



Isle of Man
Government

Reiltys Ellan Vannin

Wildlife Act 1990

General licence for public health or public safety Licence No. WLA/G005/23

The Department of Environment, Food and Agriculture, in exercise of the powers conferred on it by section 16 of the Wildlife Act 1990, hereby authorises,

to preserve public health or public safety,

any authorised person to kill, injure in the course of attempting to kill, or take any of the following wild birds or to take, damage or destroy their nests or eggs, in the Isle of Man, subject to the conditions specified below:

Common name

Great Black-backed Gull

Herring Gull

Feral Pigeon

Scientific name

Larus marinus

Larus argentatus

Columba livia

Conditions

1. Any birds killed under the authority of this licence must be killed humanely and as quickly as possible, but no method of killing shall be used which is prohibited by section 5 of the Act.
2. This licence can only be relied on in circumstances where the authorised person is satisfied that appropriate legal methods of resolving the problem such as scaring and proofing are either ineffective or impracticable.
3. Any use made of this licence must be reported to the Department as soon as is practical and no less than annually.

Reports should include:

- Location where action undertaken,
- species (type) of bird,
- number of each bird species killed,
- number of each species moved to an alternative but appropriate location,
- number of nests and/or eggs of each species of bird that were destroyed,
- the purpose for taking action (i.e. what was the public health or public safety issue that required action)

Reports should be submitted in writing by email to ecopolicy@gov.im or to the address below:

Ecosystem Policy Team
Department of Environment, Food and Agriculture
Thie Slieau Whallian
Foxdale Road
St Johns
IM4 3AS

The purpose of the reporting is to enable the Department to quantify the actions taken under the licence and therefore inform the Department's consideration of future licences.

4. This licence is valid from **1st January 2023** until **31st December 2024** and may be modified or revoked at any time by the Department of Environment, Food and Agriculture.

Aline Thomas

for and on behalf of the Department of Environment, Food and Agriculture.

5th June 2023

Note

- a) This licence conveys no authority for actions prohibited by other legislation such as the Curragh's Acquisition Act 1963. It does not exempt owners and occupiers from their legal obligation to gain consent for 'operations likely to damage' the interest on an Area of Special Scientific Interest.
- b) Where the action licensed involves the use of firearms and/or regulated weapons, it is the authorised person's responsibility to ensure that he complies with all the relevant legislation.
- c) Under the Wildlife Act, 'authorised person' means-
 - (a) the owner or occupier, or any person authorised by the owner or occupier, of the land on which the action authorised is taken;
 - (b) as respects anything done in relation to wild birds, any person authorised in writing by any of the following bodies, that is to say, the Department or the Manx Utilities Authority;so, however, that the authorisation of any person for the purposes of this definition shall not confer any right of entry upon any land.
- d) The control of birds for nuisance issues (eg. bird noise) cannot be licensed under the Wildlife Act 1990.
- e) There is a variety of methods for bird-proofing buildings and for scaring birds away from a site, if they are not nesting there. Proofing and scaring can be undertaken by pest control operatives whilst birds are not nesting at a site. Feeding birds encourages them onto a site. Where there is a bird issue, such species should not be fed.

- f) In cases of gull aggression, the shooting of birds is rarely necessary. The removal of the nest followed by bird proofing the site against future problems will normally remove the issue.
- g) The procedure for considering gull problems is therefore: remove any site issues (stop feeding them and proof the site against problem birds) and undertake scaring where appropriate; if nesting wait until this is finished and then proof the site; if waiting is impracticable, remove the nest and proof the site.