



NPWS

An tSeirbhís Páirceanna
Náisiúnta agus Fiadhúlra
National Parks and Wildlife
Service

Application for Derogation Under Regulation 54 & 54A of the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011, as amended

Revision 2.0 – July 2025

- This form can be used by any individual or Company applying for a derogation under Regulation 54 of the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 (“the Regulations”) **or** any individual applying on behalf of the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage under Regulation 54(A) of the Regulations.
- Note this application form is not for Domestic Dwelling Derogations (bats within private homes) which can be found here > ([3D Application Form](#))
- Please ensure that you answer questions fully in order to avoid delays and/or your application being rejected on the basis that it does not contain sufficient information and detail for the application to be considered further.
- Please read and familiarise yourself with the [NPWS Guidance on Applications for Regulation 54 Derogations for Annex IV species: Guidance for Applicants](#)
- Please read and familiarise yourself with the [European Commission's Guidance document on the strict protection of animal species of Community interest under the Habitats Directive](#)
- Please also note that the responses to these questions are supplementary to the documentation required for the NPWS to be in a position to consider your application. A complete application should include both the application form and an associated report. Failure to supply either will result in your application being returned and/or refused.
- In circumstances in which a derogation is given on foot of this application, the Applicant is responsible for ensuring compliance with the conditions of any such derogation, even though they may employ another person to act on their behalf. To carry out any activity without, or not in accordance with, a derogation granted under regulation 54 or 54A of the Regulations constitutes a criminal offence, subject to prosecution.
- If you experience any problems filling in this form, please contact the Wildlife Licensing Unit: reg54derogations@npws.gov.ie
- Please note – applications, associated reports and derogations will be published on the NPWS website and/or the Department’s Open Data website.
- Where any applicant is applying for a derogation to carry out surveys, please ensure to list all qualified ecologists and trainees under their supervision. See section 1(c) of Part A.

Part A: The Applicant - Personal Details

These questions relate to the person responsible for any proposed works and who will be the **Applicant**. **If this application is being submitted on behalf of a third party, please also complete Part B below.**

1. (a) Name of Applicant

Title (Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms/Dr)	Forename(s)	Surname
(b) Company Name, if applicable	Forest Clover 1 Limited	
(c) Address Line 1	2nd Floor,	
Address Line 2	1-2 Victoria Buildings, Haddington Road,	
Town	Dublin 4,	
County	Dublin	
Eircode	D04 XN32	
(d) Contact number		
(e) Email address		
(f) Address where works are to be carried out if different from (b) above.		
Address Line 1	Gortfadda,	
Address Line 2		
Town	Sneem,	
County	Kerry	
Eircode	n/a	

Details of Person Submitting Application on Behalf of Applicant/Derogation Holder

Information relating to the person (e.g. ecologist) responsible for submitting the application on behalf of the applicant should be entered below:

1. (b) Name of Person/Ecologist

Title (Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms/Dr)	Forename(s)	Surname
Mr	David	McGillycuddy
(b) Company Name	Veon Limited	
Address Line 1	Unit 1, Block D, 1 Leopardstown Business Centre,	
Address Line 2	Ballyogan Road, Dublin 18,	
Town	Leopardstown	
County	Dublin	
Eircode	D18 DK64	
(c) Contact number	[REDACTED]	
(d) Email address	[REDACTED]	
(e) Relationship to Applicant	Ecologist commissioned to prepare an Application for a Derogation Licence on behalf of the applicant	

Part B: Species covered by the Derogation

1. **Species of Animal:** Please indicate which species is/are the subject of the application:

- Bat
- Otter
- Kerry Slug
- Natterjack Toad
- Dolphin
- Whale
- Turtle
- Porpoise

2. Please detail the exact species (scientific name): Kerry Slug (*Geomalacus maculosus*)

3. Please provide the maximum number of individuals affected* n/a

4. Please provide the maximum number of breeding or resting sites affected* n/a

5. Please provide the maximum number of eggs to be taken* n/a

6. Please provide the maximum number of eggs to be destroyed* n/a

*If no figures can be provided for the maximum number of individuals, breeding sites, resting places and eggs to be covered by the derogation please provide reasons why.

