



7OI REF:	15152
RESPONSE SENT:	21/01/25

Request

How does the local authority access ecological expertise? Is it through:

- a) in-house ecological staff within the local authority,
- b) through a Service Level Agreement/shared resource with another local authority,
- c) through a Service Level Agreement with another body e.g. Wildlife Trust,
- d) through other external expertise e.g. consultants,
- e) no access to ecological expertise?

If it is a mixture of the above, could you please specify what the arrangements are.

I am specifically looking for how the authority accesses staff/resources for implementing, delivering, monitoring and reporting on biodiversity net gain and other natural environment functions.

Response

The local authority currently accesses ecological expertise through a) in-house ecological staff within the local authority and c) through a Service Level Agreement with the Wildlife Trust.

The majority of ecological expertise is through in-house staff and the Service Level Agreement is for the management of two specific sites.

