

Seagulls

INFORMATION LEAFLET

Comhairle Contae
Fhine Gall
Fingal County
Council



LEGAL STATUS OF GULLS

It is illegal to intentionally injure or kill a gull or take, damage or destroy an active nest. All gulls and their active nests are protected in law by National and European Wildlife Legislation/Directives.

The most common gull in urban areas is the Herring Gull whose conservation status is amber listed in Ireland due to a decline in breeding numbers.

Seagulls can be attracted to urban areas by the availability of discarded food. They are natural scavengers and will stay close to areas where they can find food, sometimes causing a nuisance.



The Role of Fingal County Council:



The Council has no responsibility or statutory obligation to control gulls and cannot offer any practical assistance regarding gull deterrents.

GULLS NESTING ON ROOFS

Gulls nesting on roofs can cause problems including noise, mess, fouling, and damage to buildings.

Gulls usually return to the same territory each breeding season and a bonded pair will stay together for life.

If you wish to deter gulls from nesting on your roof, there are deterrent measures available from specialist contractors such as spikes, wire and netting systems.



People should take advice from a specialist company before undertaking any deterrent measures on their property.

It is strongly recommended that any works are carried out by an experienced competent contractor who has the right equipment, training and insurance for this work.

You can help to discourage seagulls from being a nuisance

RESIDENTS:

- Think of your neighbours - don't attract gulls to your garden by feeding them. Their natural diet is based on shellfish and other small sea creatures, bird's eggs, insects and earthworms.
- When fed regularly, gulls may develop a habit of harassing and stealing food from people who are eating outdoors.
- Do not discard food waste or scraps in public areas – this is an offence under the Litter Pollution Act 1997. Use your Brown Bin.
- If you are using the beach, parks, playgrounds or other amenities, please ensure that you dispose of your waste in a bin or take it home if bins are full.

BUSINESSES/SCHOOLS:

- **Businesses:** When leaving out bins please ensure that they are not overloaded, are properly closed and there is no food waste left around the bins.
 - All waste food should be disposed of in your brown bin.
 - Please do not leave any plastic bags out with binned waste. Gulls will rip bags apart in search of food.
 - If you have a food retail business, ensure adequate litter bins are available and are emptied regularly.
 - Ensure that outdoor seating areas are cleaned regularly
- **Schools:** If you are having a problem with gulls at break times, consider having the students eat their food indoors before they go out on yard to play.

