

FAQ's DEFRA Survey

1. Do I take part as an individual or as part of an organisation (RSPB)?

You should take part as an individual. The RSPB will be submitting its own response.

2. I think that no species should be controlled, there is not a box for this and no where to comment why I think this?

Remember you can leave boxes empty if none of the options are relevant/apply to you. If you want to make comments that do not easily fit into any of the questions on the survey, please see our guidance on how to submit comments via email or post (question 3 answer)

3. I want to comment on the use of general licences, but I feel this survey is not relevant to me/struggling to fill it in? Is there another way I can give my opinion?

If you want to make comments that do not easily fit into any of the questions on the survey you can submit these via email or post. DEFRA have told us that the questions in the survey are those which they are most keen to have responses to, but they will accept all submissions.

You can send your responses by email to: GLTeam@defra.gov.uk

Or by post to:

The General License Review Team
1st Floor,
Temple Quay House,
2 The Square,
Temple Quay,
Bristol,
BS1 6EB

4. I read that there were licences to kill birds not on these lists what about them?

There are a number of other types of licences which can be issued in order to control wild birds. You can find out more about these licences here: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/wildlife-licences#types-of-licence>.

These other licences were not the subject of Wild Justice's legal challenge and are therefore not covered by this review.

5. What is the difference between general licences and individual licences?

All wild bird species, their eggs and nests (whilst they are in use or being built) are protected by law. However, licences can be granted to allow wild birds to be removed or lethally controlled where they are causing problems and certain legal tests are met.

General licences are designed to cover relatively common occurrences that carry a low risk to the conservation or welfare of a protected species. They do not need to be applied for and carry no obligations to record what actions you have taken. All that is required is that the conditions of use are abided by.

Individual licences cover circumstances and species which are not specified by the General Licences. They must be applied for and each application is assessed by Natural England. Users must keep records of and report on their use of these licences.

6. Will there be another chance to comment on DEFRA and Natural England licences, rather than just general licences?

DEFRA and Natural England do carry out periodic reviews of their other licencing arrangements, but the RSPB has no control over when the next one will be. For more information please contact DEFRA or Natural England directly.

7. Where is this information going to, will RSPB get a copy of my survey?

No. The RSPB will not receive a copy of your survey. The information goes straight to DEFRA.

8. What else is the RSPB doing?

Although we are not able to comment on every licence issued, we do actively monitor the licenses issued and will challenge those that we believe are issued incorrectly.

We have made Natural England aware of our concerns on a number of occasions in the past and will continue to do so.

Please be assured that we are maintaining our dialogue with Natural England on this issue, we will continue to push for improvements and will continue to hold them to account, when we don't think that licences are being issued appropriately.