

General Licences



GL 05/2019: To take red grouse using certain methods in order to administer medication or collect samples

General Licences allow authorised people to carry out activities that would otherwise be illegal under the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 (as amended). They cover situations where we accept that there may be no other satisfactory solution. However, they should only be used as a last resort. Operators must be able to explain what other alternatives they have tried if challenged.

Terms and conditions

If you operate under General Licence 05/2019 you must meet the following terms and conditions otherwise your actions may be illegal which could lead to prosecution.

<p>What can this General Licence be used for?</p>	<p>Authorised people (operators) can temporarily take red grouse (<i>Lagopus lagopus</i>) for the purpose of disease control using;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • nets or lamps (any form of artificial lighting, mirror or other dazzling device) to allow the administration of medication, or • to collect samples for disease analysis.
<p>Who is authorised to use this General Licence?</p>	<p>An operator may be the owner or occupier of the land on which the action will be carried out, or any person authorised by the owner or occupier of that land.</p>
<p>When and where is this General Licence valid?</p>	<p>Across Scotland from 1 January to 31 December 2019 unless previously revoked, or a restriction applies.</p> <p>Red grouse must not be taken under this General Licence between 16 April and 31 July.</p>
<p>What restrictions apply to the use of this General Licence?</p>	<p>Those convicted of a wildlife crime on or after 1 January 2014 unless, in respect of that offence, they were either dismissed with an admonition, they are a rehabilitated person (for the purposes of the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974 and that conviction is spent), or a court discharged them absolutely.</p> <p>Any person not able to use the General Licence can still apply to SNH for an individual licence.</p>
<p>What methods of taking are permitted under this General Licence?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • By hand • By a hand-held net which must have a minimum opening diameter of 30cm • Any form of artificial lighting, mirror or other dazzling device

What treatment requirements are there when using this General Licence?	Treatment of individual birds must be by a method and medication prescribed by a veterinary surgeon.
How should red grouse be held to enable collection of faecal samples?	Red grouse caught under the terms of this General Licence may be held in ventilated individual containers of not less than 30cm depth by 30cm width by 30cm height in order to collect samples of faeces for disease assay.
How long can red grouse be kept for under this General Licence?	Birds must be released within 12 hours of being taken.

Definition

For the purposes of this General Licence;

“wildlife crime” means any offence under the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981, the Conservation (Natural Habitats &c.) Regulations 1994, the Protection of Badgers Act 1992, the Protection of Wild Mammals (Scotland) Act 2002, the Animal Health & Welfare (Scotland) Act 2006, the Protection of Animals (Scotland) Act 1912 and the Wild Mammals (Protection) Act 1996 (all as amended).



Robbie Kernahan
Head of Wildlife Management
for and on behalf of Scottish Natural Heritage
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Scottish Natural Heritage
Licensing Team
Great Glen House
Leachkin Road
Inverness
IV3 8NW