

John Curtin B.Sc
Eire Ecology,
Moyglass,
Kylebrack,
Co. Galway
22nd January 2025

To Gregory Egan.
Wildlife Licencing Unit.

Dear Greg.

On behalf of Churchfield Maintenance I wish to apply for a derogation licence for the destruction of a bat roost. A bat survey was conducted by Eire Ecology in September 2024 following previous surveys conducted in 2021.

Please find attached responses to three queries with regards the Derogation Licence request.

1: In order for a derogation licence to be granted, it's purpose must fall under one of the options under Regulation 54 (2) (a-e) of the Birds and Natural Habitats Directive. Could you please advise which option the derogation licence you are applying for qualifies under and also outline why you believe that your application for a licence falls under this reason:

- (a) In the interests of protecting wild flora and fauna and conserving natural habitats,*
- (b) To prevent serious damage, in particular to crops, livestock, forests, fisheries and water and other types of property*
- (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,***
- (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, or*
- (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.*

Answer 1.

C. My client, Mike Canny wishes to restore a public house and restaurant within the centre of Ballindereen village. The draft Galway County Development Plan proposes that rural settlements of the county (of which Ballindereen is defined) develop “as vibrant, connected and serviced locations that are attractive places to live, work and visit in a sustainable manner”. The subjects buildings are at present derelict and are located in the centre of the village. The regeneration of these buildings would have a positive impact on the village as a whole.

2: *The second question is whether the actions to be carried out under the requested derogation licence are the only option available and there is no satisfactory alternative. This is something which must be proven under Regulations 23 and 24 of the Habitats Regulations. Please outline in detail what alternative solutions you have considered and why you believe that they are not satisfactory.*

Answer 2.

There are several options available to the client.

a) Leave the dwelling as it is.

This option is viable for the short term. The dwelling is T shaped with the rear sections roof fallen in. The front section is exposed. During the site visit in September 2024, it was not possible to walk on the upstairs floor as it is badly rotten given the hole in the roof. While the building will likely stand for another couple of years it will degrade further over time moving bats out of the building. As it is bats are not roosting in the rear section as its too exposed.

b) Renovate building and install bat boxes as previous derogation licence approved

The previous derogation licence approved the use of bat boxes as sufficient mitigation for the loss of a roost within the dwelling. Bat boxes are not usable by Lesser Horseshoe bats and while this species was not found roosting on site they were recorded as present during the September 2024 survey. While this option is viable I feel the creation of a shed type structure will provide a more favourable roost site for the combination of void and crevice bats found within the site.

c) Creation of roosting shed in existing storage shed.

I feel this is the most favourable option for all the bat species found in the site. Given lesser Horseshoe bats were noted within the site, a potential supplementary satellite roost location found within the village would benefit the local population. The structure will also provide space for those other species found roosting within the site.

3: *A derogation licence is issued with the condition that it is not 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 – (Regulation 54 (2) of the Birds and Natural Habitats Directive). In order for a derogation licence to be issued it must be proven that the actions proposed will not have a detrimental effect on the local bat population. Please provide this information in support of your application.*

Answer 3.

All roosts found within the site were satellite roosts (supplementary to a main maternity roost). The creation of a shed roost will provide alternative roosting site for these species. Once mitigation set out in the attached bat report is implemented there will be no detrimental impact on the local bat population.

Should you have any queries do not hesitate to call on 085-1179428

Regards,

John Curtin B.Sc