The project site in question is within the known range of the Kerry Slug, and surveys in 2024 have confirmed its presence. Given the nature and ecology of this species, as well as the suitable supporting habitat within the site, it can be assumed with confidence that the species is still present within the subject site.

At present, the exact number of individuals to be moved is not known, but previous surveys in 2024 (under Licence No. C18/2024 and Licence No. DER-KERRY-SLUG-2024-38) recorded 36 individual Kerry Slugs within the study area through hand searches and deployed metric traps. No eggs will be destroyed; this is a translocation only.

The overall site (c. 78.98 ha) comprises primarily conifer plantation, with adjoining mosaics of heath and grassland habitat. For the proposed operations, each plot area is as follows: Plot 1: 9.93 ha; Plot 2: 7.87 ha; Plot 3: 7.88 ha; Plot 4: 19.25 ha; Plot 5: 1.43 ha; and Plot 6: 13.95 ha. The Kerry Slugs will be translocated from Plots 1-5 into Plot 6, which provides adjacent suitable habitat outside the footprint of the proposed forestry operations.

A derogation licence is being sought due to the unavoidable disturbance to this species arising from the proposed forestry operations within Plots 1-5. The accompanying report provides details of mitigation measures to be implemented during forestry operations to ensure that no significant impacts on the species arise as a result of the proposed works.

7. **Species of Plant:** Please indicate which species is/are the subject of the application:

- Killarney Fern
- Slender Naiad
- Marsh Saxifrage

8. If you previously received a derogation for any species of animal or plant, please state derogation number and confirm that you have made a return to NPWS on the numbers actually affected by that derogation.

Licence No. C18/2024 - 31st March 2024 Licence return submitted.

Licence No. DER-KERRY-SLUG-2024-38 - 31st March 2024 Licence return submitted.

9. **Proposed Dates for Activities:** Please indicate the timeframe that you propose to carry out the activities. Dates set by NPWS may differ from dates proposed here. *A derogation will only be issued with a start and end date within a calendar year.*

Start Date:	1st April 2026
End Date:	30th October 2026

Part C: Nature of the Derogation.

1. Please tick which prohibition(s) the application for a derogation relates to:

Regulation 51	
Deliberately capture or kill any specimen of the relevant species in the wild	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Deliberately disturb these species particularly during the period of breeding, rearing, hibernation and migration	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Deliberately take or destroy eggs of the relevant species in the wild	<input type="checkbox"/>
Damage or destroy a breeding or resting place of such an animal, or	<input type="checkbox"/>
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"/>
Regulation 52	
Deliberately pick, collect, cut, uproot or destroy any specimen of these species in the wild, or	<input type="checkbox"/>
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"/>

Further information should be provided in the format set out in Part E: Template for Supporting Information

Part D: Derogation Tests

Note: The following summary information must be provided by the applicant in all cases, and will be used to determine if a derogation can be provided. Further information must be provided in the format set out in Part E: Template for Supporting Information

Test 1: Reason for the Derogation

1. Please tick which reason(s) below explains how this application qualifies under Regulation 54(2)(a-e) or Regulation 54A(2)(a-e) of the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations: Please provide a summary of how the application meets the 3 conditions required to provide a derogation. Note that in all cases additional information must be provided (see Part E).

a.	In the interests of protecting wild flora and fauna and conserving natural habitats (proceed to 2a)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b.	To prevent serious damage, in particular to crops, livestock, forests, fisheries and water and other types of property (proceed to 2b)	<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 (proceed to 2c)	<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 (proceed to 2d)	<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 (proceed to 2e)	<input type="checkbox"/>

2a. In the interests of protecting wild flora and fauna and conserving natural habitats:

- i) Please state the wild flora, fauna or habitats that require protection and /or conservation.

