

General Licences



GL 07/2019: To keep disabled, wild-bred Schedule 4 birds for veterinary treatment

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 07/2019 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>Qualified vets are authorised to keep any disabled wild-bred bird listed on Schedule 4 to the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 (as amended), namely:</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>Honey buzzard</td> <td><i>Pernis apivorus</i></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Golden eagle</td> <td><i>Aquila chrysaetos</i></td> </tr> <tr> <td>White-tailed eagle</td> <td><i>Haliaeetus albicilla</i></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Peregrine falcon</td> <td><i>Falco peregrinus</i></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Goshawk</td> <td><i>Accipiter gentilis</i></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Marsh harrier</td> <td><i>Circus aeruginosus</i></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Montagu Harrier</td> <td><i>Circus pygargus</i></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Merlin</td> <td><i>Falco columbarius</i></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Osprey</td> <td><i>Pandion haliaetus</i></td> </tr> </table> <p>for up to six weeks without registration in order to give the bird professional treatment with a view to releasing it when it is no longer disabled.</p>	Honey buzzard	<i>Pernis apivorus</i>	Golden eagle	<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>	White-tailed eagle	<i>Haliaeetus albicilla</i>	Peregrine falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>	Goshawk	<i>Accipiter gentilis</i>	Marsh harrier	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>	Montagu Harrier	<i>Circus pygargus</i>	Merlin	<i>Falco columbarius</i>	Osprey	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>
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<p>What other information must qualified vets know before considering use of this General Licence?</p>	<p>Qualified vets must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • understand this General Licence and comply with its terms and conditions • only use it for the conservation of wild birds • only use it where they are satisfied that there is no other satisfactory solution 																		
<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>What restrictions</p>	<p>Those convicted of a wildlife crime on or after 1 January 2014</p>																		

Scottish Natural Heritage General Licence No. 07/2019

apply to the use of this General Licence?	<p>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>
What general conditions apply to this General Licence?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A qualified vet using this General Licence must keep a record of each bird they keep for a minimum of one year. 2. If a qualified vet suspects that a bird has been incapacitated through illegal activity, this suspicion must be reported to the police.

Notes	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Qualified vets holding any disabled, wild-bred bird longer than six weeks must be registered with the Animal and Plant Health Agency and hold a licence to keep the bird un-rung during rehabilitation. 2. The bird record referred to above should detail: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The name and address of the person from whom the bird was received (if applicable) • The species of bird and the date on which it was taken into possession or control for rehabilitation • The injuries sustained by the bird at the time it is taken into possession or control, the cause of those injuries (if known) and treatment carried out 3. General Licence 06/2019 permits certain other persons to keep any disabled wild-bred bird listed on this General Licence for up to 15 days without registration.
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Definitions

For the purposes of this General Licence;

"wild bird" means any bird of a species which is ordinarily resident in or is a visitor to any member State or the European territory of any member State in a wild state but does not include poultry. "Bird" includes all stages from chick to adult.

"a wild-bred listed on Schedule 4 bird" means a wild bird included in Schedule 4 to the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) other than a bird treated as bred in captivity within the meaning of Section 27(2) of the Act.

"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).



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for and on behalf of Scottish Natural Heritage
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