

From: [Lacey, Philip](#)
To: [OFahy, Emmet](#)
Subject: RE: Licencing plan 2025/mid year review
Date: Wednesday 18 June 2025 11:36:54
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[image004.png](#)
[image005.png](#)
[image006.png](#)

Hi Emmet

Sorry I missed your call back –

We have been updating the document [REDACTED]

and would the following be for payments team to provide update?

- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]

Happy to discuss with you and if necessary forward to payments if required.

Thanks

Philip

From: OFahy, Emmet <Emmet.OFahy@agriculture.gov.ie>
Sent: Tuesday 17 June 2025 10:30
To: Delany, Barry <Barry.Delany@agriculture.gov.ie>; Lacey, Philip <Philip.Lacey@agriculture.gov.ie>; Byrne, VincentA <vincenta.byrne@agriculture.gov.ie>
Subject: RE: Licencing plan 2025/mid year review

Hi Philp and Vincent,
Have you had a chance to input the revised text and updated figures into the draft licencing plan/mid year review?

I have highlighted the text in red which requires updating/editing.

<https://agriculture.cloud.gov.ie/apps/eDocs/S/AGFD015/Files/AGFD015-015-2023/Licencing%20Plans/2025%20Licencing%20Plan/DRAFT%20DAFM%20Licencing%20Plan%202025.docx?d=wa832a6fd190740388a75a3907bf6f5d4>

Best regards
Emmet

From: OFahy, Emmet
Sent: Wednesday 11 June 2025 13:28

To: Delany, Barry <Barry.Delany@agriculture.gov.ie>; Lacey, Philip <Philip.Lacey@agriculture.gov.ie>; Byrne, VincentA <vincenta.byrne@agriculture.gov.ie>
Subject: RE: Licencing plan 2025/mid year review

Hi Barry,
Grand, I will do.

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

From: Delany, Barry <Barry.Delany@agriculture.gov.ie>
Sent: Wednesday 11 June 2025 12:55
To: OFahy, Emmet <Emmet.OFahy@agriculture.gov.ie>; Lacey, Philip <Philip.Lacey@agriculture.gov.ie>; Byrne, VincentA <vincenta.byrne@agriculture.gov.ie>
Subject: RE: Licencing plan 2025/mid year review

Emmet,

[REDACTED]

Thanks,
Barry

From: OFahy, Emmet <Emmet.OFahy@agriculture.gov.ie>
Sent: Wednesday 11 June 2025 11:45
To: Lacey, Philip <Philip.Lacey@agriculture.gov.ie>; Byrne, VincentA <vincenta.byrne@agriculture.gov.ie>
Cc: Delany, Barry <Barry.Delany@agriculture.gov.ie>
Subject: RE: Licencing plan 2025/mid year review

Hi again,
I have updated the document below as best I can. However we need updated affor figures and text as requested below. Link to the draft is below.

<https://agriculture.cloud.gov.ie/apps/eDocs/S/AGFD015/Files/AGFD015-015-2023/Licencing%20Plans/2025%20Licencing%20Plan/DRAFT%20DAFM%20Licensing%20Plan%202025.docx?d=wa832a6fd190740388a75a3907bf6f5d4>

Best regards
Emmet O'Fahy

Assistant Principal Officer/Príomhoifíeach Cúnta
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Ph: 053 9114130 Ext 53730

From: OFahy, Emmet
Sent: Wednesday 11 June 2025 08:43
To: Lacey, Philip <Philip.Lacey@agriculture.gov.ie>; Byrne, VincentA
<vincenta.byrne@agriculture.gov.ie>
Subject: Licencing plan 2025/mid year review

Hi all,
I have to draft a revised licencing plan for 2025, [REDACTED]. Could
I get the following info asap please?

The latest draft of the licencing plan 2025 is here:
<https://agriculture.cloud.gov.ie/apps/eDocs/S/AGFD015/Files/AGFD015-015-2023/Licencing%20Plans/2025%20Licencing%20Plan/DRAFT%20DAFM%20Licencing%20Plan%202025.docx?d=wa832a6fd190740388a75a3907bf6f5d4>

Philip - Barry Delany has asked that the licencing plan be reworked to reflect where we
are in the year [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] but could
you send me (or insert text) that could be used in the document in this regard?

