

**From:** Collins, Kevin <Kevin.Collins@agriculture.gov.ie>  
**Sent:** Monday 17 June 2024 15:29  
**To:** Julie Sullivan (Housing); Paul Scott (Housing)  
**Subject:** RE: NPWS Referrals procedure for Forestry projects

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Hi Paul and Julie,  
Just to let you both know, [REDACTED] Seamus Dunne is fully briefed regarding this initiative. It remains a priority and I think he will most likely allocate it to one of my colleagues already working on it (I think Orla, most likely).  
Work is continuing on our paper and I'd expect it to go across to you this week.  
Just to fill you in on developments.  
All the best,  
Kevin

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**From:** Julie Sullivan (Housing) <julie.sullivan@npws.gov.ie>  
**Sent:** 11 June 2024 12:39  
**To:** Collins, Kevin <Kevin.Collins@agriculture.gov.ie>  
**Cc:** Paul Scott (Housing) <Paul.Scott@npws.gov.ie>  
**Subject:** RE: NPWS Referrals procedure for Forestry projects

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Good afternoon Kevin,

That's perfect, we will await the paper and be in contact to schedule a meeting once we have reviewed the paper.

Kind regards,

Julie

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**From:** Collins, Kevin <[Kevin.Collins@agriculture.gov.ie](mailto:Kevin.Collins@agriculture.gov.ie)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday 11 June 2024 10:17  
**To:** Julie Sullivan (Housing) <[julie.sullivan@npws.gov.ie](mailto:julie.sullivan@npws.gov.ie)>  
**Cc:** Paul Scott (Housing) <[Paul.Scott@npws.gov.ie](mailto:Paul.Scott@npws.gov.ie)>  
**Subject:** RE: NPWS Referrals procedure for Forestry projects

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Hi Julie, I was in contact with Paula few days ago, and I think we're going to have to defer the meeting. we're just going through the draft paper we're to send over to you, and no doubt you'd prefer to have a period of time to reflect on it. So can we put aside the suggested date and look at a new one once the paper has gone over to NPWS?

Thanks, Kevin

---

**From:** Julie Sullivan (Housing) <[julie.sullivan@npws.gov.ie](mailto:julie.sullivan@npws.gov.ie)>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 10, 2024 3:34 PM  
**To:** Collins, Kevin <[Kevin.Collins@agriculture.gov.ie](mailto:Kevin.Collins@agriculture.gov.ie)>  
**Cc:** Paul Scott (Housing) <[Paul.Scott@npws.gov.ie](mailto:Paul.Scott@npws.gov.ie)>  
**Subject:** FW: NPWS Referrals procedure for Forestry projects

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Good afternoon Kevin,

I hope all is well. Just checking are we going ahead with meeting this Wednesday at 14:30? Are you sending on an invite or will I send one on? You were to send on information to NPWS to consider in advance of this meeting?

Kind regards,

Julie

---

**From:** Paul Scott (Housing) <[Paul.Scott@npws.gov.ie](mailto:Paul.Scott@npws.gov.ie)>  
**Sent:** Thursday 6 June 2024 16:00  
**To:** Julie Sullivan (Housing) <[julie.sullivan@npws.gov.ie](mailto:julie.sullivan@npws.gov.ie)>  
**Subject:** FW: NPWS Referrals procedure for Forestry projects

As discussed, see message sent to KC below

**Paul Scott CEcol, CEnv**  
Head of Ecological Guidance and Advisory Unit

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**An Roinn Tithíochta, Rialtais Áitiúil agus Oidhreachta**  
**An tSeirbhís Páirceanna Náisiúnta agus Fiadhúlra**  
Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage  
National Parks and Wildlife Service  
**90 Sráid an Rí Thuaidh, Margadh na Feirme, Baile Átha Cliath 7, D07 N7CV**  
90 North King Street, Smithfield, Dublin 7, D07 N7CV

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[www.housing.gov.ie](http://www.housing.gov.ie)

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**From:** Paul Scott (Housing)  
**Sent:** Tuesday 4 June 2024 13:40  
**To:** 'Collins, Kevin' <[Kevin.Collins@agriculture.gov.ie](mailto:Kevin.Collins@agriculture.gov.ie)>  
**Subject:** RE: NPWS Referrals procedure for Forestry projects

