



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs

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23 February 2021

Dear Consultee

Consultation on Interim Gamebird Release Licence in England

1. I am writing to invite views on the the proposed interim licensing regime for the release of common pheasants and red-legged partridges on Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) and Special Protection Areas (SPAs)¹ and within a 500m buffer zone around them in England. All of these SACs and SPAs are also Sites of Special Scientific Interest but are subject to additional protections. In England, these sites are protected by the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended).

2. The following documents may be found on GOV.UK:

- [Interim gamebird release licence in England, Consultation Document](#)
- [Defra Witness Statement 3, Wild Justice vs Defra](#)

3. We welcome your views and comments on the proposals. If you wish to obtain a copy of this consultation. Please contact

Consultation Coordinator
2nd Floor
Foss House
Kings Pool
1-2 Peasholme Green
York
YO1 7PX

Or email: consultation.coordinator@defra.gov.uk

¹ SACs and SPAs are sites that fall within the definition of a European site in Regulation 8 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017

Responses

4. To submit your consultation response, please complete the consultation questionnaire provided through Citizen Space at <https://consult.defra.gov.uk/gamebird-review/interim-2021-england-gamebird-release-licence> (Citizen Space is an on-line consultation tool). Alternatively, please post your response to:

Consultation Coordinator
2nd floor
Foss House
Kings Pool
1-2 Peasholme Green
York
YO1 7PX

Or email: consultation.coordinator@defra.gov.uk

5. Responses should be received by **15 March 2021**.

Consultation criteria

6. This consultation will be conducted in line with the Cabinet Office Consultations Principles. These can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/consultation-principles-guidance>
7. This consultation sets out our core policy proposal and asks for your views on whether it is the right approach. The consultation also asks for views on additional measures, and on suggestions relating to the practicalities of how new restrictions might apply.
8. This consultation will remain open for 3 weeks. There has been ongoing stakeholder engagement at different fora to inform policy proposals given that the licence must be in place in time for the 2021 shooting season.
9. The findings of the consultation will help us determine which new measures to bring forward in legislation.
10. A summary of responses to this consultation will be published on the government website at www.gov.uk within 12 weeks of the consultation closing. The summary will include a list of organisations that responded but not personal names, addresses or other contact details.
11. If you have any comments or complaints about the consultation process, please address them to:

Consultation Coordinator
2nd Floor

Foss House
Kings Pool
1-2 Peasholme Green
York
YO1 7PX

Or email: consultation.coordinator@defra.gov.uk

Confidentiality and data protection

12. Information provided in response to this consultation, including personal data, may be published or disclosed in accordance with the access to information regimes these are primarily the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 (EIRs), the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) and the Data Protection Act 2018 (DPA). We have obligations, mainly under the EIRs, FOIA and DPA, to disclose information to particular recipients or to the public in certain circumstances.

13. If you want the information that you provide to be treated as confidential, please be aware that, as a public authority, the Department is bound by the Freedom of Information Act and may therefore be obliged to disclose all or some of the information you provide. In view of this 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. An automatic confidentiality disclaimer generated by your IT system will not, of itself, be regarded as binding on the Department.

14. Thank you for your help in this matter. If you have any queries, please contact us as above.

Yours Faithfully

Anna Sargeant
Deputy Director

Gamebird Review Team
GLTeam@defra.gov.uk

Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs