

**General and Class Licence Consultation – February 2014**

**Annex B: Consultation Response Form**

**How to complete this form**

1. Before completing this form, please read the relevant sections of the consultation document for a full explanation and rationale behind each consultation question. The consultation paper and supporting documents are available online at [www.naturalengland.org.uk/consultations](http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/consultations) and [www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk).
2. You may choose to respond to selected questions only. You do not need to complete every question.
3. For each question you respond to, please also provide your assessment of the regulatory impact of any change, i.e. the impact any described changes would have on businesses both in terms of time and financial cost. Details of our initial assessment can be found in Annex C. It should be noted that our assessment is an estimate, and we hope that the consultation responses will provide more detailed information to help us better understand the impacts. Where possible, please quantify any change in costs (positive or negative) that proposed / possible changes may have. If extra cost is likely to be involved, introduction of the change may still be unavoidable, but we will make clear the level of additional cost and why this is required.
4. Please submit your response by 5.00pm 19 May 2014. Any responses received after this may not be considered.
5. Please send responses to: [wildlife.consultation@naturalengland.org.uk](mailto:wildlife.consultation@naturalengland.org.uk). We would prefer responses to be submitted electronically but if you wish to respond in writing please submit your response to: Natural England General Licence Consultation, c/o Wildlife Licensing, Natural England, Temple Quay House, 2 The Square, Bristol BS1 6EB. Please note that there is no need to post a hard copy of responses submitted by e-mail, and that posted responses will not be acknowledged unless an acknowledgement is specifically requested.
6. In line with Natural England’s Access to Information Statement (<http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/Images/NEAccesstoInformationStatement_tcm6-4934.pdf>) we may publish at the end of the consultation period all information contained in your response, however this is received, for others to see. If you want the information that you provide to be treated as confidential, 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, in itself, be regarded as binding on Natural England.
7. We will respect personal privacy, whilst complying with access to information requests to the extent necessary to enable Natural England to comply with its statutory obligations under the Environmental Information Regulations 2004, and the Freedom of Information Act 2000.
8. If you have any comments or complaints about the consultation process, as opposed to the content in the consultation paper, please e-mail Kay Shuard, Regulatory Improvement and Specialist Services Manager, Natural England ([kay.shuard@naturalengland.org.uk](mailto:kay.shuard@naturalengland.org.uk)).

**Response to General and Class Licence Consultation – February 2014**

Your contact details

Name:

Organisation:

Telephone:

E-mail:

