

## Farrell, Janet

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**From:** Gallagher, Colin  
**Sent:** Monday 26 September 2022 13:05  
**To:** 'Sinead Whyte'  
**Cc:** 'Ailsa Doyle'; Morris, Linda; Moore, Fergus; Clifford, Brian; Windle, Robert; Farrell, Janet  
**Subject:** FW: Consultation on the Screening Report for the SEA of the Forest Strategy 2022-2030  
**Attachments:** 220802\_EPA Submission SEA Screening Forest Strategy 2022-2030.pdf

Hi Sinead,

Please find attached a response to the SEA Screening, just received from the EPA.

Kind regards,

Colin

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**From:** Suzanne Wylde <S.Wylde@epa.ie>  
**Sent:** Monday 26 September 2022 12:58  
**To:** Gallagher, Colin <colin.gallagher@agriculture.gov.ie>; SEA <SEA@epa.ie>  
**Cc:** Morris, Linda <Linda.Morris@agriculture.gov.ie>  
**Subject:** RE: Consultation on the Screening Report for the SEA of the Forest Strategy 2022-2030

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Dear Colin,

Please see attached submission in relation to the SEA screening for the draft Forest Strategy.

Regards  
Suzanne

Suzanne Wylde BSc, MSc, PgDip  
Scientific Officer I Strategic Environmental Assessment Unit  
Office of Evidence and Assessment, Wexford

Oifigeach Eolaíochta I Measúnacht Straitéiseach Timpeallachta (MST)  
Oifig um Fianaise is Measúnú, Loch Garman



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**From:** Gallagher, Colin <[colin.gallagher@agriculture.gov.ie](mailto:colin.gallagher@agriculture.gov.ie)>  
**Sent:** Friday 26 August 2022 09:55  
**To:** SEA <[SEA@epa.ie](mailto:SEA@epa.ie)>  
**Cc:** Morris, Linda <[Linda.Morris@agriculture.gov.ie](mailto:Linda.Morris@agriculture.gov.ie)>  
**Subject:** Consultation on the Screening Report for the SEA of the Forest Strategy 2022-2030

Dear Sir/Madam,

The Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (DAFM), as the Competent Authority, is currently preparing Ireland's Forest Strategy for the period 2022 -2030.

### **Background and context**

A Shared National Vision (attached) has been developed for the role of trees and forests in Ireland to 2050. The overarching statement of this Vision is:

*'The right trees in the right places for the right reasons with the right management supporting a clean, healthy and well protected environment and a sustainable economy and society'.*

Over the past year comprehensive engagement and public consultation has taken place to gather views and opinions from society and stakeholders that has informed this final shared vision and the development of the new Forest Strategy. Details and findings of this consultation and engagement will be available shortly on the DAFM website.

The Forest Strategy sets out a clear set of objectives and goals for the role of trees and forests in Ireland. The contents of the Strategy will be implemented between 2022 and 2030 with the aim of creating the conditions that can achieve the ambition of the Shared National Vision by 2050.

A separate Implementation Plan will be developed for delivery and implementation of the Forest Strategy. The Implementation Plan will include specific actions for each of the identified Enablers and Value area Goals of the Forest Strategy. It will also include the new Forestry Programme (2023 – 2027), which will be the main implementation vehicle for the Forest Strategy. The Implementation Plan will be subject to a separate Strategic Environment Assessment.

### **Consultation**

The requirements of the European Communities (Environmental Assessment of Certain Plans and Programmes) Regulations 2004 (S.I. No. 435 of 2004) (hereafter, 'the SEA Regulations'), as amended by the European Communities (Environmental Assessment of Certain Plans and Programmes) (Amendment) Regulations, 2011 (S.I. 200 of 2011), have been taken into account. Section 9 (4) of SI No. 435 of 2004 requires the screening of individual plans or programmes, based on the criteria in Schedule 1 of the SEA Regulations.

DAFM has procured the services of consultants Ove Arup & Partners Ireland Limited (ARUP) to undertake a Strategic Environmental Assessment Screening the Forest Strategy.

An initial assessment has been made of the nature and purpose of the Forest Strategy against the requirements and criteria set out in the SEA Directive. Ultimately, it is determined that the Forestry Strategy is high-level and consequently does not define criteria or conditions which would guide the way a consenting authority determines an application for development consent of projects listed in the EIA

Directive. It is noted that the Implementation Plan that will be developed for the delivery and implementation of the Forest Strategy will be subject to full SEA.

Details of the proposed Forest Strategy along with the initial assessment in relation to SEA are attached.

The DAFM hereby invites you to make submissions or observations in relation to the content and conclusions of the Screening Report. Any comments received will be taken into consideration in making a final determination in relation to the need for SEA of the Forest Strategy. Submissions should be made anytime before Close of Business **23<sup>rd</sup> September 2022** by:

1. Email to the following address: [colin.gallagher@agriculture.gov.ie](mailto:colin.gallagher@agriculture.gov.ie) cc'ing [linda.morris@agriculture.gov.ie](mailto:linda.morris@agriculture.gov.ie)
2. Writing to the following address: Forest Policy Section, Forestry Division, Department of Agriculture Food and the Marine, Johnstown Castle Estate, Wexford, Co. Wexford, Y35 PN52

The Forest Strategy is considered draft until this consultation is completed and final determination is made.

I would be grateful if you could acknowledge receipt of this notification.

Yours sincerely,

Colin Gallagher

**Colin Gallagher**  
*Forestry Division*

**An Roinn Talmhaíochta, Bia agus Mara**  
*Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine*

Eastát Chaisleán Bhaile Sheáin, Co. Loch Garman, Y35 PN52

Johnstown Castle Estate, Wexford, Y35 PN52

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Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine

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An Roinn Talmhaíochta, Bia agus Mara

Tá an t-eolais san ríomhphost seo, agus in aon ceanglín leis, faoi phribhléid agus faoi rún agus le h-agmaigh an seolaí amháin. D'fhéadfadh ábhar an seoladh seo bheith faoi phribhléid profisiúnta nó dlíthiúil. Mura tusa an seolaí a bhí beartaithe leis an ríomhphost seo a fháil, tá cosc air, nó aon chuid de, a úsáid, a chóipeál, nó a scaoileadh. Má tháinig sé chugat de bharr dearmad, téigh i dteagmháil leis an seoltóir agus scríos an t-ábhar ó do ríomhaire le do thoil.