



PAW Northern Ireland Terms of Reference

Aim: The Group aims to aid the better compliance with wildlife and habitats legislation in Northern Ireland as part of the Partnership for Action Against Wildlife Crime.

Objectives:

1. To raise awareness of wildlife crime and legislation with the public, through appropriate publicity and other initiatives
2. To raise awareness of wildlife crime issues with relevant agencies and the judiciary, through training, development and provision of practical advice and other initiatives
3. To establish a Northern Ireland network of contact points to provide advice, information and expertise in order to encourage and ensure compliance with wildlife and habitats legislation
4. To contribute to the collection of wildlife crime information for submission to a Northern Ireland wildlife crime database and the National Wildlife Crime Intelligence Unit in compliance with relevant data protection legislation
5. To lobby for amendments to existing legislation with the specific aim of improving enforcement.
6. To liaise with relevant organisations in Ireland including the National Parks and Wildlife Service, the Garda and the Irish Raptor Study Group

Group composition

The Group will consist of representatives of PAW Partner organisations from both statutory and non-statutory bodies, and any relevant NI organisations. The Chair reserves the right to refuse entrance of any organisation which may be seen as being restrictive on the activities of the Group, or a security risk. The size of the Group should remain workable and practical. The addition of new members to the Group must be agreed by all current members, if there is disagreement then it may be necessary to vote, a two thirds majority is required as a minimum.

Representatives will be expected to cascade information from the Group and actively seek the views of their organisation on issues raised. They will also bring identified issues to the group for discussion and any ideas or proposals that could enhance the enforcement effort.

Logistics and communication

The Group will meet at least three times each year, to dovetail with PAW Steering Group meetings which occur in January, May and September.

The Group will elect a Chair and Secretary (minutes). Meeting venues, times and dates will be agreed on an annual basis. Agenda items will be submitted prior to meetings or be presented on the day. Meetings will follow an agenda with issues raised numerically. Minutes will be circulated as soon as possible after meetings and the Group will submit a report to each of the PAW Steering Group meetings. Communication will be by email.

Confidentiality

Some discussions and correspondence which may be undertaken in the course of the Group's work (both formal and informal), may be confidential in nature as they may relate to on-going law enforcement activities, information of a commercially valuable nature, sensitive for government purposes etc. Group members must respect the confidence of such information. All information divulged and documented remains confidential until otherwise stated. Information acquired is for the purposes of the Group only and should not be divulged elsewhere without prior consent and agreement of the Group. The use of information acquired for commercial purposes is prohibited. Any information divulged on the works of any organisation participating in the Group are confidential and for the Group's use only. Use of such information for gain of any kind, be it commercial competition or otherwise is completely prohibited. All parties enter into the work of the Group in good faith and free of charge.