Kevin,

I meant to send this after the last meeting we had whilst it was fresh in my mind. Some key take away messages for you to think about:

#### Timing of consultation of NPWS

- We would like you consider the value of current two-stage timing for consultation of NPWS.
- NPWS staff often feel it is too early to be consulted before we know what the FS intend to do re AA screening outcome and proposed mitigation.
- It would be preferable for us to only be consulted during the second period of public consultation (post AA screening and NIS preparation but pre-AA determination).
- This assumes that your own FS ecologist would have already addressed most of the headline issues and that NPWS would be adding any site-specific knowledge and providing obs on the adequacy of the proposed mitigation measures.
- Surely any 'showstopper' items such as FPO species, raptor nest sites, bat roosts etc would have been flagged up at the initial stages by the FS ecologists?
- Can you consider what the implications of such a change in procedure might be?

#### Use of FLV by NPWS staff

- The issue here is that NPWS staff do not have the capacity to monitor the hundreds of cases referred to them by the FS on an ongoing basis.
- In the case of planning applications, staff will be referred a case and they will make the obs based on the information provided. My experience is that this is done in one 'session', as opposed to dipping and out of the file over a longer period of time.
- In such planning cases, if additional information is provided after the NPWS makes a submission then we are notified and offered another statutory consultation period to respond.
- Staff have dozens of cases on their 'to do' list at any one time and do not, generally, monitor individual cases in the background – they simply do not have time to do this.
- Therefore if NPWS are asked to comment on FS referrals, then their response will be informed by whatever documents they can consult at that time.

Not sure if this helps in your consideration of how to improve the process at both ends but thought it good to put down on paper whilst the thoughts were in my head...

Paul

**Paul Scott CEcol, CEnv**

Head of Ecological Guidance and Advisory Unit

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**An Roinn Tithíochta, Rialtais Áitiúil agus Oidhreacht**

**An tSeirbhís Páirceanna Náisiúnta agus Fiadhúlra**

Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage

National Parks and Wildlife Service

**90 Sráid an Rí Thuaidh, Margadh na Feirme, Baile Átha Cliath 7, D07 N7CV**

90 North King Street, Smithfield, Dublin 7, D07 N7CV

---

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[www.housing.gov.ie](http://www.housing.gov.ie)



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**From:** Collins, Kevin <[Kevin.Collins@agriculture.gov.ie](mailto:Kevin.Collins@agriculture.gov.ie)>

**Sent:** Thursday 23 May 2024 17:41

**To:** Julie Sullivan (Housing) <[julie.sullivan@npws.gov.ie](mailto:julie.sullivan@npws.gov.ie)>; Paul Scott (Housing) <[Paul.Scott@npws.gov.ie](mailto:Paul.Scott@npws.gov.ie)>

**Subject:** RE: NPWS Referrals procedure for Forestry projects

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Hi Julie and Paul,

Many thanks for taking the time yesterday to meet on the referral issue – it was really useful to us and we are of course, keen to progress this, as I know you are.

We're looking forward to our next meeting in 4 weeks time and will get working on our 'homework', which I'll aim to get to you the week after next.

In the meantime, we'll send over a small number of key documents mentioned yesterday, which might be useful as you deliberate the issue yourselves over the coming weeks.

Any if you have any specific questions or wish to clarify something before we meet again, please let us know.

Kind regards,

Kevin

---

**From:** Julie Sullivan (Housing) <[julie.sullivan@npws.gov.ie](mailto:julie.sullivan@npws.gov.ie)>

**Sent:** 22 May 2024 14:14

**To:** Collins, Kevin <[Kevin.Collins@agriculture.gov.ie](mailto:Kevin.Collins@agriculture.gov.ie)>

**Subject:** RE: NPWS Referrals procedure for Forestry projects

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Hi Kevin,

I had sent on a webex meeting link, have you access to this?

