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Supporting Information for Application for
Bat Roost Disturbance Licence
2026

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Introduction

- a) Objective of the proposed works will be to lawfully inspect a structure to determine the presence or absence of bat species. Species present, number, and roost location with entry/exit points may need to be determined.
- b) &(c) The applicant named, Barbara McInerney, will carry out such works. I am an ecological consultant with over 20 years of experience of working with bats and bat roosts. I have previously been issued with many derogation licences to survey, my previous was DER BAT 2025 – 250. Some relevant training / work experiences are bat handling and capture with BCI, capturing and radio tracking of Brown Long-Eared bats in Ireland, and census of bat in Nietoperek in Poland.

I am a long standing member of Bat Conservation Ireland (BCI) and worked for National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) in the past. I have studied Applied Biology and Field Ecology and am passionate about the conservation of bats.

Background to proposed activity

The proposed activity relates to professional work undertaken throughout Ireland, rather than a single site-specific project. Survey activities may occur at a range of locations to include buildings, bridges, trees and other structures where bats may be present.

The need for the proposed activity arises from:

- Inspections of buildings, bridges and trees in relation to public safety concerns
- Compliance with planning conditions and wildlife legislation
- Development-led ecological assessment and monitoring
Research and conservation projects

Full details of proposed activity to be covered by the derogation.

Activities to be covered by the derogation include assessment of bat roosts in buildings and other built structures, trees, and bat boxes. Disturbance during education or research purposes. Monitoring schemes or post construction monitoring. Supervision of tree felling or built structure demolition.

Ecological Survey and site assessment

N/A

Evidence to support the Derogation Tests

Part D: Derogation tests

Test 1: Reason for derogation

(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 (**proceed to 1c**)

1c:

In the course of survey work I am required to inspect buildings, stone structures such as bridges or ruins and trees which are proposed for maintenance / alteration, demolition or felling due to concerns for public safety. It is necessary to confirm whether bats are present or not prior to these activities. Temporary disturbance may be unavoidable to allow works to proceed.

(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 (**proceed to 1d**)

1d:

I am a member of Bat Conservation Ireland who manage the Brown Long- Eared Bats monitoring scheme under contract to NPWS. I have surveyed sites in this scheme for many years and would wish to continue to do so with the continued best practice and minimal disturbance.

I have implemented various bat box schemes and their inspection / cleaning is part of their ongoing monitoring.

Test 2: Absence of Alternative solutions

Alternative solution – Do-nothing

The inability to inspect a bat roost, to fully understand its status of species type, location and numbers present would result at times an inability to fully report on a situation and therefore provide essential information for protection of a bat roost and mitigation where appropriate.

Minimum interference, using appropriate equipment such as infra-red cameras, and bat recorders can limit the level of disturbance and are frequently used to minimise disturbance.

Test 3: Impact of a Derogation on Conservation Status

There will be no lasting negative impact of this derogation on the conservation status of bat species. As stated, disturbance is short term and kept to the minimum using appropriate methods and equipment. If anything the impact will aim to benefit the bat species being investigated.

Monitoring the impacts of the derogations

All surveys are documented and findings are provided to local authorities, NPWS, Heritage Council, or other institute requiring the survey. Improvements to survey methods are always welcomed and will be implemented during subsequent investigations.

Returns for 2025 have been submitted.