

Gwynedd Shipping Limited

Good afternoon

I am a Director of Gwynedd Shipping Limited that is involved in the haulage of sawn timber for **Laois Sawmills**.

I am concerned at recent reports about the backlogs in the State's forestry licensing and appeals system. This risks pushing the haulage industry into crisis, endangering jobs in our industry. This will directly impact on our business and the livelihoods of our 145 direct employees and hundreds more within our supply chain across the UK & Ireland. The impact of these delays will have a devastating impact across the transport & shipping industry, with significant costs to other businesses not involved in this key industry. As a result of a sharp contraction in the export of timber from Ireland, importers of essential products will unnecessarily shoulder the burden of additional costs for repositioning empty trailers from Ireland.

I understand that there are long delays to licences caused by the FAC. At the current run rate it will take 18 months to clear the backlog of licences with the FAC. It is clear that the FAC simply cannot cope with the workload. The changes to the legislation included in the draft bill should help this situation providing the FAC is adequately and quickly resourced. It is vital that the FAC is reformed to make it fit for purpose.

In summary I would like my support of the draft legislation to be noted.

Regards



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