:

There is a valid reason(s) listed in Regulation 54 (a)-(e) which applies to the proposed activity:	Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	No	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Please outline your analysis below and state how the applicant has provided evidence to support your conclusion:**

The application form and associated documentation provided by the applicant has been reviewed in full. The application relies on regulation 54(2)(c) *'in the interests of public health and public safety, or for other imperative reasons of overriding public interest, including those of a social or economic nature and beneficial consequences of primary importance for the environment'* as the reason chosen for a derogation that they believe applies to the proposed activity.

In the detail provided, it is clear that the applicants are relying on the interest of public health and public safety aspect of Reason C. As outlined on page three of the accompanying report titled "Courthouse Supporting Info", a derogation is required to assist with proposed works at the courthouse building in Carrick on Shannon, Co. Leitrim.

The objective of the proposed works is to exclude bats from the public building as they are being trapped inside the courthouse. The report notes on page five that a large number of bats are consequently dying inside the building, which poses a health and safety risk to members of the public coming across dead and decaying bats in the courthouse.

The applicant has provided evidence as to the nature and scale of the public health and public safety aspect for the proposed works and the proposed activity is necessary to achieve these overall objectives. Based on the above this application has passed Test 1 and can now proceed to Test 2. |



**Test 2: Absence of a satisfactory alternative**

Please tick the following where it applies and add a comment below to support the recommendation:

The applicant has provided satisfactory evidence that alternative solutions have been considered and have given reasons why the proposed approach is the only satisfactory alternative:	Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	No	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Please outline your analysis below and state how the applicant has provided evidence to support your conclusion (If you wish to add additional conditions please complete pg. 6):**

The documentation submitted by the applicant has been reviewed, including the evidence for alternative solutions.

The purpose of the derogation is to allow the following activity to take place:

The objective of the proposed works is to exclude bats from the public building as they are being trapped inside the courthouse. The report notes on page five that a large number of bats are consequently dying inside the building, which poses a health and safety risk to members of the public coming across dead and decaying bats in the courthouse.

The specific situation that needs to be addressed is, Bats are accessing the air ventilation system, the Bats are generally not able to exist the ventilation system and die. Or if so enter working court and shower facilities in the Judges office. It is proposed to exclude the bats from building by sealing all gaps at wall plate level around the entire building.

The alternative solutions suggested by the applicant are:

“Do-Nothing” scenario = the “do nothing” option as per application ‘will result in bats continuing to get trapped in the building during the summer months. It is most likely young bats that are getting trapped.’ I believe this scenario to be correct and will see more bats dying in the air ventilation system.

Alternative 1 “the installation of bat boxes on the walls of the courthouse will not provide a satisfactory maternity roost site for the colony of Soprano pipistrelles.

However, 3 Schwegler 1FF bat boxes should be mounted on the rear of the building close to the exit beside the boiler room to provide temporary accommodation for bats until they find an alternative roost.” I believe this is an appropriate alternative as it will provide a roost for the bats, where younger bats will be less likely to get lost in the ventilation system.

The applicant [has] provided satisfactory evidence that alternative solutions have clearly been considered. As outlined on page [ 11] of the accompanying report a number of alternative solutions, including the “do-nothing alternative” were examined by the applicant

Based on the assessment of the application documentation, it is regarded that the applicant has considered all available alternative solutions and at this time no other alternative solutions are apparent.

Having weighed the possible solutions to solve the applicant’s problem against the effects of a derogation on the species concerned, it is concluded that the application has passed Test 2 and can proceed to Test 3.

Upon completion of your assessment, please return this Recommendation to WLU to continue the application process.



**Test 3: Impact of a derogation on conservation status of the species**

Please tick the following where it applies and add a comment below to support the recommendation:

The derogation would NOT be detrimental to the maintenance of the populations of the species in question at a favourable conservation status in their natural range.	Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	No	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Please outline your analysis below and state how the applicant has provided evidence to support your conclusion. (If you wish to add additional conditions please complete pg. 6)**

The building hosts a maternity roost of soprano pipistrelles. Soprano pipistrelles are widespread and abundant in Ireland and are in favourable conservation status. This species is also adaptable and quick to occupy new roosting features.

Significant numbers of Soprano pipistrelle bats are getting trapped inside the building and are dying as they cannot escape. Excluding the bat colony from this building will prevent bats getting trapped inside and this approach is in the conservation interest of the bats.

Suitable and proportionate mitigation has been proposed, including the provision of alternative roosts in the form of bat boxes. Providing these mitigation measures are implemented, I am satisfied that the works will not be detrimental to the maintenance of the populations of the species in question at a favourable conservation status in their natural range.

If the answer above is Yes then the derogation may be granted, providing Tests 1 and 2 have also been met.

Upon completion of your assessment, please return this Recommendation to WLU to continue the application process.



**Derogation decision**

The application for a derogation under Regulation 54 of the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations, 2011 (S.I. 477 of 2011), as amended, has been assessed by officials in the Department and the following decision has been made:

**Tick box where appropriate:**

There is no satisfactory alternative

and the derogation is not detrimental to the maintenance of the populations of the species to which the Habitats Directive relates at a favourable conservation status in their natural range.

Therefore, a derogation may be granted to the applicant, since it is—

(a) in the interests of protecting wild fauna and flora and conserving natural habitats

(b) to prevent serious damage, in particular to crops, livestock, forests, fisheries and water and other types of property,

(c) in the interests of public health and public safety, or for other imperative reasons of overriding public interest, including those of a social or economic nature and beneficial consequences of primary importance for the environment,

(d) for the purpose of research and education, of repopulating and re-introducing these species and for the breeding operations necessary for these purposes, including the artificial propagation of plants, or

(e) to allow, under strictly supervised conditions, on a selective basis and to a limited extent, the taking or keeping of certain specimens of the species to the extent specified therein, which are referred to in the First Schedule.

**OR This application has been refused as one or more of the conditions set out above have not been met**



The following conditions should be attached to the derogation:

1. 3 Schwegler 1FF bat boxes should be mounted on the rear of the building close to the exit beside the boiler room to provide temporary accommodation for the bats.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

[add additional conditions where required]

Signed:

Date: March 5, 2026

Position: Ecologist