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| *Question 0(a): How often do you read the General or Class licence(s) that you use?*  Response:  *Question 0(b): How do you find out if any changes are made to a licence that affect whether you can use it?*  Response:  *Question 0(c): Do you find it easy to understand the General / Class Licence(s) you use?*  Response:  *Question 0(d): Do you have any suggestions for how these licences could be made easier to understand?*  Response: |
| 1. **General Licences for the purposes of preventing serious agricultural damage or disease, and conserving flora and fauna**   *Question 1(a): Are you aware of any reasons why the change outlined in Proposal 1(a) should not be made?*  Response:  Assessment of Regulatory Impact:  *Question 1(b): Are you aware of any reasons why the change outlined in Proposal 1(b) should not be made?*  Response:  Assessment of Regulatory Impact:  *Question 1(c): What is your view on the continued inclusion of the following species on General Licence WML-GL04 (preventing serious agricultural damage or disease):*   * *Collared dove (Streptopelia decaocto)* * *Jackdaw (Corvus monedula)* * *Jay (Garrulus glandarius)*   *Please provide reasons and any available evidence to support of your view.*  Response:  Assessment of Regulatory Impact:  *Question 1(d): What is your view on the continued inclusion of the following species on General Licence WML-GL06 (conserving flora and fauna):*   * *Jackdaw (Corvus monedula)* * *Jay (Garrulus glandarius)*   *Please provide reasons and any available evidence to support of your view.*  Response:  Assessment of Regulatory Impact: |
| 1. **General Licence for the purpose of preserving public health and safety**   *Question 2(a): Are you aware of any reasons why the change outlined in Proposal 2(a) should not be made?*  Response:  Assessment of Regulatory Impact:  *Question 2(b): What is your view on pied wagtail, robin and/or starling being added to paragraph 2(ii) of General Licence WML-GL05 permitting taking, damaging and destroying of nests, and taking and destroying of eggs, for the purpose of preserving public health and safety?*  Response:  Assessment of Regulatory Impact: |
| 1. **Large gulls**   *Question 3(a): What is your view on removing lesser black-backed gulls from the* ***conservation*** *General Licence (WML-GL06) and introducing a Class Licence to permit control of herring gulls and lesser black-backed gulls for the purpose of conserving flora and fauna?*  Response:  Assessment of Regulatory Impact:  *Question 3(b): What is your view on removing lesser black-backed gulls from the* ***public health and safety*** *General Licence (WML-GL05) and introducing a Class Licence to permit control of herring gulls and lesser black-backed gulls for the purpose of preserving public health and safety?*  Response:  Assessment of Regulatory Impact:  *Question 3(c): What is your view on the removal of lesser black-backed gulls from the General Licence for the purpose of* ***preventing serious agricultural damage and disease*** *(WML-GL04)? If you consider there is a need for this species to remain on this General Licence, please provide evidence of this need.*  Response:  Assessment of Regulatory Impact: |
| 1. **Crow species**   *Question 4(a): Are you aware of any reasons why the change outlined in Proposal 4(a) should not be made?*  Response:  Assessment of Regulatory Impact: |
| 1. **Air safety Class Licence**   *Question 5(a): Are you aware of any reasons why the change outlined in Proposal 5(a) should not be made?*  Response:    Assessment of Regulatory Impact:  *Question 5(b): Are you aware of any reasons why the change outlined in Proposal 5(b) should not be made?*  Response:  Assessment of Regulatory Impact:  *Question 5(c): Are you aware of any reasons why the change outlined in Proposal 5(c) should not be made?*  Response:  Assessment of Regulatory Impact: |
| 1. **Food premises Class Licence**   *Question 6(a): Are you aware of any reasons why the change outlined in Proposal 6(a) should not be made?*  Response:  Assessment of Regulatory Impact: |
| 1. **Trapping Code of Practice**   *Question 7(a): What is your view on the use of a Code of Practice to replace some licence conditions and showing best practice?*  Response:  Assessment of Regulatory Impact:  *Question 7(b): What are your views on the draft Code of Practice at Annex F?*  Response:  Assessment of Regulatory Impact: |
| 1. **Keeping trapped birds as decoys**   *Question 8(a): In your view, should there be a maximum time for which decoy birds can be continuously kept within a trap? If yes, what time limit would you consider to be appropriate, and how soon could the bird be returned to a trap?*  Response:  Assessment of Regulatory Impact:  *Question 8(b): In your view, should there be a maximum time period for which birds can be retained as decoys? If yes, what should this time period be?*  Response:  Assessment of Regulatory Impact:  *Question 8(c): In your view, should the options for birds caught under General or Class Licence be restricted to dispatch, release or keeping as a decoy?*  Response:  Assessment of Regulatory Impact: |