Julie

---

**From:** Collins, Kevin <[Kevin.Collins@agriculture.gov.ie](mailto:Kevin.Collins@agriculture.gov.ie)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday 22 May 2024 14:12  
**To:** Julie Sullivan (Housing) <[julie.sullivan@npws.gov.ie](mailto:julie.sullivan@npws.gov.ie)>  
**Subject:** RE: NPWS Referrals procedure for Forestry projects

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Hi Julie, we're just setting up the meeting link – please stand by! Thanks, Kevin

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**From:** Collins, Kevin  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 21, 2024 2:16 PM  
**To:** 'Julie Sullivan (Housing)' <[julie.sullivan@npws.gov.ie](mailto:julie.sullivan@npws.gov.ie)>  
**Cc:** 'Paul Scott (Housing)' <[Paul.Scott@npws.gov.ie](mailto:Paul.Scott@npws.gov.ie)>; 'Stefan Jones (Housing)' <[Stefan.Jones@npws.gov.ie](mailto:Stefan.Jones@npws.gov.ie)>; Dunne, Seamus <[Seamus.Dunne@agriculture.gov.ie](mailto:Seamus.Dunne@agriculture.gov.ie)>; Fahy, Orla <[Orla.Fahy@agriculture.gov.ie](mailto:Orla.Fahy@agriculture.gov.ie)>; Adams, Joanne <[Joanne.Adams@agriculture.gov.ie](mailto:Joanne.Adams@agriculture.gov.ie)>; Barrett, Frank <[Frank.Barrett@agriculture.gov.ie](mailto:Frank.Barrett@agriculture.gov.ie)>; OFahy, Emmet <[Emmet.OFahy@agriculture.gov.ie](mailto:Emmet.OFahy@agriculture.gov.ie)>; 'Eoin Connolly (Housing)' <[Eoin.Connolly@npws.gov.ie](mailto:Eoin.Connolly@npws.gov.ie)>; 'Rebecca Jeffrey (Housing)' <[Rebecca.Jeffrey@npws.gov.ie](mailto:Rebecca.Jeffrey@npws.gov.ie)>; 'Aine OConnor (Housing)' <[Aine.OConnor@npws.gov.ie](mailto:Aine.OConnor@npws.gov.ie)>; 'Joanne Lyons (Housing)' <[Joanne.Lyons@npws.gov.ie](mailto:Joanne.Lyons@npws.gov.ie)>; 'Sinead OBrien (Housing)' <[Sinead.OBrien@npws.gov.ie](mailto:Sinead.OBrien@npws.gov.ie)>  
**Subject:** RE: NPWS Referrals procedure for Forestry projects

Hi Julie,

Please find below a draft agenda for our meeting (remote) tomorrow at 2.30 pm. It includes the item you mentioned, my own overview of the DAFM-Forestry assessment process, and various proposed refinements to the referral procedure we'd like to go through with you and your colleagues.

### Agenda

1. Introductions
2. An overview of DAFM-Forestry assessment process
3. Referral rules to consider if AA screening only is required or if an NIS/full AA is being carried out & consider what documents NPWS should be receiving
4. Proposed changes on DAFM's side:

- a. Referral triggers
  - b. Method of referral
  - c. Referral period
5. Responses from NPWS
6. AOB

It's a draft agenda so of course we can refine it as needed.

Regards,  
Kevin

---

**From:** Collins, Kevin  
**Sent:** Monday, May 20, 2024 4:58 PM  
**To:** 'Julie Sullivan (Housing)' <[julie.sullivan@npws.gov.ie](mailto:julie.sullivan@npws.gov.ie)>  
**Cc:** Paul Scott (Housing) <[Paul.Scott@npws.gov.ie](mailto:Paul.Scott@npws.gov.ie)>; Stefan Jones (Housing) <[Stefan.Jones@npws.gov.ie](mailto:Stefan.Jones@npws.gov.ie)>; Dunne, Seamus <[Seamus.Dunne@agriculture.gov.ie](mailto:Seamus.Dunne@agriculture.gov.ie)>; Fahy, Orla <[Orla.Fahy@agriculture.gov.ie](mailto:Orla.Fahy@agriculture.gov.ie)>; Adams, Joanne <[Joanne.Adams@agriculture.gov.ie](mailto:Joanne.Adams@agriculture.gov.ie)>; Barrett, Frank <[Frank.Barrett@agriculture.gov.ie](mailto:Frank.Barrett@agriculture.gov.ie)>; OFahy, Emmet <[Emmet.OFahy@agriculture.gov.ie](mailto:Emmet.OFahy@agriculture.gov.ie)>; Eoin Connolly (Housing) <[Eoin.Connolly@npws.gov.ie](mailto:Eoin.Connolly@npws.gov.ie)>; Rebecca Jeffrey (Housing) <[Rebecca.Jeffrey@npws.gov.ie](mailto:Rebecca.Jeffrey@npws.gov.ie)>; Aine OConnor (Housing) <[Aine.OConnor@npws.gov.ie](mailto:Aine.OConnor@npws.gov.ie)>; Joanne Lyons (Housing) <[Joanne.Lyons@npws.gov.ie](mailto:Joanne.Lyons@npws.gov.ie)>; Sinead OBrien (Housing) <[Sinead.OBrien@npws.gov.ie](mailto:Sinead.OBrien@npws.gov.ie)>  
**Subject:** RE: NPWS Referrals procedure for Forestry projects

Hi Julie, of course, please give me until lunchtime tomorrow and I'll get an agenda (with the item below included) back to you.  
Regards, Kevin

---

**From:** Julie Sullivan (Housing) <[julie.sullivan@npws.gov.ie](mailto:julie.sullivan@npws.gov.ie)>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 20, 2024 4:33 PM  
**To:** Collins, Kevin <[Kevin.Collins@agriculture.gov.ie](mailto:Kevin.Collins@agriculture.gov.ie)>  
**Cc:** Paul Scott (Housing) <[Paul.Scott@npws.gov.ie](mailto:Paul.Scott@npws.gov.ie)>; Stefan Jones (Housing) <[Stefan.Jones@npws.gov.ie](mailto:Stefan.Jones@npws.gov.ie)>; Dunne, Seamus <[Seamus.Dunne@agriculture.gov.ie](mailto:Seamus.Dunne@agriculture.gov.ie)>; Fahy, Orla <[Orla.Fahy@agriculture.gov.ie](mailto:Orla.Fahy@agriculture.gov.ie)>; Adams, Joanne <[Joanne.Adams@agriculture.gov.ie](mailto:Joanne.Adams@agriculture.gov.ie)>; Barrett, Frank <[Frank.Barrett@agriculture.gov.ie](mailto:Frank.Barrett@agriculture.gov.ie)>; OFahy, Emmet <[Emmet.OFahy@agriculture.gov.ie](mailto:Emmet.OFahy@agriculture.gov.ie)>; Eoin Connolly (Housing) <[Eoin.Connolly@npws.gov.ie](mailto:Eoin.Connolly@npws.gov.ie)>; Rebecca Jeffrey (Housing) <[Rebecca.Jeffrey@npws.gov.ie](mailto:Rebecca.Jeffrey@npws.gov.ie)>; Aine OConnor (Housing) <[Aine.OConnor@npws.gov.ie](mailto:Aine.OConnor@npws.gov.ie)>; Joanne Lyons (Housing) <[Joanne.Lyons@npws.gov.ie](mailto:Joanne.Lyons@npws.gov.ie)>; Sinead OBrien (Housing) <[Sinead.OBrien@npws.gov.ie](mailto:Sinead.OBrien@npws.gov.ie)>  
**Subject:** RE: NPWS Referrals procedure for Forestry projects

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Good afternoon Kevin,

When you get a chance can you forward on the agenda for the meeting on Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> at 14:30?

Item for the agenda from NPWS if that is ok:

- Referral rules to consider if AA screening only is required or if an NIS/full AA is being carried out & consider what documents NPWS should be receiving

Kind regards,

Julie

---

**From:** Collins, Kevin <[Kevin.Collins@agriculture.gov.ie](mailto:Kevin.Collins@agriculture.gov.ie)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday 8 May 2024 09:23  
**To:** Julie Sullivan (Housing) <[julie.sullivan@npws.gov.ie](mailto:julie.sullivan@npws.gov.ie)>  
**Cc:** Paul Scott (Housing) <[Paul.Scott@npws.gov.ie](mailto:Paul.Scott@npws.gov.ie)>; Dunne, Seamus <[Seamus.Dunne@agriculture.gov.ie](mailto:Seamus.Dunne@agriculture.gov.ie)>; Fahy, Orla <[Orla.Fahy@agriculture.gov.ie](mailto:Orla.Fahy@agriculture.gov.ie)>; Adams, Joanne <[Joanne.Adams@agriculture.gov.ie](mailto:Joanne.Adams@agriculture.gov.ie)>; Barrett, Frank <[Frank.Barrett@agriculture.gov.ie](mailto:Frank.Barrett@agriculture.gov.ie)>; OFahy, Emmet <[Emmet.OFahy@agriculture.gov.ie](mailto:Emmet.OFahy@agriculture.gov.ie)>  
**Subject:** RE: NPWS Referrals procedure for Forestry projects

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Many thanks Julie, I'll revert with some suggested items in the next day or two, including a slot for us to give you an overview of the assessment process, and the important role the Forest Licence Viewer is playing.

