



**NPWS**

An tSeirbhís Páircenna  
Náisiúnta agus Fíadhúrla  
National Parks and Wildlife  
Service

**Derogation Number  
DER-BAT-2026-197**

**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 **Darren Murphy of Uisce Éireann, Smithlands House, Outrath, Kilkenny, County Kilkenny, R95 A5W6** 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**:

- **Common Pipistrelle**                      **Pipistrellus Pipistrellus**
- **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 **Templetney Water Treatment Plant, Cooloran, Clonmel, County Tipperary [52.3954894, -7.6174132]** for **Darren Murphy**
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 (**Templetney Water Treatment Plant, Co. Tipperary**) 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 **28<sup>th</sup> April – 31<sup>st</sup> December 2026, inclusive**.
6. The works will be supervised by bat ecologist(s): **Tom O'Donnell, Colm Breslin, Claire McCarthy & Oisín O'Sullivan**
7. 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.
8. 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.
9. 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.
10. The local **NPWS Divisional Manager – Seamus Hassett**, [seamus.hassett@npws.gov.ie](mailto:seamus.hassett@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.
11. 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.**



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

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

**28 April 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: Darren Murphy**

**Location/Name of Project: Templetney Water Treatment Plant, County Tipperary**

**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 checked="" 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 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 imperative reasons of overriding public interest, including those of a social or economic nature aspect of Reason C.

As outlined in the accompanying report titled “Bat Derogation Licence Application”, a derogation is required for proposed works at Templetney Water treatment Plant.

The objective of the works as outlined is to address the accumulation of excessive heat within the building, which will be addressed by minor works. These works will help to address local water supply issues, which is “currently week and occasionally experiences shortages”. The pumps in the treatment plant, noted as “undersized” and the accumulation of excess heat does not currently allow for an increase of water supply using the existing infrastructure. These works will therefore allow for increased water pressure and reduce any supply outages.

The applicant has provided evidence as to the nature and scale of the public interest including those of a social or economic nature 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: Works are required on an Uisce Éireann pump house to prevent excessive heat build-up. These works are : Replace the roller door with a new louvered style door. Installation of an extraction fan through the wall to control room temperature. Replacement of the three ‘High Lift Pumps’ within the Pump House with more powerful High Lift Pumps.

The specific situation that needs to be addressed is the roof of the building contains a maternity bat roost (common or soprano pipistrelles possibly both present) but no works are proposed on the roof or attic space. Exact numbers have not been determined but emergence counts in September 2025 recorded 15 bats with 30 bats recorded in October.

The alternative solutions suggested by the applicant are:

**Alternative 1 – Do Nothing.**

The excessive accumulation of heat in the attic of the Pump House, especially during hot summer sunshine, may represent a threat to bats roosting within. Under a do-nothing scenario, heat generated by the pumps during the summer months may result in sub-optimal roosting conditions for the maternity colony and possible heat-induced bat mortality. Additionally, juveniles are able to access the interior of the structure and become trapped.

This solution was not considered suitable, and alternative options are required.

**Alternative 2 – Exclude Bats Entirely From the Pump House.**

Exclusion of bats entirely from the attic space of the pump house would result in the complete and unnecessary loss of maternity roosting within the site. Under this scenario, a net loss in high-quality roosting spaces will occur on the local bat population. Uisce Éireann are committed to accommodate the existing bat colony within the Pump House.

This solution was not considered suitable, and alternative options are required.

**Alternative 3 – Address Overheating Issue While Preserving the Roost.**

The mitigation for the proposed works involve leaving the attic in its entirety for bat species as it currently exists. The proposed works consist of maintenance only. Potential impacts will be limited to temporary disturbance

effects only. Through application of outlined mitigation measures (e.g. avoidance of maternity season), no loss in roosting space will occur as a result of the proposed works. Both during and following the completion of works, the roosting space for bats within the Pump House will be retained.

This solution is considered likely to represent a 'neutral' or 'slight positive' effect on bats.

Alternative 3 was considered the most suitable option by the applicants and I agree with this option.

The applicant has provided satisfactory evidence that alternative solutions have clearly been considered. As outlined on page 17 of the accompanying report.

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)**

A pipistrelle roost is present within pump house on site. Both common and soprano pipistrelles are widespread and abundant in Ireland and are in favourable conservation status. These species are also adaptable and quick to occupy new roosting features.

Suitable and proportionate mitigation has been proposed, including the timing of the works and not alterations to existing access points or disturbance to the attic space. 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.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

[add additional conditions where required]

Signed:

Date: April 28, 2026

Position: Ecologist