| 1. **Referenced tagging system for traps**   *Question 9(a): In your view, is there merit in the use of a referenced tagging system for traps set under General or Class Licence? If yes, how do you suggest that such a system would be organised? What do you consider the costs and benefits to be?*  Response:  Assessment of Regulatory Impact: |
| 1. **Use of Larsen-Mate Traps (‘Clam’ or ‘Butterfly Traps)**     *Question 10(a): In your view, should Larsen-Mate traps be specifically permitted for use under relevant General and Class Licences? If yes, what restrictions would be appropriate regarding use of this type of trap? If possible, please estimate what cost (in time and/or financial) these restrictions would have.*  Response:  Assessment of Regulatory Impact:  *Question 10(b): If the use of Larsen-Mate traps were not permitted under General and Class Licences, do you consider that there are situations where their use could be justified under individual licence? Please give details of these situations.*  Response:  Assessment of Regulatory Impact: |
| 1. **Humane dispatch**   *Question 11(a): Are you aware of any reasons why the change outlined in Proposal 11(a) should not be made?*  Response:  Assessment of Regulatory Impact: |
| 1. **Live bird sales**   *Question 12(a): Are you aware of any reasons why the change outlined in Proposal 12(a) should not be made?*  Response:  Assessment of Regulatory Impact:  *Question 12(b): Are you aware of any reasons why the change outlined in Proposal 12(b) should not be made?*  Response:  Assessment of Regulatory Impact:  *Question 12(c): Are you aware of any other commonly kept and sold species of waterfowl that should be added to Appendix 2 of General Licence WML-GL18?*  Response:  Assessment of Regulatory Impact: |
| 1. **Dead bird sales – defining ‘small numbers’**   *Question13(a): Are you aware of any reasons why the change outlined in Proposal 13(a) should not be made?*  Response:  Assessment of Regulatory Impact: |
| 1. **Species exempt from sale of dead birds General Licence**   *Question 14(a): Are you aware of any reasons why the change outlined in Proposal 14(a) should not be made?*  Response:  Assessment of Regulatory Impact: |
| 1. **Sale of dead mute swans**   *Question 15(a): Are you aware of any reasons why the change outlined in Proposal 15(a) should not be made?*  Response:  Assessment of Regulatory Impact: |
| 1. **Sale of black-headed gull eggs (taken under separate individual licence)**   *Question 16(a): Are you aware of any reasons why the change outlined in Proposal 16(a) should not be made?*  Response:  Assessment of Regulatory Impact: |
| 1. **Bird exhibition**   *Question 17(a): Are you aware of any reason to treat the species listed on Annex 1 (rare visitors) differently?*  Response:  Assessment of Regulatory Impact:  *Question 17(b): Are you aware of any reasons why any of the changes outlined in the above Proposals (17(a) – 17(c)) should not be made?*  Response:  Assessment of Regulatory Impact: |
| 1. **Keeping of birds in show cages for training purposes**   *Question18(a): In your view, which of the following licence conditions would provide the most appropriate restriction on the length of time a bird can be confined under General Licence WML-GL16?*   1. *No bird shall be kept or confined in such a cage for longer than one hour in any period of twenty four hours.* 2. *No bird shall be kept or confined in such a cage for longer than three hours in any period of twenty four hours.* 3. *No bird shall be kept or confined in such a cage for longer than six hours in any period of twenty four hours.*   Response:  Assessment of Regulatory Impact: |
| 1. **Sale of amphibians**   *Question 19(a): Are you aware of any reasons why the change outlined in Proposal 19(a) should not be made? If you use this licence, please indicate the approximate number of specimens sold under this licence each year, and the likely time and financial cost resulting from revoking this licence.*  Response:  Assessment of Regulatory Impact: |
| 1. **Taxidermy**   *Question 20(a): Are you aware of any reasons why the change outlined in Proposal 20(a) should not be made?*  Response:  Assessment of Regulatory Impact:  *Question 20(b): Are you aware of any reasons why the change outlined in Proposal 20(b) should not be made?*  Response:  Assessment of Regulatory Impact:  *Question 20(c): In your view what other activities, relevant to taxidermy and already covered under other General and Class Licences, should be included under this Class Licence?*  Response:  Assessment of Regulatory Impact:  *Question 20(d): In your view, should the Class Licence be restricted to members of the Guild of Taxidermists, or should it be available to anyone with a professional involvement in taxidermy?*  Response:  Assessment of Regulatory Impact: |
| 1. **Rearing and keeping of Schedule 4 birds**   *Question 21(a): Are you aware of any reasons why the change outlined in Proposal 21(a) should not be made?*  Response:  Assessment of Regulatory Impact:  *Question 21(b): Are you aware of any reasons why the change outlined in Proposal 21(b) should not be made?*  Response:  Assessment of Regulatory Impact:  *Question 21(c): Are you aware of any reasons why the change outlined in Proposal 21(c) should not be made?*  Response:  Assessment of Regulatory Impact:  *Question 21(d): What is your view on extending the period that chicks of* ***golden eagle*** *(Aquila chrysaetos) and* ***white-tailed eagl*e** (*Haliaeetus albicilla*) *can be kept under WML-GL11 before registration from 15 days after hatching to 30 days after hatching? Do you agree that this period should remain at 15 days after hatching for all other Schedule 4 species?*  Response:  Assessment of Regulatory Impact: |
