

SWS Forestry

To whom it concerns

I am writing this as an exasperated plea to change the way business is done in the forestry licence approval process.

At present the process is so unwieldy and takes so long that the entire forestry industry is grinding to a halt.

Last years annual planting programme (both public and private) was the lowest since 1949, yes almost 70 years ago!!

The approval process itself is taking an inordinate amount of time and effort even for the most basic application. Then, once approved the appeals process kicks in and a further 18 month delay starts!!

This appeals process is not fit for purpose and needs change urgently.

The proposed changes are welcome but need to come in within the next month, not a further 6 months down the line.

The industry is badly holed and sinking fast and unless something radical is done very quickly, many many jobs will go.

Thanks you.

SWS FORESTRY