

## Natural England Consultation on General Licences

Please use this form to reply to the General Licence consultation. This document also includes a general feedback form.

Responses may be returned by email to: [wildlifeconsultation@naturalengland.org.uk](mailto:wildlifeconsultation@naturalengland.org.uk)

We would prefer responses to be submitted electronically but if you prefer to respond in writing, please submit your response to: Natural England General Licences Consultation, c/o Dr Edel McGurk, Natural England, Government Buildings, Otley Road, Lawnswood, Leeds. LS16 5QT.

<b>Organisation</b>	
<b>Respondee Name</b>	Chris Foreman
<b>Contact Details</b>	
<i>Address</i>	[REDACTED]
<i>Telephone</i>	[REDACTED]
<i>Email</i>	[REDACTED]

The following table lists all of the questions posed in the consultation document. For each question, please indicate whether you support the proposal using the tick boxes, and provide an explanation and evidence in support of your view in the space provided. Where you do not have a view on a particular proposal, please tick 'No Comment'.

**The form is designed to be completed on screen; free text boxes will expand as you type.**

### Confidentiality

We will respect requests for confidentiality. If you wish the information you provide to be treated as confidential, please record your request below; it would be helpful if you could explain to us why you regard the information you have provided as confidential. If we receive a request for disclosure of the information, we will take full account of your explanation, but we cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

## Responses to Proposals

### THEME: Obligations to Protected Sites

Question 1: Do you agree with Natural England's proposal to address this concern by drawing attention to the existing obligations on Statutory Undertakers?

Yes  No  No Comment

### THEME: Non-Native Species

Question 2: Do you agree with our proposal to use regulatory measures to facilitate the control or invasive non-native species?

Yes  No  No Comment

Question 3.1: Do you agree with our proposal to add Ring-necked and Monk Parakeets to the general licence issued for the purpose of conserving wild birds (s.16(1)(c) of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981)?

Yes  No  No Comment

Question 3.2: Do you agree with our proposal to add Canada Geese and Egyptian Geese to the general licence issued for the purpose of conserving wild birds (s.16(1)(c) of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981)?

Yes  No  No Comment

Question 4.1: Do you agree with our proposal to permit the killing/taking of Ring-necked and Monk Parakeet species for the purpose of preventing serious damage to crops, etc (s.16(1)(k) of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981)?

Yes  No  No Comment

Question 4.2: Do you agree with our proposal to issue a separate licence for this purpose for invasive non-native species?

Yes  No  No Comment

Question 5.1: Do you agree with our proposal to permit the killing/taking of Monk Parakeet species under a general licence for the purpose of preserving public health or public or air safety (s.16(1)(i) of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981)?

Yes  No  No Comment

Question 5.2: Do you agree with our proposal to issue a separate licence for this purpose for invasive, non-native species?

Yes  No  No Comment

#### **THEME – Review of species listed**

Question 6.1: Do you agree that Great Black-backed Gull should only be listed on the general licence permitting take/kill birds for the purpose of preserving air safety? Please provide evidence in support of your view.

Yes  No  No Comment

Question 6.2: Do you agree that the Herring Gull should only be listed on the general licences permitting

a. the killing/taking of birds for the purpose of preserving air safety?

Yes  No  No Comment

b. the destruction of eggs and nests for the purpose of preserving public health and public safety? Please provide evidence in support of your view.

Yes  No  No Comment

Question 7.1 Do you agree with our proposal to issue a limited general licence permitting the taking/killing of House sparrow, Starling, Robin and Blackbird in food production/handling

premises for the purpose of preserving public health or public safety (s.16(1)(i) of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981)?

Yes  No  No Comment

Question 7.2 If such a licence is issued, do you agree that it is appropriate to require users of the licence to register their first use of the licence with Natural England and to keep written records of action taken under the licence?

Yes  No  No Comment

It is essential that all actions taken under the licence is recorded with Natural England

### THEME – Sales of birds

Question 8.1: Do you agree with the proposal to consolidate the sales licences?

Yes  No  No Comment

Question 8.2: Do you agree with the proposal to continue to allow the birds listed on the appendix (and their eggs) to be sold without a ring?

Yes  No  No Comment

Question 8.3: Is the list of species that are exempt from ringing correct (see draft licence for list)? If you disagree, please state why and provide evidence.

Yes  No  No Comment

Question 9.1: Do you agree with our proposal that no species be excluded from sale under the general licence on the grounds of risks to their conservation status from illegal take from the wild? If you disagree, please provide grounds and evidence for your position? If you do disagree, please provide grounds and evidence for your position.

Yes  No  No Comment

Question 9.2: Do you agree that Ruddy Duck and Egyptian Goose should continue to be excluded from the general licence permitting sales on the grounds of potential risks to native species, and that Canada Goose should be added to the list of exclusions?

Yes  No  No Comment

Question 9.3: Do you agree that sales of Eagle Owls under the general licence should be subject to a registration scheme on the grounds of potential risks to native species?

Yes  No  No Comment

Question 9.4: Do you believe that other bird species should be added to this list of exclusions on the grounds of potential risks to native species? Please consider the possible candidates suggested above; you may suggest other species and explain why, providing evidence.

Yes  No  No Comment

Question 10: Do you agree with our proposal that sales of dead Barnacle Goose and White-fronted Goose (Greenland race) be permitted under the general licence?

Yes  No  No Comment

Question 11.1: Do you agree that Natural England should provide guidance on what might constitute suitable documentary evidence?

Yes  No  No Comment

Question 11.2: Do you agree that the wording we propose is appropriate? If not, please provide alternative wording.

Yes  No  No Comment

**THEME – Understanding and awareness of the general licences & their conditions**

Question 12.1 Do you believe that there is sufficient widespread understanding of the General Licences, the circumstances in which they may be used and the conditions that apply. Please provide evidence in support of your answer where possible.

Yes  No  No Comment

Absolutely not. Even the police have no idea of what is permitted. I have many evidences of killing of birds where the police and members of the public believe they are justified. I have had to refer the police to the Wildlife act when my neighbour is shooting birds in my garden. Single birds are shot when they are obviously posing no threat to health and safety. The pest control industry is motivated by money and will say anything to get the business. They should be made to renew and PAY for a licence regularly. They should get the companies they kill birds for to sign responsibility and prove they have taken all other steps. There should be records held by you on how many birds have been killed and under what circumstances. All studies show that killing birds does not reduce the numbers and in fact can result in an increase. This should be monitored or the situation will never be resolved.

The police at Scotland Yard who can prosecute have very little authority and very little powers, almost telling people after the event (sometimes months after) that they should not have done it.

General Licences should be removed from Pest control companies if they breach the rules.

Question 12.2 Do you have any suggestions as to how we could raise the level of awareness?

There should be large advertisements in newspapers and there should be a dedicated line where crimes of this nature can be reported.

Please scroll down to the next part of this form if you wish to provide us with general feedback on this consultation package and exercise.