Kerry Slugs (*Geomalacus maculosus*), protected under the Wildlife Act 1976 (as amended) and listed on Annex II and IV of the EU Habitats Directive, are present on site as confirmed in 2024 surveys. Translocation is necessary because forestry operations in Plots 1-5 will unavoidably disturb their habitat. Individuals will be relocated to Plot 6 and other suitable retained heath/grassland mosaics, which provide equivalent shelter and foraging opportunities. The translocation areas will be fully retained, with no forestry operations taking place, ensuring continued conservation of the species within the site.

- ii) Please summarise how the interests of protection and conservation of the species/habitat concerned justify affecting another species under strict protection.

The proposed translocation and associated mitigation measures relate exclusively to Kerry Slug (*Geomalacus maculosus*). No other species will be affected by these measures, and all actions will be carried out in a manner that ensures the protection and conservation of the Kerry Slug is fully maintained.

2b) To prevent serious damage, in particular to crops, livestock, forests, fisheries and water and other types of property:

i) Please summarise the nature of the potential damage, why it is considered “serious” and how this outweighs the conservation interest of the species under strict protection.

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2c) 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:

i) Where the reason is for public health and public safety, summarise the evidence provided to support this reason (e.g. documentary evidence of the risk from a chartered structural engineer, tree surgeon, Garda Síochána, qualified health professional etc.)

n/a

ii) Where the reason is 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”, summarise the nature of the public interest and how this outweighs the conservation interest of the species under strict protection.

<p>The proposed forestry operations at Gortfadda, Sneem, Co. Kerry, form part of authorised and sustainable forest management activities that contribute to the local and national economy through timber production, rural employment, and the provision of renewable resources. Replanting is designed to increase forest diversity over time. It incorporates open space, mixed species, broadleaves, retained habitats, riparian zones, deadwood, and phased felling and replanting. These practices allow areas to naturally green up, reduce surface water runoff, and protect water quality. As the habitats develop, the forest will support greater biodiversity and become more environmentally sustainable.</p> <p>The proposed operations support national and EU forestry and climate objectives. They align with Ireland’s Shared National Vision for Trees, Woods & Forests 2050 and Ireland’s Forest Strategy 2023-2030, which commit to expanding and sustainably managing the national forest estate for climate mitigation, biodiversity enhancement, water quality, timber production, rural development, and ecosystem services. The operations also contribute to EU forestry and biodiversity policies, supporting carbon sequestration, habitat creation, and long-term environmental sustainability.</p>

The derogation is sought to enable the lawful implementation of these operations while ensuring the protection of Kerry Slug populations through controlled translocation and retention of suitable habitat (Plot 6 and adjacent heath/grassland mosaics). The temporary and carefully supervised handling of Kerry Slugs represents a limited impact that is fully mitigated, ensuring the conservation status of the species is maintained.

Accordingly, the social, economic, and environmental benefits of permitting these operations under strict mitigation measures constitute an overriding public interest, which justifies the derogation while safeguarding the long-term protection of Kerry Slug.

2d) 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:

i) Please summarise the objective(s) of the proposed activities making reference to those listed above and how the the purpose of such activities overrides the interests of strict protection of the species. ¹

2e) 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

i) Please clearly state the objective of the activity and verify that this reason is being chosen as the objective of the activity does not match reasons a-d listed above.

ii) Please summarise how the activity will result in the taking or keeping of limited numbers of specimens of the species, how it will be applied on a selective basis and to a limited extent, and how it will be done under strictly supervised conditions.

¹ Note that this reason may be appropriate for when research involves surveys that may cause disturbance of species under strict protection. But the sole purpose of the surveys should be for research and education or the other reasons listed above under 1d.

Test 2: Absence of Alternative solutions

2. Please summarise the alternative solutions that have been considered and why these solutions are deemed unsatisfactory. This must include the option of the “do-nothing” alternative and evidence should be objective and robust. Note that in all cases further information must be provided in the format set out in Part E: Template for Supporting Information.

