

Welcome to the Natural Resources Wales species permitting update

Happy New Year to you all! In this edition, we're concentrating on some changes we've made to our licence application processes and documents, as well as recent changes to relevant legislation.

New application forms and documentation

As of 30th November 2017 the legislation relating to European Protected Species has been consolidated into a new Regulation - "*The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017*". As a result, all our documentation including application forms have been amended and updated. **Please ensure you refer to our website to download the latest versions prior to applying for a licence.**

We also have a new **reference template form** which should be used when providing references.

We will be enforcing the new application forms and reference template form from **1st March 2018** and applications received after this date using outdated forms or templates will be rejected.

We ask that application submissions are thoroughly checked to ensure all the required documents are submitted. If an application is incomplete in any way, this will be rejected. Any rejected applications are deleted from our system, and subsequent resubmissions will need to be submitted in full.

Health and safety licence applications

For any European Protected Species (EPS) development licence application submitted with public health and/or public safety marked as the purpose, please ensure that sufficient evidence is submitted to demonstrate that the proposed works are for a genuine public health and/or safety issue.

This can include photographic evidence, videos, structural reports, emergency service reports, and any other relevant supporting information. If sufficient evidence is not provided, this could delay the issuing of the licence. If the application is not for a genuine health and/or safety purpose, please do not select this as the purpose on the application form.

Piscivorous bird applications – Log of Action Form

We are under increasing scrutiny with regards to issuing these licences. Please note that licence applications must be as robust as possible, using the latest data and provide evidence of bird numbers, species and activities.

To aid the collection of this information the 'Log of Action' form must be completed during the period between your current licence expiry date, and the start of your new licence, or in advance of a new licence application. This must provide a record of the non-lethal methods in use, and to keep a record of the number of birds observed.

This will help provide a clearer picture of the number of birds observed all year round. The form must be completed over a period of at least 10 site visits, undertaken at least 3 days apart. The form should then be submitted with any new or renewal licence applications. NRW will not be able to assess any applications in the absence of a completed log of action form.

Compliance reporting

Please ensure that the Compliance Audit Template is used when submitting a compliance audit or report. This will help guide the information that we require to be submitted as part of the audit. The template can be accessed on our website.



All enquiries should be directed via the Natural Resources Wales enquiries department on 03000653000.