Regards, Kevin

---

**From:** Julie Sullivan (Housing) <[julie.sullivan@npws.gov.ie](mailto:julie.sullivan@npws.gov.ie)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 8, 2024 8:09 AM  
**To:** Collins, Kevin <[Kevin.Collins@agriculture.gov.ie](mailto:Kevin.Collins@agriculture.gov.ie)>  
**Cc:** Paul Scott (Housing) <[Paul.Scott@npws.gov.ie](mailto:Paul.Scott@npws.gov.ie)>; Dunne, Seamus <[Seamus.Dunne@agriculture.gov.ie](mailto:Seamus.Dunne@agriculture.gov.ie)>; Adams, Joanne <[Joanne.Adams@agriculture.gov.ie](mailto:Joanne.Adams@agriculture.gov.ie)>; Barrett, Frank <[Frank.Barrett@agriculture.gov.ie](mailto:Frank.Barrett@agriculture.gov.ie)>; OFahy, Emmet <[Emmet.OFahy@agriculture.gov.ie](mailto:Emmet.OFahy@agriculture.gov.ie)>  
**Subject:** RE: NPWS Referrals procedure for Forestry projects

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Thanks Kevin, I will send on a webex invite for Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> May at 14:30.

Any particular inclusions for the agenda please send on and I will circular a proposed agenda then.

Kind regards,

Julie

---

**From:** Collins, Kevin <[Kevin.Collins@agriculture.gov.ie](mailto:Kevin.Collins@agriculture.gov.ie)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday 7 May 2024 14:56  
**To:** Julie Sullivan (Housing) <[julie.sullivan@npws.gov.ie](mailto:julie.sullivan@npws.gov.ie)>  
**Cc:** Paul Scott (Housing) <[Paul.Scott@npws.gov.ie](mailto:Paul.Scott@npws.gov.ie)>; Dunne, Seamus <[Seamus.Dunne@agriculture.gov.ie](mailto:Seamus.Dunne@agriculture.gov.ie)>; Adams, Joanne <[Joanne.Adams@agriculture.gov.ie](mailto:Joanne.Adams@agriculture.gov.ie)>; Barrett, Frank <[Frank.Barrett@agriculture.gov.ie](mailto:Frank.Barrett@agriculture.gov.ie)>; OFahy, Emmet <[Emmet.OFahy@agriculture.gov.ie](mailto:Emmet.OFahy@agriculture.gov.ie)>  
**Subject:** RE: NPWS Referrals procedure for Forestry projects

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Hi Julie, just reverting to you with dates.

Can we suggest Wednesday, 22<sup>nd</sup> May, at 2.30 pm? I presume you are OK meeting remotely.

So, will we bolt in that date & time, and work up an agenda in the next few days?

As mentioned, I can give a brief rundown of the assessment process, to show you the different components involved, including referrals.

Thanks, Kevin

---

**From:** Julie Sullivan (Housing) <[julie.sullivan@npws.gov.ie](mailto:julie.sullivan@npws.gov.ie)>  
**Sent:** Monday, April 29, 2024 3:02 PM  
**To:** Collins, Kevin <[Kevin.Collins@agriculture.gov.ie](mailto:Kevin.Collins@agriculture.gov.ie)>  
**Cc:** Paul Scott (Housing) <[Paul.Scott@npws.gov.ie](mailto:Paul.Scott@npws.gov.ie)>; Dunne, Seamus <[Seamus.Dunne@agriculture.gov.ie](mailto:Seamus.Dunne@agriculture.gov.ie)>; Adams, Joanne <[Joanne.Adams@agriculture.gov.ie](mailto:Joanne.Adams@agriculture.gov.ie)>; Barrett, Frank <[Frank.Barrett@agriculture.gov.ie](mailto:Frank.Barrett@agriculture.gov.ie)>  
**Subject:** RE: NPWS Referrals procedure for Forestry projects

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Greatly appreciated thanks Kevin,

