



Subject:	Response received from the Northern Ireland Environment Agency re Bird Strike Management at Victoria Park.
Date:	7th February, 2023
Reporting Officer:	Sara Steele, Democratic Services Officer
Contact Officer:	Sara Steele, Democratic Services Officer

Restricted Reports	
Is this report restricted?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?	
After Committee Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
After Council Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
Some time in the future	<input type="checkbox"/>
Never	<input type="checkbox"/>

Call-in	
Is the decision eligible for Call-in?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>

1.0	Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues
1.1	To note the correspondence received from the Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA).
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	The Committee is asked to note the correspondence as set out in the report.

3.0	Main report
<p>3.1</p> <p>3.2</p> <p>3.3</p> <p>3.4</p> <p>3.5</p> <p>3.6</p> <p>3.7</p>	<p><u>Key Issues</u></p> <p>The Committee will recall that, at its meeting on 6th December, 2022, it agreed to write to the NIEA regarding the need for rookery management within Victoria Park and the proposed works.</p> <p>Whilst the Members understood that the control of birds in the flight path to the airport was a requirement of the airport’s Civil Aviation Authority licence, it agreed to write to the NIEA seeking it to ensure that the works were undertaken as sensitively as possible to ensure that the habitats and consequently the populations of both Canadian geese and mute swans were not detrimentally affected.</p> <p>In his response the Senior Wildlife Inspector, Mr. Declan Looney, advises that he is aware of the implications for air safety from birds residing in the Park and that he has been in contact with both airport officials and those acting on their behalf to consider options on how best to reduce the risk.</p> <p>He goes on to note that his Team are responsible for issuing licences that permit the oiling of both Canadian and Greylag geese eggs and the removal of their nests within the Park. He stated that he has not received any reports, nor is he aware of any negative impact this has had on resident Mute Swans.</p> <p>The correspondence notes that the removal of rook nests outside the nesting season is not an offence and therefore does not require a licence. Mr Looney reiterates that he is not aware of any evidence that this activity had detrimentally affected the Swans.</p> <p><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u></p> <p>None associated with this report.</p> <p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u></p> <p>None associated with this report.</p>
4.0	Appendices – Documents Attached
	Appendix 1 – E-mail response from NIEA.