

From: [ONeill, Marie](#)
To: ["Henry Phillips"](#)
Cc: [Kelly, Patricia](#); [Paddy Bruton](#); [Marina Conway](#)
Subject: RE: TNA + NWCS
Date: Wednesday 13 July 2022 16:37:44
Attachments: [~WRD0001.jpg](#)

Hi Henry,

I have forwarded your email below to Thia Hennessy, Chair of WG3.

Regards,

Marie O Neill

Higher Executive Officer, Forestry Division

An Roinn Talmhaíochta, Bia agus Mara

Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine

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From: Henry Phillips

Sent: Tuesday 12 July 2022 11:41

To: O'Neill, Marie

Cc: Kelly, Patricia ; Paddy Bruton ; Marina Conway

Subject: Fwd: TNA + NWCS

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Hi Marie

We have been engaging with the list of stakeholders and finalising the survey questionnaires. Woodland of Ireland (Joe McGowan) have requested that I send on their comments (see attached) to both DAFM and WGE of Project Woodland. To whom in WG3 should I send the comment?

Best Regards

Henry

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Joe Gowran** <joegowran@woodlandsofireland.com>

Date: Mon, 11 Jul 2022 at 14:45

Subject: Re: TNA + NWCS

To: Henry Phillips <hprphillips@gmail.com>

Cc: Marina Conway <marina@westernforestrycoop.ie>, Paddy Bruton <paddy@forestryservices.ie>

Hi Henry, thank you for clarifying that it was the Dept and Project Woodland (work group 3) that set the terms of reference as currently presented and that the consultants have had no involvement in the development of the TOR. I stand corrected on that point.

When the draft TOR was discussed in work group 4 of Project Woodland, I put forward the rationale, based on Forest Service data about the scheme plus the wording of the draft TNA specification objectives and proposed steps (below), as to why NWS Cons should be included. This rationale was accepted and so it has been included.

Objectives:

- To review current training provision and **identify gaps** in line with the forestry licensing process.
- To make recommendations for required training provision **to support the submission of quality**

applications relating to afforestation forest roads and felling licences

Proposed steps:

1. **Become fully familiar** with the licensing process and **with what documentation is required to submit a valid afforestation, felling or road application**

• **Consider all relevant processes** including pre-application discussions, application stage tasks, environmental standards, development of environmental reports **and supporting documentation provision as appropriate** and this will include meetings with relevant DAFM staff.

2. Determine what training is currently provided by consulting with relevant DAFM staff, and canvas stakeholder views on training gaps and opportunities by consulting with the list of stakeholders.

In response to your consultation I'm indicating gaps in how you have posed the questions and advise to also include Woodland Improvement Thinning grant, CCF grant, Ash Dieback grant and Woodland Improvement as a component of the Neighbourhood Scheme grant because the detail of these applications invariably forms part of the supporting documentation for submitting a felling license application which is compulsory for the legal operating of significant elements of these schemes .

Can you have a quality felling license application without incorporating the relevant detail from these inextricably linked documents?

I believe the training needs associated with the felling license aspects of these schemes can be within the terms of reference if the terms of reference are interpreted comprehensively.

Please communicate this response to the Dept/work group 3

regards

Joe

On Mon, 11 Jul 2022 at 12:20, Henry Phillips <hprphillips@gmail.com> wrote:

Hi Joe

Thanks for getting back to me so quickly. Regarding your contention that it is a significant omission by the Dept/ consultants that grant aided schemes which involve felling, apart from NWS Conservation, have not been included in the analysis, I draw your attention to our terms of reference which are quite specific and **exclude any activity other than the three licensed activities (felling, roads and afforestation) and NWCS**, the latter due to your insistence.

These terms of reference were drawn up by DAFM in collaboration with Project Woodland and have nothing to do with the consultants, so to say it was a significant omission by us is factually incorrect. Our hands are tied in this regard as we cannot include activities outside of our terms of reference as I am sure you will appreciate.

There can be no doubt that there are other areas and schemes where training needs to be developed and where a similar TNA needs could be undertaken. Perhaps it is a missed opportunity by DAFM and Project Woodland to catch all training requirements but that was the decision of DAFM/Project Woodland which focused solely on licensed activities .

Best Regards

Henry

On Mon, 11 Jul 2022 at 11:51, Joe Gowran <joegowran@woodlandsofireland.com> wrote:

Hi Henry, thank you for including Woodlands of Ireland in a consultation .

Regarding the Training Needs Analysis, it is a significant omission by the Dept/ consultants that grant aided schemes which involve felling, apart from NWS Conservation, have not been included in the analysis. These Silviculture focused schemes should be included on the same basis that NWS Cons has been included, namely that there are training needs associated with submitting good quality felling license applications that are compulsory

when applying for Woodland Improvement Thinning grant, CCF grant, Ash Dieback grant and Woodland Improvement as a component of Neighbourwood Scheme.

All of these schemes have been deprioritized by the Dept during the 'Felling Crisis' and the framing of the training needs analysis appears to be a continuation of that.

All of these schemes are about Continuous Cover in its broadest sense and lack of support for training needs with them reinforces the impression that there is an institutional bias in favour of maintaining clear felling as the main system of timber production into the foreseeable future rather than building diversity of product and structural resilience to Climate Change.

I note also that Pro Silva Ireland was not included on the consultation list, which is an error due to that organization's commitment to the development of training on CCF.

Regarding the Stakeholder Questions, essentially Woodland Improvement Thinning grant, CCF grant, Ash Dieback grant and Woodland Improvement as a component of Neighbourwood Scheme, should obviously be included in the questions in a similar way to how NWS Cons has been included. There should also be a clear comment box after each question section.

The Dept has regarded reference to and inclusion of NWS Cons in Project Woodland as a 'concession' (ref: Séamus Dunne, Barry Delaney pers.com 2021) and they may view the suggestion proposed here in the same way (on the basis that they are 'supplementary schemes') but they must accept that all customers/ stakeholders are entitled to a similar quality of service from the Dept. and therefore cannot continue to be discriminated against. If you have any questions or require further clarification, please give me a call.

regards

Joe

On Thu, 30 Jun 2022 at 17:12, Henry Phillips <hprphillips@gmail.com> wrote:

Hi Joe

Many thanks for taking my call today.

I attach an overview of the TNA which includes a request to make a submission on behalf of Woodland of Ireland. The deadline is towards the end of July, so hopefully that gives you sufficient time.

I also attach the draft list of questions and if you could throw your eye over them and see if we have missed anything obvious or included something that is not relevant that would be great. I plan to send out the survey week after next so if you could come back to me next week with any feedback on the questions that would be appreciated.

Best Regards

Henry

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Joe Gowran

MSc.Biodiversity and Land Use Planning

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