Vincent - [REDACTED] Can I get some text
that provides context, where we are now and where are looking to get to? (circa 1-2
paragraphs). Also can you send me the link to the Plan which I can insert in the
document.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] It is not mentioned in the current iteration, which was previously
focused on output figures almost exclusively.

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

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Ph: 053 9114130 Ext 53730

From: Delany, Barry <Barry.Delany@agriculture.gov.ie>
Sent: Tuesday 10 June 2025 17:37
To: OFahy, Emmet <Emmet.OFahy@agriculture.gov.ie>
Subject: FW: Worrying decline in afforestation applications

Emmet,

Can we look again at updating the licencing plan with a summary of files to 1st June and issuing asap

Thanks,

Barry

From: Healy-Rae, Jackie <Jackie.HealyRae@agriculture.gov.ie>
Sent: Tuesday 10 June 2025 17:07
To: Delany, Barry <Barry.Delany@agriculture.gov.ie>
Cc: Dunne, Seamus <Seamus.Dunne@agriculture.gov.ie>; Savage, Paul <Paul.Savage@agriculture.gov.ie>; Casey, Jacquie <Jacquie.Casey@agriculture.gov.ie>
Subject: FW: Worrying decline in afforestation applications

FYI

MOS will be arranging a meeting asap.

Kind Regards,

Jackie

Jackie Healy-Rae

Special Advisor to Minister Michael Healy-Rae

An Roinn Talmhaíochta, Bia agus Mara

Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine

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From: info@seefa.ie <info@seefa.ie>
Sent: Tuesday, June 10, 2025 5:02 PM
To: Healy-Rae, Jackie <Jackie.HealyRae@agriculture.gov.ie>
Subject: Worrying decline in afforestation applications

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For the attention of the Minister,

While the weekly dashboard circulated by your department yesterday makes for worrying reading, SEEFA would like to bring attention to a section of the data that signals an urgent need for action.

	Valid Applications Received YTD	Licences Issued YTD
Afforestation	176	210

Table on Page 2 of the dashboard

Afforestation Applications received year-to-date, which, at the time of writing, stands at just **176**. This is approximately half the 345 applications received during the same period last year.

SEEFA believes that the 176 applications received YTD will result in 2026 being the lowest planting rates in the state's history, which we had hoped would be behind us following Minister Hackett's tenure. Our organisation would also like to point out that the 331 applications received in 2024 have subsequently resulted in 1,243 hectares being planted so far in 2025, as per this week's dashboard. Following a similar trend will see afforestation of only around 650 hectares at this stage next year, with only November and December remaining as plantable months due to seasonality.

SEEFA would be happy to arrange a delegation of three members to meet with you and provide a comprehensive briefing on these assumptions. We are eager to work with you to resolve this matter urgently.

SEEFA contacted your department officials in May 2024 to discuss the then-alarming situation, and our group provided workable solutions. During this meeting, SEEFA warned that without meaningful intervention, these numbers would decline further, a prediction that has proven to be true, which is why we are raising it again as a significant concern. To be clear, without serious intervention now, these numbers will continue to decline.

After over a year of engagement with your department officials, our group remains frustrated by the lack of urgency shown. Following our most recent meeting with your officials last Friday, some of our members were so despondent afterwards that they suggested it would be the last such meeting they would attend.

Not one agenda item presented by SEEFA on May 31st 2024, has progressed beyond the initial discussion stage. It can't be claimed at this point that the decline in applications and lack of interest was not foreseen or advised on. As over 90% of registered foresters actively involved in afforestation are members of SEEFA, it would be remiss of our group not to notify you that enquiries are dwindling, foresters' phones are not ringing, and afforestation is clearly heading towards the worst-case scenario.

What gets measured gets done, and in this instance, we suggest the following:

1. Can your department update the Dashboard to enable the direct comparison

- that we have detailed above, to allow a weekly review of progress?
2. It would also be helpful if your department issued a licensing plan for the remainder of 2025, which could also be included in an updated dashboard to enable comparison against the same period in 2024 and the 2025 licensing plan projections.

SEEFa remain committed to the recovery and growth of our sector and is available to you at any time.

Regards,

Dominic Barr

Administration & Communications

info@seefa.ie

