

Release of a new version of 'How to get a licence' for EPS Mitigation licensing

Since the first version of our guidance was launched in March 2009, we have monitored both the direct customer feedback and the range of questions commonly encountered by our staff, and we now launch an updated version. To save existing customers searching for the changes, here is a short summary of the new/changed sections.

Section	Subject
9.1	Land ownership – <i>text emphasising the need for clarity in the application on who owns the land in question, and, where it is not owned by the developer, to provide signed landowner approval.</i>
9.2	Commitments and Undertakings. <i>Emphasising that applicants should not make a commitment to use land over which they have no agreement for right of access, e.g., the creation of receptor sites to receive translocated animals.</i>
10.2.1 and Annex D	Emergency Operations and Protected Species. <i>Improved prominence of this advice by re-titling and transferring to a standalone annexe; addition of text.</i>
11.2.5	Site Investigations? <i>Clarifying the need to submit a new licence application for the development or project following the initial licensed site investigation work.</i>
14	Submission of 'Dual' Method Statements. <i>Clarification advising applicants not to submit slightly different versions of the same method statement in the hope of avoiding a minded to refuse response.</i> Surveys and no access to land/ponds. <i>Addition of a note indicating what is needed in an application where surveys are incomplete due to restrictions on access to habitat.</i>
15 and Annex C	Reasoned Statement. How to Present Statements and Evidence. <i>Fictitious examples are given in Annex C.</i>
16.1.2	Revised e-mail submission requirements. <i>(Following the receipt of several very large applications by email, we have introduced a 5MB limit for applications submitted using this mode)</i>
17.3	Prioritising Health and Safety cases. <i>Minor revision of text, clarifying that such cases are processed as soon as possible.</i>
19.1	Roles and Responsibilities. <i>To provide clarity for all those involved in licensed activities, whether as licensee, consultant ecologist or on-site staff.</i>
21.1	Changes in Circumstances on Site. <i>Guidance to Licensees on Decision Making to help avoid breaches of licence conditions.</i>
26	Revision and Updates to Guidance.
27	Office Hours for Telephone Calls and new e-mail address.

For future updates, we are planning a 6-monthly rolling programme of improvements. We are happy to receive comments; please submit them via our shared mailbox wildlifeprojectmanagement@naturalengland.org.uk.