Alternative Solution	Reasons for “Unsatisfactory”
Do-Nothing	The ‘do-nothing’ alternative would imply that forestry operations in Plots 1-5 proceed without carrying out the required translocation measures for the Kerry Slug. This could result in direct mortality and habitat loss for the local Kerry Slug population. This option is unsatisfactory as it would fail to meet the legal requirement to obtain a derogation licence and to implement the mitigation measures set out for species protection and habitat conservation.
No Management of the Forest	<p>Leaving the forest completely unmanaged (i.e. no harvesting or operational activities in Plots 1-5) is unsatisfactory. This would increase the risk of windthrow, fire, habitat degradation, water-quality impacts, accumulation of litter through fly-tipping, and potential damage to ESB poles and electricity infrastructure, creating unsafe and ecologically unfavourable conditions. It would also prevent the achievement of sustainable forest management, timber production, rural employment, and meeting climate and biodiversity targets.</p> <p>Therefore, the only satisfactory alternative is to undertake a search and translocation of the Kerry Slug under licence to reduce impacts on the species and to fulfil the mitigation measures required during the forestry operations. Accordingly, there is no satisfactory alternative available.</p>

* Please insert additional rows above if needed

Test 3: Impact of a Derogation on Conservation Status

3. Please summarise the possible impacts on the population of the species that is subject to this application, taking into account all the mitigation and/or compensation measures that are to be undertaken. Evidence that such mitigation has been successful elsewhere should be provided where relevant. Mitigation measures being relied upon must ensure that the derogation will not be 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. Note that in all cases further information must be provided in the format set out in Part E: Template for Supporting Information.

The licence application for translocation ensures that any Kerry Slugs within the works area are moved to suitable, nearby habitat within Plot 6, preventing harm to the species and supporting its favourable conservation status. The site lies within the core distribution range of the Kerry Slug in Ireland (Reich *et al.*, 2012) and within a wider landscape containing significant suitable habitat (McDonnell & Gormally, 2011).

The proposed derogation involves searching for and translocating Kerry Slugs from Plots 1-5, ensuring that forestry operations do not adversely affect the local population. Translocation will be carried out under licence following best-practice protocols to minimise mortality and disturbance.

While the loss of conifer plantation habitats will affect individuals directly, it is unlikely to result in significant habitat loss at a population level, given the scale of the project and the presence of suitable habitat in the surrounding landscape. Evidence from previous Kerry Slug and other invertebrate translocation programmes demonstrates that careful search and relocation can maintain local populations when suitable microhabitats are provided and protected (O'Hanlon *et al.*, 2017; DER-KERRY-SLUG-2018-88).

The Natura Impact Statement (NIS) submitted with application TFL01066824 & CN95471 confirms that all forestry operations will comply with environmental regulations and NPWS licence conditions. Controlled translocation and ongoing monitoring will ensure that the derogation does not compromise the maintenance of Kerry Slug populations at a favourable conservation status within their natural range.

Part E: Template for Supporting Information

This application form should provide a summary of the evidence that the applicant has provided. In all cases, it is necessary to provide separate supporting information so that the assessment of the application can be undertaken in a robust and comprehensive manner. Applicants should refer to guidance provided by the NPWS and the European Commission whilst preparing this application form and the supporting information.

It is essential that supporting information is prepared in a consistent manner using the template below so that NPWS officials assessing the application can locate the relevant evidence to determine if the three Tests can be met. Failure to provide sufficient evidence will result in the application being refused.

