



# Help us make Dumfries and Galloway **GULL PROOF**

**Gulls are attracted to urban areas by the ease of access to waste food, the lack of natural predators and the safe nesting sites towns provide.**

They are natural scavengers, staying close to areas where food and nesting materials can be readily found. Gulls mate for life, and usually return to nests and breed in the area in which they were raised. Adult birds can live for 30 years.



Urban gulls can lay up to 3 eggs per clutch. If the nest and or eggs are disturbed or removed, they can re-lay another clutch.

Gulls are noisiest and can be most aggressive during July and August while protecting and feeding their young. This is natural behaviour.

Accumulations of gull droppings are unsightly and they are rich in nitric acid which can erode sandstone, metals and timber.

# What can you do to help discourage gulls from being a nuisance?



## Residents

- Do not feed gulls in your garden. Their natural diet is based on shellfish and other small sea creatures, birds' eggs, insects, and earthworms. Human food is not best for gulls.
- If gulls are fed regularly by humans, they may develop a habit of harassing and stealing food from people (including children).
- Do not discard litter or food scraps in public areas or outside food outlets. This is an offence liable to an on the spot fine of £80.
- When using beaches, parks, playgrounds and other areas, put your rubbish in a bin or take it home. This discourages gulls foraging and making our region a nicer place to live in.
- If you are provided with council sacks for your rubbish instead of a bin, you can request vermin proof sacks to be delivered. Your coloured annual sacks should then be placed in your vermin proof sack for collection.

## Businesses and Other Non-Residential Properties

- All businesses should have a commercial waste agreement in place for collection and disposal of their rubbish. This can be with the Council or a private contractor.
- All business waste should be contained within your waste bin with the lid fully closed. No excess rubbish should be left next to your your bin.
- The Council may be able to offer your business a food waste collection service. Please contact the commercial waste team.
- If you use trade sacks for your business waste, these should not be put out until your scheduled day of collection.
- The Council is able to provide vermin proof sacks free of charge to customers who purchase blue trade sacks.
- If you you have a commercial waste contract with the Council, but don't have a vermin proof sack please email [CommercialWaste@dumgal.gov.uk](mailto:CommercialWaste@dumgal.gov.uk).
- Your business should ensure your waste bins are big enough and are emptied regularly so extra waste isn't left outside of your normal bin.
- Ensure outdoor bin storage and eating areas are regularly cleaned and food scraps are not available for scavenging birds nor vermin.

**Dumfries and Galloway Council** are working with Community Councils and elected members to find solutions to reduce and prevent the nuisance caused by gulls. More signage will be erected discouraging feeding of gulls.



### **Broken glass and sharp objects**

To avoid injury to waste collection staff please ensure all sharp objects are well wrapped and not sticking out from plastic refuse sacks. These sacks are collected by staff who need to carry them to refuse collection vehicles. Please place items securely in a refuse sack and tie it tightly at the top. No loose items and/or small carrier bags will be uplifted.

**Gulls nesting on roofs** can cause many problems including noise disturbance, accumulations of droppings, fouling of roofs, damage to buildings and the blocking of gutters and down pipes.



**Health Effects** - gulls can carry diseases such as salmonella, tuberculosis and E-Coli. The birds and their nests may also be home to ticks, fleas and mites.

### **Property owners/landlords**

within Dumfries and Galloway are encouraged to install gull deterrent measures, including nest and egg removal, suitable to their building. Specialist contractors can assist with preventing gulls from roosting and breeding on your building or roof by installing spikes, wire, and netting systems.

**Safety First** - we recommend that property owners take advice from a specialist pest control company before undertaking any deterrent measure on their property including nest and/ or egg removal.

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

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To request free of charge gull proof sacks please email [gulls@dumgal.gov.uk](mailto:gulls@dumgal.gov.uk)

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New bin - Fault Reporting  
[www.dumgal.gov.uk](http://www.dumgal.gov.uk)

or call the Council on 030 33 33 3000.

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Further general information on gulls, their behaviours, habitat and protection status can be obtained at:  
[www.rspb.org.uk](http://www.rspb.org.uk)  
[www.nature.scot](http://www.nature.scot)

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Information regarding Dumfries and Galloway Council's gull control programme may be obtained by contacting Dumfries and Galloway Council at [gulls@dumgal.gov.uk](mailto:gulls@dumgal.gov.uk)

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British Sign Language (BSL) users can make contact using [www.dumgal.gov.uk/article/15379/Contact-us](http://www.dumgal.gov.uk/article/15379/Contact-us)

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## Legal Status Of Gulls

Under the **Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981**, it is illegal to capture, injure or destroy any wild bird, or interfere with its nest or eggs. Penalties can be severe. The law does however provide property owners with a licencing system allowing them to gain permission to act against gulls nesting on their buildings by destroying nests or eggs. The licencing system can **ONLY** be used for the purposes of preserving public health, public safety or for preventing the spread of disease and is specifically for the control of Herring, Great Black Backed and Lesser Black Backed gulls. If action is taken for any other reason, or if other species of gull are targeted, then an offence is committed. You can contact NatureScot on [licensing@nature.scot](mailto:licensing@nature.scot) or 01463 725364 for further information on applying for a licence to control gulls. To apply for a gull licence or for information on how to identify gull species go to [www.nature.scot](http://www.nature.scot)