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## **Supporting Information append application to renew Derogation Licence No. DER-BAT 2025-210**

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### 2. Introduction

This licence, along with two other licences (Licence No. C063/2025: Licence to capture protected wild animals for educational, scientific or other purposes, and Licence No. 024/2024: Licence to photograph/film wild animals) was granted to me as part of my education and monitoring work on behalf of Bat Conservation Ireland in 2024 and 2025 respectively. I have been handling bats in a professional capacity for almost 10 years, having run mark-recapture studies on bats in New Zealand and more recently in a training and educational capacity in my role with Bat Conservation Ireland. I am seeking to renew my derogation licence so that I can continue to fulfil this important work on behalf of Bat Conservation Ireland.

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### 3. Background

During BC Ireland run training events in 2025 no bats were captured but a couple of bats were observed while in the roost – a resting Natterer's bat in Netterville. Co. Meath (tower house) and a brown long-eared bat carrying out pre-emergence flight in the summerhouse in Netterville.

We had initial plans to do some ground truthing exercises to capture bats at selected woodlands as part of the recently established All-Ireland Woodland Bat Monitoring Scheme. However, these never took place due to time constraints.

### 4. Proposed work related to these licences in 2026

BC Ireland are planning a number of events in 2026 that will require the use of these licences. These include up to three workshops to be conducted in August/September for the training of individuals on bat survey techniques. We also plan, time permitting, to do at least one ground truthing exercise in one of the woodland sites that are part of the newly established All-Ireland Woodland Bat Monitoring Scheme.

### 5. Ecological Survey and site Assessment

As per Part E in the guidelines of the main application this section is not required for applications to carry out surveys.

### 6. Evidence to support the Derogation Tests

#### Test 1 - Reason for Derogation

The derogation licence is being sought as it is the only available option in that during our proposed workshops and ground truthing events we will be examining live bats for educational and scientific purposes. No alternative is possible in order to examine the morphological characteristics of bats for ID purposes, and for teaching these relevant skills to potential bat workers.

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## Test 2 - Absence of Alternative Solutions

The 'Do-Nothing' approach is not applicable in, for example, bat handling training or where biometric data from bats needs to be collected. There is no alternative to handling bats for these purposes.

A good amount of the work the BC Ireland does can be achieved through digital information in the form of online information, publications and presentations (either online or in person). A certain amount of theoretical information can be relayed this way but when it comes to learning the more specialised skills in bat conservation work, handling of bats can be necessary. Again, this is only done when it is necessary to deliver the educational/scientific objectives of a particular training scheme or monitoring project

## Test 3 - Impact of a derogation on Conservation Status

The actions permitted by a derogation licence will not be detrimental to the maintenance of the populations of the bat species involved. This is because these activities will be coordinated by a competent individual with ample experience in surveying and handling bats, and nothing will be done to place the bats or their roosts at risk. As for previous years, any activities scheduled will be done so outside of the potential hibernation period for Irish bats (November-March) and as per Article 12, will avoid periods of the rearing of young bats.

The main mitigation measures planned for any of the potential species that will be encountered are:

- Keeping noise levels to a minimum
- Keeping artificial light levels to a minimum (where possible, to only use red light sources) and to avoid direct illumination of bat roosts, if encountered. For more guidelines on lights and bats, see [https://www.batconservationireland.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/09/BCIrelandGuidelines\\_Lighting.pdf](https://www.batconservationireland.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/09/BCIrelandGuidelines_Lighting.pdf)
- Bats to be handled/processed wearing gloves as efficiently and quickly as possible to minimise any potential disturbance to them.

**Bat Conservation Ireland Ltd.,**

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## 7. Monitoring the impacts of the derogations

Some of this section is not applicable in our case, however the derogation license will allow BC Ireland to conduct important bat monitoring and training activities that otherwise would not be possible. Details of our activities and the various reports that we produce from our work can be viewed here.

<https://www.batconservationireland.org/what-we-do/publications>

These reports are also submitted directly to the NPWS on an annual basis.

Yours sincerely,

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Bat Conservation Ireland

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Website: [www.batconservationireland.org](http://www.batconservationireland.org)

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