Kind regards,

Julie

---

**From:** Collins, Kevin <[Kevin.Collins@agriculture.gov.ie](mailto:Kevin.Collins@agriculture.gov.ie)>  
**Sent:** Monday 29 April 2024 14:22  
**To:** Julie Sullivan (Housing) <[julie.sullivan@npws.gov.ie](mailto:julie.sullivan@npws.gov.ie)>  
**Cc:** Paul Scott (Housing) <[Paul.Scott@npws.gov.ie](mailto:Paul.Scott@npws.gov.ie)>; Dunne, Seamus <[Seamus.Dunne@agriculture.gov.ie](mailto:Seamus.Dunne@agriculture.gov.ie)>; Adams, Joanne <[Joanne.Adams@agriculture.gov.ie](mailto:Joanne.Adams@agriculture.gov.ie)>; Barrett,

Frank <[Frank.Barrett@agriculture.gov.ie](mailto:Frank.Barrett@agriculture.gov.ie)>

**Subject:** RE: NPWS Referrals procedure for Forestry projects

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Hi Julie,

Many thanks for the e-mail and yes, we would be very keen to meet to look at the referral process. There have been lots of developments so we'll of course put together an overview of the licensing process, from application to final decision and onwards through the appeal process. A major element is the Forestry Licence Viewer, which is available at [gov - Forestry Licence Viewer \(www.gov.ie\)](http://gov-ForestryLicenceViewer(www.gov.ie)). I'll check in with a few colleagues who are involved in the referral process and come back with dates that suit us, from the ones you list below. I'll be back in touch over the next day or two.

Regards,

Kevin

---

**From:** Julie Sullivan (Housing) <[julie.sullivan@npws.gov.ie](mailto:julie.sullivan@npws.gov.ie)>

**Sent:** Monday, April 29, 2024 1:28 PM

**To:** Collins, Kevin <[Kevin.Collins@agriculture.gov.ie](mailto:Kevin.Collins@agriculture.gov.ie)>

**Cc:** Paul Scott (Housing) <[Paul.Scott@npws.gov.ie](mailto:Paul.Scott@npws.gov.ie)>; Dunne, Seamus <[Seamus.Dunne@agriculture.gov.ie](mailto:Seamus.Dunne@agriculture.gov.ie)>; Adams, Joanne <[Joanne.Adams@agriculture.gov.ie](mailto:Joanne.Adams@agriculture.gov.ie)>; Barrett, Frank <[Frank.Barrett@agriculture.gov.ie](mailto:Frank.Barrett@agriculture.gov.ie)>

**Subject:** FW: NPWS Referrals procedure for Forestry projects

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Good afternoon Kevin,

I had been corresponding with Emmet O'Fahy per email below regarding moving forward with a review of the referral procedures/matrix. Our last meeting was in June 2023 so it might be no harm to have an inception meeting ahead of looking to establish a group to review the referral procedures/matrix and to recap on previous meeting to see if anything needs to be discussed further? I would personally be interested in the process from application stage to when a referral is made to NPWS and so on to the issuing of the licence or not. Have you availability in May for a meeting to kick start this again and get further meetings booked in to keep momentum going?

Suggested dates:

Mon 13<sup>th</sup> May, Tue 14<sup>th</sup> May (am), Wens 15<sup>th</sup> May, Thurs 16<sup>th</sup> May, Fri 17<sup>th</sup> May (am), Mon 20<sup>th</sup> May, Tue 21<sup>st</sup> May (am), Wed 22<sup>nd</sup> May, Thurs 23<sup>rd</sup> May, Fri 24<sup>th</sup> May (am).

Kind regards,

Julie

---

**From:** OFahy, Emmet <[Emmet.OFahy@agriculture.gov.ie](mailto:Emmet.OFahy@agriculture.gov.ie)>  
**Sent:** Monday 29 April 2024 10:53  
**To:** Julie Sullivan (Housing) <[julie.sullivan@npws.gov.ie](mailto:julie.sullivan@npws.gov.ie)>  
**Cc:** Collins, Kevin <[Kevin.Collins@agriculture.gov.ie](mailto:Kevin.Collins@agriculture.gov.ie)>  
**Subject:** RE: NPWS Referrals procedure for Forestry projects

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Hi Julie,  
Apologies about the delay in getting back to you. We have been discussing this issue internally here as part of a wider discussion.

My colleague Kevin Collins is leading on this issue. I have ccd him here with your request for a meeting.

Best regards  
Emmet O'Fahy

Assistant Principal Officer/Príomhoifíeach Cúnta  
Felling Section, Alleged Illegal Forestry Section & Forestry Support Unit  
Forestry Division/Rannán Foraoiseachta

Department of Agriculture, Food & the Marine/An Roinn Talmhaíochta, Bia agus Mara  
Johnstown Castle Estate, Co. Wexford/Eastát Chaisleán Bhaile Sheáin, Chontae Loch Garman  
Ph: 053 9114130 Ext 53730

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**From:** Julie Sullivan (Housing) <>  
**Sent:** Friday, March 15, 2024 12:50 PM  
**To:** OFahy, Emmet <[Emmet.OFahy@agriculture.gov.ie](mailto:Emmet.OFahy@agriculture.gov.ie)>; Forestry Support Unit <[FSU@agriculture.gov.ie](mailto:FSU@agriculture.gov.ie)>; Kelly, Patricia <[Patricia.Kelly@agriculture.gov.ie](mailto:Patricia.Kelly@agriculture.gov.ie)>  
**Cc:** Paul Scott (Housing) <[Paul.Scott@npws.gov.ie](mailto:Paul.Scott@npws.gov.ie)>  
**Subject:** FW: NPWS Referrals procedure for Forestry projects

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Good afternoon Emmet,

I am following up on agreeing a date for a meeting to discuss the DAFM FS and NPWS referral matrix and procedures.

Can we look at scheduling an inception meeting for April?

Kind Regards,

Julie

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**From:** Julie Sullivan (Housing)  
**Sent:** Wednesday 14 February 2024 17:08  
**To:** 'OFahy, Emmet' <[Emmet.OFahy@agriculture.gov.ie](mailto:Emmet.OFahy@agriculture.gov.ie)>  
**Cc:** 'FSU@agriculture.gov.ie' <[FSU@agriculture.gov.ie](mailto:FSU@agriculture.gov.ie)>; 'Patricia.Kelly@agriculture.gov.ie' <[Patricia.Kelly@agriculture.gov.ie](mailto:Patricia.Kelly@agriculture.gov.ie)>  
**Subject:** FW: NPWS Referrals procedure for Forestry projects

Good afternoon Emmet,

Apologies in the delay in getting back to you regarding scheduling of a meeting as requested (It was a very busy end to the year between various leave types and work etc.) It would be great to get a meeting scheduled and in the diary now and very welcomed from our side.

In June 2023 Myself, Paul Scott (Head of Ecology, Guidance and Advisory Unit) and Sorcha de Brúch (PO Legislation and Licensing Unit) met with your colleagues (Kevin Collins, Seamus Dunne, Joanne Adams, Frank Barrett) and discussed referrals and related issues.

I sought a follow up meeting in October and Kevin was to get back to me on this. I think an initial follow up meeting is probably warranted before getting into any in-depth discussions on the Referral Matrix etc.

Would any of the following dates suit:

Monday 19<sup>th</sup>, Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> am, Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> am, Monday 26<sup>th</sup>, Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> am, Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup>, Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> or Friday 1<sup>st</sup> am?

Regarding topics you outlined below some issues from my perspective include:

- Forestry Licence Viewer – redaction of documents, delay in uploading documents, documents put up as 'other'
- FS to identify applications where a response is required e.g. Licence applications within designated national or European sites
- Stages referrals are sent to NPWS (This was mentioned at a previous meeting that NPWS were consulted early as comments were fed into the AA process - reasons why this is the process and possibility some training for staff on this and what type of information FS are looking from NPWS)
- Format for Forestry Matrix review could be discussed and start date etc.

Kind Regards,

Julie

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**From:** OFahy, Emmet <[Emmet.OFahy@agriculture.gov.ie](mailto:Emmet.OFahy@agriculture.gov.ie)>  
**Sent:** Friday 27 October 2023 15:07  
**To:** Julie Sullivan (Housing) <[julie.sullivan@npws.gov.ie](mailto:julie.sullivan@npws.gov.ie)>

**Cc:** Forestry Support Unit <[FSU@agriculture.gov.ie](mailto:FSU@agriculture.gov.ie)>; Kelly, Patricia <[Patricia.Kelly@agriculture.gov.ie](mailto:Patricia.Kelly@agriculture.gov.ie)>  
**Subject:** RE: NPWS Referrals procedure for Forestry projects

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Hi Julie,  
That's fine. Any time after that is ok also. We need to have discussions within DAFM too.