| 1. **Investigation of offences – keeping Schedule 4 birds**   *Question 22(a): In your view, is there any reason to retain General Licence WML-GL09? If so, for what purpose?*  Response:  Assessment of Regulatory Impact: |
| 1. **Investigation of offences – possession of tissue samples**   *Question 23(a): Are you aware of any reasons why the change outlined in Proposal 23(a) should not be made?*  Response:  Assessment of Regulatory Impact: |
| 1. **Disposal of carcasses of cetaceans washed up on beaches**   *Question 24(a): In your view, would a General Licence permitting the disposal of cetacean carcasses be useful? If so, please give any indication you can of how often such a licence is likely to be used.*  Response:  Assessment of Regulatory Impact: |
| 1. **Pond dipping**   *Question 25(a): Are you aware of any reasons why the change outlined in Proposal 25(a) should not be made?*  Response:  Assessment of Regulatory Impact: |
| 1. **Introduction of a ‘Read and understand’ licence condition**   *Question 26(a): Are you aware of any reasons why the change outlined in Proposal 26(a) should not be made?*  Response:  Assessment of Regulatory Impact: |
| 1. **Breaching licence conditions**   *Question 27(a): Are you aware of any reasons why the change outlined in Proposal 27(a) should not be made?*  Response:  Assessment of Regulatory Impact: |
| 1. **Sanction for breaches of General Licences**   *Question 28(a): Are you aware of any reasons why the change outlined in Proposal 28(a) should not be made?*  Response:  Assessment of Regulatory Impact:  *Question 28(b): Are you aware of any reasons why the change outlined in Proposal 28(b) should not be made?*  Response:    Assessment of Regulatory Impact: |
| 1. **Monitoring and reporting**   *Question 29(a): Do you support our aspiration to collect more information on the level of wild bird control carried out under General Licences? Please indicate the reason(s) for your answer.*  Response:  Assessment of Regulatory Impact:  *Question 29(b): If your answer to 29(a) is ‘yes’, do you favour a voluntary or a mandatory system for gathering this information? Please indicate the reason(s) for your answer.*  Response:  Assessment of Regulatory Impact:  *Question 29(c): Do you support the idea of carrying out a trial of a voluntary reporting?*  Response:  Assessment of Regulatory Impact:  *Question 29(d): Do you have any information or views on the additional effort that it would take for licence users to collect information on their use of General Licences?*  Response:  Assessment of Regulatory Impact:  *Question 29(e): Even if we do not proceed with plans to gather information on General Licence use, do you think that there is a special case for collecting this information in respect to action taken on designated sites (i.e. SSSI, SPA, SAC)?*  Response:  Assessment of Regulatory Impact: |
| 1. **Action taken on European designated sites (SPAs and SACs)**   *Question 30(a): Are you aware of any reasons why the change outlined in Proposal 30(a) should not be made?*  Response:  Assessment of Regulatory Impact:  *Question 30(b): Are you aware of any reasons why the change outlined in Proposal 30(b) should not be made?*  Response:  Assessment of Regulatory Impact:  *Question 30(c): Are you aware of any reasons why the change outlined in Proposal 30(c) should not be made?*  Response:  Assessment of Regulatory Impact: |
| 1. **No Satisfactory Alternative**   *Question 31(a): Are you aware of any reasons why the change outlined in Proposal 31(a) should not be made?*  Response:  Assessment of Regulatory Impact: |
| 1. **Removal of abandoned eggs from nest boxes**   *Question 32(a): Are you aware of any reasons why the change outlined in Proposal 32(a) should not be made?*  Response:  Assessment of Regulatory Impact: |
| 1. **Temporary moving of eggs and chicks within nests for recording purposes**   *Question 33(a): In your view, is there a need to permit the movement of eggs and chicks within a nest to facilitate accurate data collection under the Nest Recording Scheme?*  Response:  Assessment of Regulatory Impact: |
| 1. **Falconry**   *Question 34(a): Are you aware of any reasons why the change outlined in Proposal 34(a) should not be made?*  Response:  Assessment of Regulatory Impact: |
| 1. **Disturbance of Schedule 1 birds for pre-development surveys**   *Question 35(a): Are you aware of any reasons why the change outlined in Proposal 35(a) should not be made?*  Response:  Assessment of Regulatory Impact:  *Question 35(b): What are your views on the likely demand for such a licence?*  Response:  Assessment of Regulatory Impact: |

Thank you for your response.

All consultation responses will be considered in reaching our final decision on the proposals.

The adoption of any of the proposals detailed in this consultation will be communicated in a suitable period of time prior to changes being implemented.