

## **Natural England has revoked 3 General Licences for pest control.**

Natural England has announced that as of 25 April it has revoked General Licences 04, 05 and 06 – renewed annually on 1 January – following a legal challenge by Wild Justice, a non-profit organisation. General licences were introduced in the 1990s to allow the legal control of bird species of low conservation concern to protect public health and safety, prevent serious damage and disease, and protect plants and wildlife.

The new licences will allow the killing or taking of 16 wild bird species, including several members of the crow family, Canada Goose, some gulls and pigeons.

Anyone needing to control one of these 16 bird species where there is no reasonable non-lethal alternative will need to apply for an individual licence. The online applications site is linked below.

This is not just about shooting; it includes trapping as well. If any member is actively controlling the listed species, our advice is to apply for a licence as soon as practicable. The potential penalties for acting outside the law are considerable.

**Read more and apply for licences from Natural England here:**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/wild-birds-licence-to-control-certain-species>