



## **Guidance to the Application Form for a licence to hunt deer for the 2020/2021 Hunting Season**

### **Part 1: Personal Details**

Please ensure that your full name, address, daytime contact details and date of birth are completed in this part. All applicants must be 16 years or over.

### **Certificate of Competency**

Mandatory training and certification for first time applicants for deer hunting licenses is being introduced for the 2021/22 deer hunting season which starts on 1 September 2021. It will be a requirement for first time applicants next year to have the necessary training and certification. To give the Department an indication of existing levels of training, the application form seeks information as to whether you have a Certificate of Competency such as the 'Hunter Competence Assessment Programme (HCAP)' or equivalent in respect of firearms and matters relating to wild deer.

### **Part 2: Land Information**

Please tick the appropriate box to indicate if you;

- A. are the **owner** of the lands and entitled to the sporting rights over these lands,
- B. are a **guest, invitee, servant or agent** of the landowner(s),
- C. have **leased** the sporting rights
- D. are a **member of a gun club or game association** whose members are entitled to hunt deer over the lands described.

**Note:** If you have lands leased from **Coillte** or have any other leasing arrangement you must show written proof that the lease is valid for the 2020/2021 season. Or, If you intend hunting on a Coillte letting which is not in your name, you must provide a permit or letter from Coillte confirming that you are entitled to hunt on those lands. If you are obliged to retain your original Coillte permit, please provide a photocopy. Please ensure the permit is signed, stamped and dated by Coillte.

**You must fully complete the SCHEDULE with all details in relation to the lands, including County, Townland, number of acres (minimum 100 acres), Landowner Details (in full) and the correct folio number(s).**

**Incorrect folio number(s) will delay your application.** Correct folio numbers can be obtained by visiting [www.landdirect.ie](http://www.landdirect.ie) (proceed as guest user) or by contacting the Property Registration Authority at 0761 0001610 or 051 303000. Please be aware that **100 acres (42 hectares) is the minimum amount of land required for a deer hunting licence.**

**If you are applying to hunt deer on your own lands, the 100 acre requirement does not apply.**

If you are not the landowner, you will need written permission, signed and dated by the landowner for the current (2020/2021) hunting season. A form for landowner permission is enclosed, you should ensure that a separate form is completed for each permission.

**Note: Department staff will contact the landowner(s) to check that you have been given permission**

### Part 3: Firearms Details

All details relating to your firearm **must** be completed. The Regulations governing this, S.I. No. 239/1977 (Wildlife Act, 1976 (Firearms and Ammunition) Regulations, 1977 specify that you can only use a centre-fire rifle of not less than **.22 calibre** with a muzzle energy of not less than **1,700 foot pounds** to hunt deer species and such rifles must use bullets weighing not less than **55 grains**. It is important that you comply with these requirements otherwise your application for a deer hunting licence will be refused. Although the legal requirements are outlined above, a rifle with a minimum calibre of .240 is recommended as a more appropriate firearm for shooting deer. **All non-resident applicants must submit a copy of their current European Firearms Pass with the application form.**

### Part 4: Returns

If you previously held a deer hunting licence, this part must be completed for **the season you last held a licence and hunted, even if the return is zero**. You need to state the County where the deer were shot and the number of each species shot and the total number shot in that season. First time applicants should note that a return will be required at the end of each hunting season.

### Part 5: Declaration

The declaration must be signed by yourself and dated.

#### Checklist:

- All personal details filled in
- Landowner permission form(s) signed, dated and attached
- Firearm details complete
- Returns for previous seasons completed (if applicable)
- Copy European Firearms Pass attached (if applicable)
- Declaration, signed & dated

**We will contact you if we have any query on any form you submit to us.**

Details, including the application form, guidance document and landowner permission form(s), are available at <https://www.npws.ie/licences/hunting/deer-hunting-licences-20202021-season>

Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht  
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Wildlife Licensing Unit  
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**Email:** [wildlifelicence@chq.gov.ie](mailto:wildlifelicence@chq.gov.ie) Emailed forms must contain the applicant's signature. To avoid duplication, if you email your application forms to us there is no need to post them.