

Wild Birds Regulation Unit hosts a visit by MCAST students

On Wednesday 2nd March 2016, the Wild Birds Regulation Unit (WBRU) hosted a group of Horticulture and Animal Management MCAST students. During the visit, students were given an overview of the Unit's functions and responsibilities and a brief run-through of the legislation and policy for which WBRU is responsible. Both the international and European legal obligations were discussed, with particular emphasis on the EU Birds Directive and associated national legislation related to conservation of wild birds. Following an overview of the main responsibilities related to WBRU's Policy Branch, the role of the Unit's Specialist Enforcement Branch in combating wildlife crime was explained. Enforcement personnel also briefed the students regarding inspection procedures and enforcement.

The students were given further insight into Unit's work related to customer care, licensing procedures and other regulatory processes. Particular emphasis was made regarding importance of hunters' education processes, including examinations.

The students were also shown the use of latest technologies, including portable geographic information systems and real time hunting game reporting systems in enforcement and monitoring processes. The students were very proactive and asked a number of questions and participated fully during the discussions. Each student was given an educational poster.