Best regards  
Emmet O'Fahy

Assistant Principal Officer/Príomhoifíeach Cúnta  
Felling Section, Alleged Illegal Forestry Section & Forestry Support Unit  
Forestry Division/Rannán Foraoiseachta

Department of Agriculture, Food & the Marine/An Roinn Talmhaíochta, Bia agus Mara  
Johnstown Castle Estate, Co. Wexford/Eastát Chaisleán Bhaile Sheáin, Chontae Loch Garman  
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**From:** Julie Sullivan (Housing) <[julie.sullivan@npws.gov.ie](mailto:julie.sullivan@npws.gov.ie)>  
**Sent:** Friday, October 27, 2023 3:06 PM  
**To:** OFahy, Emmet <[Emmet.OFahy@agriculture.gov.ie](mailto:Emmet.OFahy@agriculture.gov.ie)>  
**Cc:** Forestry Support Unit <[FSU@agriculture.gov.ie](mailto:FSU@agriculture.gov.ie)>; Kelly, Patricia <[Patricia.Kelly@agriculture.gov.ie](mailto:Patricia.Kelly@agriculture.gov.ie)>  
**Subject:** RE: NPWS Referrals procedure for Forestry projects

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Hi Emmet,

Thanks for your email. Reviewing the matrix is something that NPWS are keen to do. I am on a half day today (not gone yet!) and on annual leave next week. Your suggested week of 6<sup>th</sup> November will therefore not be possible. My unit is a co-ordination unit for NPWS. I would need to seek input from the ecological team and the regional team and revert to you. Can you leave it with me and I will see what I can do week of the 6<sup>th</sup> in terms of getting agreement of who will provide input into these meetings. I will come back to you then with suggested dates then.

Kind Regards,

Julie

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**From:** OFahy, Emmet <[Emmet.OFahy@agriculture.gov.ie](mailto:Emmet.OFahy@agriculture.gov.ie)>  
**Sent:** Friday 27 October 2023 09:50  
**To:** Julie Sullivan (Housing) <[julie.sullivan@npws.gov.ie](mailto:julie.sullivan@npws.gov.ie)>

**Cc:** Forestry Support Unit <[FSU@agriculture.gov.ie](mailto:FSU@agriculture.gov.ie)>; Kelly, Patricia <[Patricia.Kelly@agriculture.gov.ie](mailto:Patricia.Kelly@agriculture.gov.ie)>  
**Subject:** NPWS Referrals procedure for Forestry projects

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Hi Julie,

Further to our conversation earlier this week I am writing to request a meeting between our two Departments on potentially updating the procedure for NPWS- DAFM Forestry Division. Could you come back to me with some possible dates? I am suggesting the latter half of the week starting Monday 6th November We could have the first meeting online and see where we need to go from there?

I attach the existing referral matrix and DAFM procedures documents which are on record here. The attached FS-DAFM / NPWS Referral Matrix is from February 2013, which was the result of a series of discussions between us to reach a higher level of consistency regarding referrals to NPWS, across the different 'workstreams' (afforestation, felling, roading, etc.). The effort did achieve this, when you look at what was there beforehand (with different referral systems for each workstream). The effort also moved referrals to an electronic platform, i.e. via DATS, and also tried to improve the quality of the responses from NPWS (balanced by a smaller volume of targeted referrals being generated and sent over to them, by the new matrix).

We can exchange potential topics for the meeting in advance, but I believe that from our side, the following are issues that need to be addressed.

- The alignment of the referral process for NPWS with other state agencies, in terms of time taken and use of the Department's Forestry Licence Viewer.
- Responses from NPWS can be quite varied, and lacking in site-specific info. / recommendations, which if it had these more often could be used to better aid DAFM in making a final decision.
- Possibly looking at the volume of referrals being made, with a view to focusing them on ones of particular interest to NPWS, e.g. the various special areas of conservation or pNHAs..
- A renewal of the matrix (along with possible information days on forestry licencing process) will aid both our organisations in understanding better the requirements of our respective legislation and our resource capacities.

Best regards  
Emmet O'Fahy

Assistant Principal Officer/Príomhoifíeach Cúnta  
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