

Table 19. Other consultation / referral procedures

Areas	Consultation type	Consultation Period
Areas of 50ha or more	EIS requirement as per Statutory Instrument No. 538 of 2001, European Communities (Environmental Impact assessment) (Amendment) Regulations, 2001 .	(Through the EIA process)
Areas of all sizes within 60m of a dwelling or associated building	Applicant must obtain written consent of owner-occupier of the dwelling.	N/A
Areas over 2.5 ha.	Notices are placed in appropriate provincial paper specifying the County, D.E.D., Townland and proposed planting area (ha.) for all proposals greater than 2.5 ha.	1 month from date advertisement appears in the paper
Airport	Applications are referred to the appropriate aviation authority.	normally 1 month

11.5 Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)

An Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is a statement of the effects if any, which the proposed development, if carried out, would have on the environment. An Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) is the process of examining the environmental effects of development, including:- aspects at design stage, preparation, evaluation by a competent authority decision to approve or not and the public response to that decision.

The forest consent system (or afforestation approval system) operated by the Forest Service provides for an Environmental Impact Assessment to be carried out in certain cases. Directive 85/337/EEC on Environmental Impact Assessment in conjunction with S.I. No.538 of 2001, the transposing instrument in the Irish context, has designated the Minister [The Forest Service] as the Competent Authority [as defined in the Directive] in such cases. This regulation coincides with initial afforestation being taken out of the planning control system under the Local Government (Planning and Development) (Amendment) Regulations, 2001 (S.I. No. 539 of 2001). This legislation (SI No.538 of 2001) provides for mandatory EIAs to be carried out on areas over 50 hectares, and on areas under the 50 hectares threshold where a proposed development is perceived as having a significant environmental impact. However Article 17 Chapter 3 of S.I. No 538 of 2001 gives the Minister certain limited discretionary powers in relation to exemptions.

For more information on the above see Forestry and Environmental Impact Assessment(EIA) Guidelines (Forest Service, 2003)