

FOI Response Document

**FOI18583**

Thank you for your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 about **Gull Control** received on **01/11/2022**.

**Request**

**I am submitting a freedom of information request regarding your gull control across your council area for the last 5 years (2017-2021). I define gull control as the following:**

* **Removal of nests**
* **Removal of eggs**
* **Culling/removal of chicks**
* **Culling/removal of adult birds**

**Also please state the above actions for each gull species you carry out control for, the gull species required are as below:**

* **Herring Gulls**
* **Lesser Black Backed Gulls**
* **Greater Black Backed Gulls**
* **Common Gulls**
* **Black Headed Gulls**
1. **Does the local authority carry out gull control (if no please only answer questions 1 & 2)?**

**Response**: Previously yes, now this service works on a low-key ad hoc basis to help specific schools where risk to children is present.

1. **How many complaints does the local authority receive regarding gulls each year?**

**Response**: Cardiff Council can confirm that the Pest Control section receives approximately 60-70 complaints via phone or online enquiry about noise, nuisance, swooping, aggression.

Please note that further information may be held by the Shared Regulation Service (SRS) under environmental issues. Further information on SRS is available here:

<http://www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/en/our_council/freedom_of_information/Requests_%20for_Information.aspx>

1. **How many licenses does the local authority apply for each year?**

**Response**: Cardiff Council can confirm that it applied for one license last year, but this was not used. The previous year a licence was obtained for one school and egg replacement undertaken.

Prior to covid and when general licence was in existence to remove nests/eggs several premises were assisted. However, this hasn’t been done since, as specific licences are needed or due to covid restraints on staff.

1. **Does the local authority deploy non-lethal deterrents to deter gulls from nesting?**

**Response**: Cardiff Council can confirm that advice is given to complainants enquiring about gull control on how to deter them.

If the local authority carries out gull control please answer the following for each species, again all this information should be submitted in license returns that the local authority submits and therefore should be easily accessible:

1. **For each above listed gull species how many nests have you removed over the last 5 years? Please state the total for each year.**

**Response**: None

1. **For each above listed gull species how many eggs have you removed over the last 5 years? Please state the total for each year.**

**Response**: Please see the below table

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Year** | **Amount** | **Type of Eggs** |
| **2022** | 0 | N/A |
| **2021** | 8 | The 8 eggs referred to in 2021 were all Lesser Blacked Gull.  |
| **2017-2019** | Egg removal was undertaken under a General License at the time as such no specific data is held.  | The egg removal under general license 2017-2019 were a combination of lesser black backed gulls and herring gulls |

1. **For each above listed gull species how many chicks have you culled/removed over the last 5 years? Please state the total for each year.**

**Response**: None

1. **For each above listed gull species how many adult birds have you removed over the last 5 years? Please state the total for each year.**

**Response**: None

If you have any queries or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us. Please remember to quote the reference number above in any future communications.