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To: Sara Steele <SteeleSara@BelfastCity.gov.uk>

Subject: [EXTERNAL]RE: Council Correspondence

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Dear Ms Steele,

Thank you for your correspondence regarding Victoria Park.

I am aware of the implications for air safety from birds residing in the Park and have been in contact with both airport officials and those acting on their behalf to consider options on how best to reduce the risk. My team issue licences which permit the oiling of both Canadian and Greylag geese eggs and the removal of their nests within the Park. I have not received any reports, nor am I aware of any negative impact this has had on resident Mute Swans.

The removal of rook nests outside the nesting season is not an offence and therefore does not require a licence. Again, I am not aware of any evidence that this activity has detrimentally affected the Swans.

Regards

Dr Declan Looney
Senior Wildlife Inspector
Northern Ireland Environment Agency