

O'Donnell Environmental Ltd.
Lawley House,
Monahan Road,
Cork City,
T12 N6PY.
7th November 2024

Wildlife Licence Unit,
National Parks and Wildlife Service,
Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage ,
90 King Street North,
Smithfield,
Dublin 7,
D07 N7CV.

Re: Harper's Island Bat Box Derogation Supporting Information

Dear Sir/Madam,

O'Donnell Environmental were engaged by Sharon Casey on behalf of Cork County Council to undertake surveys of a bat box previously erected by O'Donnell Environmental on a tree within Harper's Island which is proposed for removal. The purpose of the current letter is to inform a bat derogation license application which will be made to the NPWS.

The bat box was erected on a *Leylandii* Cypress treeline on the western border of Harper's Island Wetland (*Coordinates: 51.905634, -8.3147460*) by O'Donnell Environmental in July 2022 (see **Plate 1**). This was part of a local biodiversity enhancement measure and not mitigation associated with a previous development.

O'Donnell Environmental undertake 'bat walk' public events in conjunction with Cork County Council within Harper's Island Wetlands in autumn of each year. As part of this event, bat box checks are undertaken in advance and the population parameters monitored (i.e number of individuals, sex). Surveys were undertaken by bat-licensed ecologists Colm Breslin and Tom O'Donnell (current licences DER/BAT 2024-09 and DER/BAT 2023-16 respectively). A single male Common Pipistrelle was identified within this bat box in each year in August 2022, 2023 and 2024.



Plate 1 – Installing bat box on Leylandii Cypress treeline in July 2022.



Plate 2 – Single male Common Pipistrelle within bat box in August 2023.

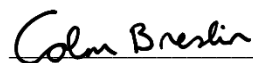


Plate 3 – O'Donnell Environmental conducting 'bat walk' for Cork County Council within Harper's Island Wetlands.

Prior to the commencement of tree-felling works, O'Donnell Environmental will undertake a bat box check to confirm that no roosting bats are present. Should roosting bats be encountered, the bat box entrance will be appropriately sealed temporarily and carefully removed from the tree, before being relocated to a nearby undisturbed location. Following a period of approximately 15 minutes, the bat box entrance will be re-opened to facilitate access/egress of bats should they be present. Proposed tree felling and movement of the bat box will avoid periods of cold weather where bats may be in torpor.

Please don't hesitate to contact me should you have any questions.

Regards,



Colm Breslin BSc (Hons)
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cc Sharon Casey