The structure of the Supporting Information should be as follows:

- 1) Table of Contents
- 2) Introduction
 - a. Objective of the proposed works (for example, as part of construction of a national road, repair of roofing, undertaking surveys etc.)
 - b. Name, qualifications and relevant experience of scientific staff, including trainees, (e.g. ecologist) involved in the preparation of the application and those responsible for carrying out the proposed activity.
 - c. If this application is for the carrying out of surveys that may cause disturbance, qualifications of all involved must be provided and trainees must be clearly identified.
- 3) Background to proposed activity including location, ownership, type of and need for the proposed activity, planning history, policy context, zoning in relevant Development plan (or equivalent), etc.
- 4) Full details of proposed activity to be covered by the derogation (including a site plan). The site may be inspected by an NPWS representative, so the details given should clearly reflect the extent of the project. This information will be used to compare site conditions with the Method Statement.
- 5) Ecological Survey and site assessment (Not required for applications to carry out surveys)
 - a. Pre-existing information on species at location and environs.
 - b. Status of the species in the local/regional area (relevant to the consideration of the impact on the population at the relevant geographic scale (Test 3))
 - c. Objective(s) of survey
 - d. Description of Surveys Area
 - e. Survey methodology (including evidence as to how the methodology represents best practice and is appropriate to the Objective). Methodology should include survey maps, details of timing, climate, equipment used and identify any uncertainties or difficulties encountered.
 - f. Survey results including raw data, any processed or aggregated data, and negative results as appropriate. Photographs and maps must be provided where site-specific features are referred.
 - g. Population size class assessment.
- 6) Evidence to support the Derogation Tests
 - a. Test 1 - Reason for Derogation:
 - i. There should be a clear explanation as to why a specific reason(s) has been selected in the application form.

- ii. Applicants are advised to read the guidance published by the NPWS '[Guidance on Applications for Regulation 54 Derogations for Annex IV species: Guidance for Applicants](#)' with specific reference to Section 3.1.
- b. Test 2 - Absence of Alternative Solutions
 - i. Applicants must list the alternatives to the proposed activity that have been considered, including the do-nothing alternatives in a clear and objective manner. A basic requirement is that these alternatives should be compared in terms of their impact on the species subject to strict protection. It should be clear to NPWS officials as to why the chosen approach has been selected.
 - ii. Applicants are advised to read the guidance published by '[Guidance on Applications for Regulation 54 Derogations for Annex IV species: Guidance for Applicants](#)' with specific reference to Section 3.2.
- c. Test 3 - Impact of a derogation on Conservation Status
 - i. Applicants should include details of the population at the appropriate geographic scale and an evaluation of how the proposed activity will affect the conservation status both before and after mitigation measures have been applied.
 - ii. Full and detailed descriptions of proposed mitigation measures that are relevant to the potential impact on the target species. Evidence that such mitigation has been successful elsewhere should be provided, where available.
 - iii. Applicants are advised to read the guidance published '[Guidance on Applications for Regulation 54 Derogations for Annex IV species: Guidance for Applicants](#)' with specific reference to Section 3.3.

7) Monitoring the impacts of the derogations

- a. Applicants must include details of how they propose to verify whether the derogations have been implemented correctly and whether they achieved their objective, using scientifically based evidence, and, if necessary, how the applicant will take corrective measures where required.
- b. Applicants should provide details of proposed reports to be submitted to the NPWS including the results of monitoring.
- c. Applicants are advised to read the guidance published by the European Commission "[Guidance document on the strict protection of animal species of Community interest under the Habitats Directive](#)" with specific reference to Section 3.4.

Part F. Declaration

I declare that all of the foregoing particulars are, to the best of my knowledge and belief, true and correct. I understand that the deliberate killing, injuring, capturing or disturbing of protected species, or damage or destruction of their breeding sites or resting places or the deliberate taking or destroying of eggs is an offence without a derogation and that it is a legal requirement to comply with the conditions of any derogation I may be granted following this application. I understand that NPWS may visit to check compliance with a derogation.

Please note that under Regulation 5 of the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011-2021 an authorised officer may enter and inspect any land or premises for the purposes of performing any of their functions under these Regulations or for obtaining any information which they may require for such purposes.

Signature of the Applicant



Date

08/12/2025

Name in BLOCK LETTERS

DAVID MCGILLYCUDDY

PRIVACY STATEMENT

See Privacy Statement at www.npws.ie/licences

npws.ie

Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage



An Roinn Títhíochta,
Rialtais Áitiúil agus Oidhreachta
Department of Housing,
Local Government and Heritage