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To the Editors of Journal of Applied Ecology

St Andrews, 29 April 2015

Dear Editors,

Please find attached our manuscript entitled "*No evidence for cumulative effects of small wind turbines on bat activity*", for consideration for publication in Journal of Applied Ecology. The manuscript is not currently submitted elsewhere, and all authors agree to its publication.

Although the effects of large wind farms on wildlife are relatively well-quantified, small wind turbines (also referred to as micro- or domestic turbines) are a relatively new phenomenon and their numbers are increasing rapidly worldwide. Because of their size and typical installation locations, any wildlife impacts are likely to be different to those of large wind farms.

While our own previous work has shown that installed single SWTs can lower bat activity and thus potentially limit availability of suitable habitats, to date it is unknown whether such effects can be cumulative, i.e. whether small wind turbines installed in clusters have disproportionately greater effects on wildlife.

Cumulative effects are rarely studied even in the case of larger wind farms. In spite of this, understanding where and when such effects may operate is vital to planners, decision makers and managers, particularly because small wind turbines are increasingly installed in clusters.

The data we provide in this paper is therefore crucial to inform siting- and site management decisions for small wind turbine installations that minimise potential adverse effects on wildlife.

We look forward to your decision,

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Jeroen', with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Dr Jeroen Minderman