

Our reference: DAERA/ 23-33

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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Tel: 028 [REDACTED]

Email: [bcsgeneral@daera-ni.gov.uk](mailto:bcsgeneral@daera-ni.gov.uk)

Dear [REDACTED]

28 February 2023

### **Environmental Information Regulations 2004**

With regard to your request for information received by the Department on 31 January 2023 which sought the following information:

**Total number of wild birds associated with every lethal control licence issued in Northern Ireland during 2022. (That is the maximum total number of wild birds which were authorised to be killed by lethal control).**

**Please specify each species separately, with associated numbers of individuals that would be the maximum allowed under those licences.**

I can advise that the Department has completed its search and can confirm that it holds the information you requested which is detailed below.

| <b>Licence Type</b> | <b>Species</b> | <b>Licence Purpose</b>                                    | <b>Number issued</b> | <b>Number Refused</b> | <b>Number of Birds permitted to be culled</b> |
|---------------------|----------------|---|----------------------|-----------------------|---|
| TEB                 | Cormorant      | To kill wild birds to prevent serious damage to fisheries | 36                   | 1                     | 181 (Sum of all licences)                     |

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|     |  |  |    |   |   |
|-----|--|--|----|---|---|
| TES | Mixed                                      | To kill wild birds for the purpose of preserving air safety                                    | 3  | 0 | Not stipulated, but 65 birds killed under the three licences. |
| KCB | Lesser Black-backed gull, Mallard, Moorhen | To kill wild birds or destroy nests for the purpose of conserving wild birds                   | 2  | 0 | Not stipulated but restricted by location.                    |
| TDB | Mixed                                      | To kill wild birds and or destroy nests for the purpose of preserving public health and safety | 24 | 0 | These licences issued for nest disturbance only.              |
| TEC | Greylag Goose, Canada Goose                | To kill wild birds to prevent serious damage to crops  | 7  | 0 | Only stipulated on two licences (3 birds on each)             |
| TEL | Raven                                      | To kill wild birds for the purpose of preventing serious damage to livestock                   | 6  | 0 | 18 (Sum of all licences)                                      |
| KSB | N/A  | To kill wild birds for scientific purposes.  | 0  | 0 | 0   |

In addition, DAERA issues three 'General' Licences which were under review in 2022-TPG1 for the purpose of preserving public health or public safety.

TPG2 for the purpose of preventing the spread of disease and preventing serious damage to livestock, foodstuffs for livestock, crops, vegetables, fruit, growing timber and fisheries.

TPG3 for the purpose of conserving wild birds.

These licences apply to widely spread species which vary by licence type but in 2022 included Hooded Crow, Jackdaw, Magpie, Rook, Feral Pigeon, Wood Pigeon, ***Sustainability at the heart of a living, working, active landscape valued by everyone.***

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House Sparrow and Starling. The general licences do not specify a limit on numbers of birds killed.

If you require any clarification, believe that any part of your request has been overlooked, misunderstood or misinterpreted, please contact me in the first instance to see if it is a matter that can be resolved.

If you are unhappy with the manner in which your request for information has been handled or the decision to release/withhold information, you have the right to request a formal review by the Department. If you wish to do so, please contact The Review Section either by e-mailing [daera.informationmanager@daera-ni.gov.uk](mailto:daera.informationmanager@daera-ni.gov.uk) or by post at The Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs, Data Protection & Information Management Branch, Floor 2, Ballykelly House, 111 Ballykelly Road, Ballykelly, Limavady BT49 9HP, within two months from the date of this letter.

If after such an internal review you are still unhappy with the response, you have the right to appeal to the Information Commissioner at Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, CHESHIRE, SK9 5AF, who will undertake an independent review of the Department's decision.

Yours sincerely,

[Redacted signature]

[Redacted name]

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