

Western Forestry

Dear Sir/Madam

I am the Financial Controller in Western Forestry Cooperative Society Ltd and I have seen first hand the detrimental affects from the slowdown in licenses being issued. We have had to put our entire workforce on a 4 week since April, as well as having to consider laying off employees in the Autumn if there is not a significant increase in the issuing of licenses. I am struggling to meet our most primitive needs in terms of paying wages, rent and overheads. It also affects our sub-contractors and suppliers, as I struggle to pay them either on time or in full, often having to resort to making unagreed instalments to try and keep the doors open and the lights on. All our employees live in rural Ireland and depend on this employment to pay Mortgages and support families and extended families. This also has a detrimental mental affect on both myself and the management team, as we cannot make plans for the future or make any estimates of what our work schedule will be as the licensing issue is causing such long delays. It also paints a very negative outlook for Forestry as Landowners are very frustrated at the length of time it is taking to get Forestry approved and in some cases they will just walk away from the process, and take with them, a very bad perception of Forestry which they will pass on to their neighbours and friends.

Please see my summary below:

- There are long delays to licences caused by the FAC
- The FAC cannot cope with the workload
- This is hindering forestry activity and damaging the industry
- It is vital that the FAC is reformed to make it fit for purpose
- You support the proposed changes
- People livelihoods are at stake here.

Yours Sincerely

Western Forestry Co-op
www.westernforestrycoop.ie

