

Pat O'Donnell & Co

Good Morning,

I am an equipment specialist for Pat O'Donnell and Company that is involved in the sale of equipment to **Woodfab Timber Limited, Murray Timber, GP Wood, ECC, PDM, Glennon Bros** and many other companies involved Ireland's timber industry.

I am concerned at recent reports about the backlogs in the State's forestry licensing and appeals system. This will directly impact on our business and the livelihoods of our employees which has already been seriously affected by Covid-19.

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.