

Gregory Egan (Housing)

From: Ferdia Keeley <arankeeley@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday 5 November 2024 14:01
To: Gregory Egan (Housing)
Subject: Re: Derogation Application (Survey Licence)

CAUTION: This eMail originated from outside your organisation and the BTS Managed Desktop service. Do not click on any links or open any attachments unless you recognise the sender or are expecting the email and know that the content is safe. If you are in any doubt, please contact the OGCIO IT Service Desk.

Hi Gregory, I have answers to your questions below.

1) The licence is sought to allow me to undertake surveys that would involve entry into buildings, assess trees, bridges or other structures that are either known or unknown as bat roosts. Discovery of bats present cannot be achieved without examination of structures to determine the number of bats, the identity of bats and the inferred nature of any roost noted within the structure. This is essential in particular where buildings, trees or other structures are undergoing repair or demolition or where trees are undergoing surgery or felling.

2) All surveys involve an assessment of a structure or location for the presence of bats either combined with an activity survey using ultrasonic receivers, thermal imagers or hand torches. The surveys ensure that the location of bats can be determined to ensure either that bats are properly protected by any proposed development or modification or where the structure is to be removed or altered. The survey ensures that bats are afforded protection from injury or death. I have been working with Wildlife Surveys Ireland for 8 years and has been accompanying Donna Mullen and Brian Keeley on surveys for this entire period. Any direct handling of bats would be first and foremost to ensure that the bat is provided with protection by the evaluation. Identification of some bats would require handling to confirm (e.g. *Myotis* species). Species identification may be essential to affording proper protection to a roost so that less common species' roosts can be appropriately dealt with.

3) All surveys within buildings or of trees etc. will involve careful examination with a head torch, fibrescope, thermal imager or other equipment that will allow quick examination and then bats will be left undisturbed once identified. All bat roosts can be flagged to roost owners, authorities etc. and the roost has greater protection following the survey than in advance of it.

On Tue, Oct 22, 2024 at 1:24 AM Gregory Egan (Housing) <Gregory.Egan@npws.gov.ie> wrote:

Dear Ferdia,

Sincerest apologies on the delay.

Your outstanding application was brought to my attention.

Can I ask do you still require a derogation survey licence?

If so can you also answer the following questions for a complete application?

1) Why the derogation license 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.

2) 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. 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.

3) 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.

Kind regards,

Gregory Egan

Executive Officer

Wildlife Licencing Unit

An Roinn Tithíochta, Rialtais Áitiúil agus Oidhreachta
Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage

An tSeirbhís Páirceanna Náisiúnta agus Fiadhúlra
National Parks and Wildlife Service

90 Sráid an Rí Thuaidh, Margadh na Feirme, Baile Átha Cliath 7, D07 N7CV

90 King Street North, Smithfield, Dublin 7, D07 N7CV

R-phost: Gregory.Egan@npws.gov.ie

