

## 37436 Seagull Incidents and Costs

I am writing to request information relating to seagulls /gulls in your local area, please can you supply:

How many complaints involving seagulls/gulls did the council receive in 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021 and 2022\*?

No complaints were received by Environmental Protection involving seagulls/gulls during the specified period.

Our Pest Control services received the following complaints:

2016 – 29

2017 – 14

2018 – 31

2019 – 9

2020 – 3

2021 – 17

2022 – 12

In addition to the above, there may be further complaints involving seagulls/gulls recorded by Street Enforcement (and formerly Environmental Wardens). Such complaints are recorded under a generic 'Animals and Birds' category code on their central database. In order to locate, retrieve and provide the specific number of complaints relating to seagulls/gulls, a manual search of all 'Animal and Birds' complaints would be required.

We have calculated that in this case the total cost of complying with this part of the request is £202.50.

How many incidents involved a seagull/gull attacking an individual or pet in 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021 and 2022\*?

No records are held by Environmental Protection concerning incidences where a seagull/gull has attacked individuals or pets and Pest Control do not record data on the individual circumstances of the incidents reported.

How much was spent on seagull/gull management in 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021 and 2022\*\*?

Pest Control have recharged as follows:

2016 – (Internal recharge £19,338.06)

2017 – (Internal recharge £20,111.58)

2018 – (Internal recharge £12,100.00)

2019 – (Internal recharge £10,500.00)

2020 – (No charges – No gull programmes were carried out due to Covid-19 restrictions and staff redeployment to other areas)

2021 – (Internal recharge £18,600)

2022 – (Internal recharge £18,600)

Please give a brief description of the measures taken relevant to question 3.

With regards to our Pest Control service, Seagull/Gull management is provided by the Council's in-house Pest Control Team for internal local authority sites, via service requests, by various departments where applicable.

For each individual internal local authority sites attended, we apply for licensing from 'NatureScot'.

Upon receipt of licensing for site treatment(s), we carry out nest and egg removal procedures in adherence with all licensing guidelines.

Does your local authority have a specific fine regime related to gulls? If so, please give a breakdown of fines given for feeding gulls in the years 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021 and 2022?

The City of Edinburgh Council does not fine or carry out enforcement action against members of the public feeding gulls.