

## **GP Wood**

Dear Sir /Madame,

As an employee of a timber processing facility in Ireland I am very concerned with the current state of the forestry industry due to the long delays in processing licences caused by the FAC.

Ours is a family business that employs hundreds of highly skilled workers in the Mid / West Cork region. This business has been here since 1977 and is now under serious threat due to issues that have befalling us due to felling licences.

It is clear that the FAC cannot cope with the workload in relation to processing applications and dealing with objections, this fact is now having a very real and detrimental effect on our industry.

Over the past 5 years alone, GP Wood has invested approx. €40m in our processing facilities to bring them up to the latest standards and ensure the long-term future of the business. It's incredible now that we are faced with the very real prospect of having to close these facilities due to a lack of raw material.

The current situation is putting many thousands of people's livelihoods at risk. People will lose their jobs if this issue is not dealt with, I cannot overstate the anxiety felt within the forestry sector at present due to this issue.

It is absolutely vital now that the FAC is reformed in order to make it fit for purpose and I fully support the changes.

Yours Faithfully,

GP Wood.