

Ms Ann Walshe

By email only: ann@annwalshe.co.uk

25 February 2025

Our Ref: AIE Request 20250004

Your Ref: Management Plans for Co Leitrim including BioClass

Dear Ms Walshe

I write to you on behalf of Coillte. I have conducted the internal review of the decision which was remitted on 28 November 2024 (the “**Initial Decision**”) relating to a request made by you under the European Communities (Access to Information on the Environment) Regulations 2007 to 2018 (S.I. No. 133 of 2007, S.I. No. 662 of 2011, S.I. 615 of 2014 and S.I. No. 309 of 2018) (the “**AIE Regulations**”) on 28 May 2024 (the “**Request**”).

In line with Article 11(2) of the AIE Regulations, I confirm that am I unconnected with and am of more senior rank than the Initial Decision Maker, who made the Initial Decision.

1. The Request

On 28 May 2024, you requested access to information held by Coillte under the AIE Regulations as follows:

“I am submitting this application under the Access to Information on the Environment ('AIE') Regulations.

My contact details are noted below.

Please provide, by email, a copy of all current Management Plans in relation to Coillte controlled lands (held both freehold or leasehold by Coillte) located in County Leitrim with a Bio Class rating applied by Coillte.

Please provide a schedule of records with your decision.”

Coillte, Dublin Road, Newtownmountkennedy, Co. Wicklow, A63 DN25, Ireland.
T 0818 367 378 E info@coillte.ie W www.coillte.ie

2. The Initial Decision

Access to this information was granted in the Initial Decision, in an alternative manner on the basis of Article 7(3)(a)(ii), which stipulates that *“where a request has been made to a public authority for access to environmental information in a particular form or manner, access shall be given in that form or manner unless access in another form or manner would be reasonable.”*

3. Internal Review

On 27 June 2024, you requested an internal review as follows:

“I request an Internal review of the decision dated 27 June 2024.

I have not requested information on the BioClass assessments on Coillte lands in Leitrim.

I have requested copies of all current Management Plans in relation to Coillte controlled lands with a BioClass rating which are located within Co. Leitrim.

For example, in AIE/2024/0043 which AIE request related to the BioClass area of 50.91 ha located at Glencar, Co. Leitrim,

Sharon Byrne informed me on 1 May 2024 that 'Coillte have not yet prepared a management plan for this BioCass area.'

To repeat, I am requesting a copy of each current management plan for BioClass areas in Leitrim, where Coillte has prepared such plans.”

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4. OCEI Remittal

Coillte issued an Internal Review Decision to you, on 31 May 2024, under AIE reference 20240110, following a request by you pursuant to Article 11 of the AIE Regulations. Following your appeal to the OCEI, the Commissioner for Environmental Information remitted Coillte's internal review decision and directed Coillte to furnish you with a new internal review decision (OCEI appeal reference **OCE-151261-P3B7F3**).

5. The Internal Review

As per Article 11(2) of the AIE Regulations, my role is to affirm, vary or annul the Initial Decision. Having re-examined both the Request and the Initial Decision, I have decided that the Initial Decision should be **varied**. The basis of this conclusion is set out as follows.

6. Decision

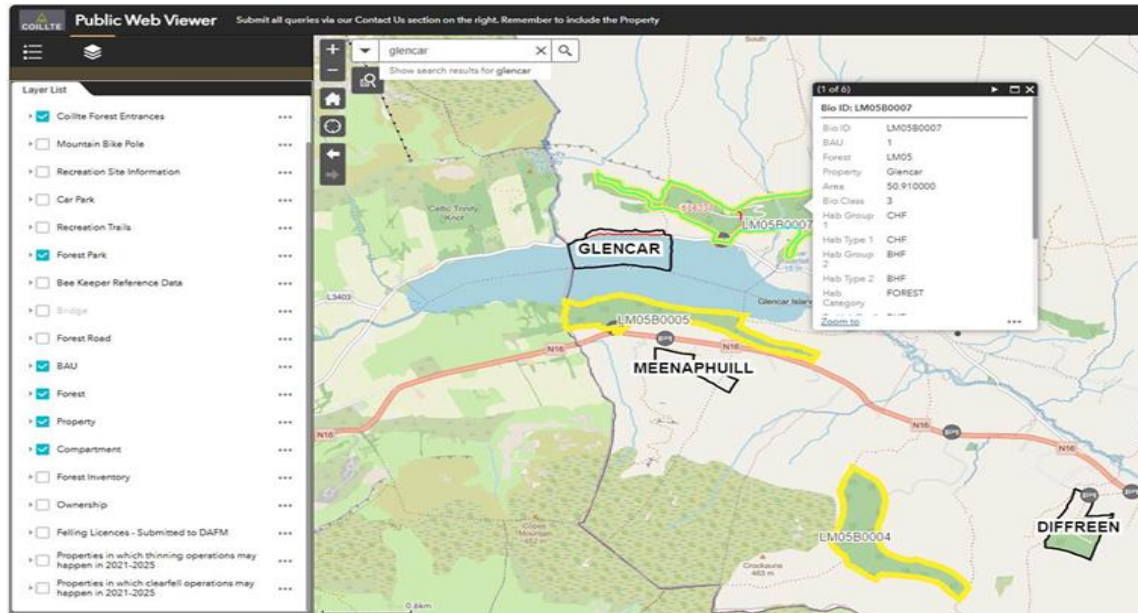
The Initial Decision provided you with information relating to rating of BioClass areas on Coillte lands in County Leitrim in reliance Article 7(3)(a)(ii), as this information is publicly available on Coillte's Public Mapviewer and it was deemed reasonable for you to access the information in this manner.

The ratings of BioClass areas on Coillte lands in Leitrim, are available to view at the following link:

<https://coillte.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=7b05ec6a44a14bd8b523ea1fcb78b4e9>

All biodiversity areas have a BioClass rating, and this can be seen on the public map viewer. For your reference, please see screenshot below of Glencar in Co Leitrim. Simply click on the biodiversity area in question and the BioClass rating is listed with the attributes on the pop up, as per below example.

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This information was provided to you in the Initial Decision, as the document that contains the Bio Class rating, I am satisfied that this element of the Request has been granted.

I am granting access to this information in another form or manner as described above in reliance on Article 7(3)(a) as the information requested is publicly available and it is reasonable for you to access it in this manner.

I vary the Initial Decision, and I am granting the current Coillte Biodiversity Area Management Plans, drafted in 2019, for Coillte controlled lands in Co Leitrim, which include Cornagillagh and Derrycarne and are attached hereto. Please note that management plans were prepared for selected sites in Co Leitrim.

7. Conclusion

For the reasons outlined above the Initial Decision has been varied.

8. Right of Appeal

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In accordance with Article 12(3) of the AIE Regulations you may appeal this internal review decision to the Commissioner for Environmental Information. If you wish to appeal, you must do so within one month of receipt of this notification, to:

The Office of the Commissioner for Environmental Information
6 Earlsfort Terrace
Dublin 2
D02 W773

Phone: +353-1-639 5689

Email: info@ocei.ie

It is also possible to appeal online: see the website of the Commissioner for further details <https://www.ocei.ie/>. The fee for such an appeal is €50 or €15 if you are the holder of a medical card or the dependent of the holder of a medical card.

Yours sincerely

Sent by email, no signature

Internal Review Officer

Coillte CGA

E-mail: aie@coillte.ie

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