

## Treacy's Homevalue

Dear Sir/Madam,

In response to the consultation document on forestry please receive my proposals

### Proposals

1. That the current backlog is allowed to be fast-tracked and the timber brought to market, until the new procedure comes into being. By Ministerial Directive if required.
2. That only those with a reasonable interest in a forestry licence "relevant person" have a right to object/appeal- those that live adjacent and/or have taken part in the forestry application process.
3. That the grounds on which objections/appeals are accepted are clear.
4. That there is a charge for objecting/appealing- and that this charge is repaid to objectors/appellants in the event of them winning their case, forfeited if they lose.
5. That the Dept hire the requisite number of staff to process licenses and appeals in a timely and fair manner.
6. That the turnaround time for appeals is 2 months or less – in line with An Bord Pleanála.

This needs to be addressed. As it is, and if allowed to continue, it is  
Disasterous for jobs  
Disasterous for rural Ireland  
Disasterous for exports  
Disasterous for business  
Bad for our carbon footprint  
Disasterous for the public purse  
Disasterous for building  
Disasterous for renovating  
Disasterous for retrofitting  
Bad for the environment

You have to ask -Who or what is going to benefit from this?

60% of our business is dependant on trade customers, the shortage or possibly the complete unavailability of timber will have a severe impact on our type of business i.e. the builders' merchant, which is already seeing the negative effects that Covid-19 is having on most businesses.

The timber industry employs 12,000 in rural Ireland. It has made great strides over the years to implement green and sustainable work practices. If the current process is not resolved swiftly there will be needless damage to jobs and businesses. Timber is a keystone product, it is integral to practically every building, renovation, retrofitting and agri-build project.

I am asking the Department of Agriculture to take the above proposals into serious consideration in the decision making process for granting forestry licences.

Yours sincerely,



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