

Bat Survey Licence 2025 Supporting Document

Prepared for: Wildlife Licencing Unit, National Parks and Wildlife Services.

Purpose: To inform the re-application process for bat survey licence.

Prepared by: Oisín O Sullivan BSc (Hons).

Date: 13/02/2025.

The purpose of this supporting document is to outline information necessary for the re-application for a bat survey derogation licence application for the 2025 calendar year. Specifically, the following questions have been addressed as outlined within the 'Application for Derogation Licence' document (see **Table 1**):

Table 1 - Derogation License Checklist

<p><i>Explanation as to why the derogation licence sought is the only available option for works and no suitable alternative exists as per Regulation 54 of the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations.</i></p> <p>Oisín O Sullivan intends to apply for a personal bat survey/roost disturbance licence. This licence application is intended to be year-round for all bat species across all counties in the Republic of Ireland.</p> <p>As an Ecologist, previously bat-licenced in the 2021, 2022, 2023, and named as a Senior Ecologist in 2024 on a company licence, this licence is required in day-to-day work to survey and research protected bat species potentially encountered across projects. These surveys are intended for the best interest of wildlife to better help developers comply with National and EU legislation.</p> <p>Alternative solutions were considered, and none are available in this instance. The alternative/'do-nothing scenario' in this instance is remaining without licence to appropriately survey bat species through entering their roosting spaces. Surveys would therefore required to be non-invasive. The results from non-invasive surveys may lead to inaccurate results (species, numbers etc.) and resultant improper assessment mitigation. This would serve to potentially negatively impacts protected bat species.</p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<p><i>Evidence that actions permitted by a derogation licence 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 as is required under Section 54(2) of the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations.</i></p> <p>Under the actions of this licence, if granted, appropriate and thorough survey of protected bat species will be facilitated. This will ensure the appropriate level of mitigation is applied to developments based on the high-confidence of results gathered.</p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

It is considered with best available information that the proposal will not be detrimental to the maintenance of the bat populations at a favourable conservation status in their natural range and that the proposal will not have a detrimental effect on the local bat populations.	
<p>Details of any mitigation measures planned for the species affected by the derogation at the location, along with evidence that such mitigation has been successful elsewhere.</p> <p>There are no site-specific measures or specific roost location for which this application applies to. All roost surveys carried out will be non-destructive and minimally invasive, with cognisance to guidelines set out in Marnell et al. (2022) and Collins (2023).</p>	☑
<p>As much information as possible to allow a decision to be made on this application.</p> <p>Oisín O Sullivan BSc (Hons) has been a bat-licensed surveyor for the previous four calendar years under the following licences: DER/BAT 2021-44; DER/BAT 2022-70; DER/BAT 2023-77 and named on a company licence; DER/BAT 2024-27. Additionally, Oisín was licensed for the capture and handling of bat species in 2023 and 2024 (C231/2023; C14/2024).</p> <p>Oisín has extensive on-the-job experience in bat roost surveys and bat handling, for which he has been licensed for also. Under the previous survey licences, Colm has undertaken a wide range of roost surveys across the Republic of Ireland targeting a wide range of bat species, including Lesser Horseshoe Bat.</p> <p>In addition to learning appropriate roost survey techniques 'on-the-job', Oisín has read and understood relevant guidelines including Marnell et al. (2022) and Collins (2023) regarding roost surveys of both structures and trees.</p> <p>Listed below are select examples of relevant training and work undertaken by Oisín O Sullivan in relation to protected bat species:</p> <p>Echoes Ecology Scotland – In May 2022 attended a bat handling course provided by Echoes Ecology in Scotland, which included the handling of common and soprano pipistrelles, Daubenton's bat, whiskered bat, and brown long-eared bat..</p> <p>Voluntary contribution to Portuguese "National Roosts of Importance – winter monitoring 2024" – In March 2024 assisted in a ringing and biometrics monitoring program for mines in Northern Portugal. This involved the handling, ringing, and recording of biometrics for; <i>Miniopterus schreibersi</i> and <i>Rhinolophus ferrumquinum</i> along with the disturbance of <i>Rhinolophus hipposideros</i>, <i>Rhinolophus Euryale</i>, <i>Myotis blythii</i>, <i>Myotis emerginatus</i>, <i>Myotis myotis</i>, and <i>Tadarida teniotis</i>.</p> <p>Unnamed lesser horseshoe bat maternity roost in Co. Clare – In collaboration with NPWS ranger Elaine Keegan surveys were undertaken targeting a Lesser Horseshoe Bat maternity roost for both roost population monitoring in 2023 and 2024 These surveys also established their absence in winter to allow emergency structural repairs and predator proofing on the building to conserve and retain the roost. There was an increase in population in the roost from 2023 to 2024.</p> <p>References for these projects can be provided on request.</p>	☑

I hope the above satisfies the information requirements outlined in Question 11 of the application process.

Regards,
Oisín O Sullivan BSc (Hons)

Oisín O Sullivan

13th February 2025