

This statement is to confirm that I, Fionn Keeley, am an experienced ecologist with particular experience and training in bat conservation through Wildlife Surveys Ireland as well as Bat Conservation Ireland. I have worked with these groups since at least 2016 in various capacities and have received instruction in handling, caring for, and relocating bats, as well as having researched this independently. I have handled bats before in emergency situations on several occasions in order to protect them from injury – including two bats in the last year – all of which were safely returned to the wild. One of these bats additionally had to be fed and warmed in order to confirm it was able to fly and could be safely released, all of which I carried out as I was the most experienced person present. On this occasion I also contacted local wildlife rescue services for detailed instruction on caring for the bat concerned.

I agree not to disturb roosting bats unless deemed necessary to a particular project and where specified by derogation license, or where the bat concerned is in immediate danger. If no specific derogation license has been obtained, I will see to it that any relevant works are immediately halted until such a license can be obtained, and I will then be able to remove the bat(s) concerned. I will also ensure that the local NPWS ranger is notified of the bat's presence. When moving bats, I will additionally ensure no further stress or injury is caused to them.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Fionn Keeley". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Fionn Keeley,  
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B.Sc. (General Science)