

Kehoe, Theresa

From: OFahy, Emmet
Sent: Monday 25 August 2025 10:40
To: Coggins, Karl
Subject: FW: LM09-FL0064 Breach of Licence Conditions

Hi Karl,
Please see below – a further email on concerns about this site. Please investigate as appropriate.

Best regards
Forestry Support Unit

From: Forestry Support Unit
Sent: Monday 25 August 2025 10:38
To: [REDACTED] Forestry Support Unit <FSU@agriculture.gov.ie>
Subject: RE: LM09-FL0064 Breach of Licence Conditions

Dear [REDACTED]
Thankyou for your updated report. As mentioned to you in our response of 19th August, the matter has been brought to the attention of the relevant staff to look into the matter as appropriate. We will pass on this further message also and will be in touch if necessary, if further information is required. The Department acts on all reports it receives and the consequential actions depend on the judgement of the Department.

Best regards
Forestry Support Unit

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday 25 August 2025 08:00
To: Forestry Support Unit <FSU@agriculture.gov.ie>
Subject: Re: LM09-FL0064 Breach of Licence Conditions

CAUTION: This Email originated from Outside of this department. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe. Otherwise Please Forward any suspicious Emails to Notify.Cyber@agriculture.gov.ie .

FSU,

Can you clarify whether DAFM has investigated the issues on this site?

Works have continued and the condition of the site has further deteriorated.

An additional issue has been identified – the presence of an invasive species. Works have been conducted proximate to this species – no adequate exclusion zone has been marked. I draw your attention to condition 10 of the licence.

Does DAFM have a zero tolerance policy to breaches of licence conditions? If not, what is the policy?

Please provide your name when responding.

Regards, [REDACTED]

On Mon, 18 Aug 2025 at 08:00, [REDACTED] > wrote:

It would appear that DAFM have failed to act regarding the works under this licence and this has permitted the situation to worsen.

There are numerous breaches of Felling Standards / licence conditions. A breach of licence conditions is a breach of the law.

Inadequate brash matting; soil damage - significant amounts of soil and silt exposed; deep rutting (soil damage); soil maked by forwarder wheels in multiple places (no brash)

Using a loaded forwarder on a forest road

Extending a Forest Road without consent

Logs stacked over roadside drain which connects to an EPA mapped stream

Diesel bowser stored in ditch that leads to an EPA mapped stream

Machine oils and chemicals left unsecured on an unattended site

This damage has occured during perfect weather conditions.

I have extensive imagery of the issues.

Additionally, the works are being carried out in a Important Breeding Area for Hen Harrier during the period of breeding and rearing.

I require confirmation from you that this matter is being investigated, or will be investigated immediately.

If you do not provide such confirmation I will need to escalate the matter. There has been a dereliction of duty on the part of the Forest Service Inspectorate in not investigating the works at this site allowing matters to deteriorate.

Regards, [REDACTED]

On Mon, 11 Aug 2025 at 08:00, [REDACTED] wrote:

I wish to report the breach of licence conditions by Coillte in terms of their operations on licence LM09-FL0064 - Corraleeahanbeg, Kilnamaddyroe, Prabagh, Co. Leitrim.

The following conditions are currently being breached, as a minimum.

17) Brash to be utilised to create and maintain a functioning brash layer along all machine routes. Reason: In the interest of the protection of the soil and to prevent rutting or erosion on machinery routes.

18) Where rutting has the potential to create pathways for the movement of silt and sediment into aquatic zones or relevant watercourses deploy additional control measures, such as further brash to prevent further rutting or the use of alternative routes. Reason: In the interest of the protection of water quality.

There is deep rutting particularly around the stacking area and the track imprints of the forwarder can be seen in the soil in a number of places.

This is with near ideal conditions. What will happen on this site when the weather breaks?

3) The licensee shall ensure that all felling and reforestation operations are carried out in accordance with the Standards for Felling & Reforestation and the Environmental Requirements for Afforestation (as these refer to reforestation) published by the Department. Reason: In the interest of protection of the environment during harvesting and where applicable, replanting of the felled area.

This includes;

Create and maintain dense mats of brash and branch wood on all machine routes, to avoid soil damage, erosion and sedimentation. Concentrate brash mats on primary routes and in sections crossing soils with a low bearing capacity. The junction of extraction paths and landing sites should also be supplied with a protective brash cover. Brash mats should be renewed when they become heavily used and worn, and no longer function effectively.

There is the typical corner cutting by contractors, enabled through lack of oversight by Coillte and DAFM.

Additionally, machine oils, etc are left unsecured on the site over the weekend. This, again, is typical lax conduct from contractors enabled by lack of oversight. There is vehicular access to the public to this site and such materials should be secured when the site is unattended.

Additionally there have been road upgrade works undertaken without the consent of DAFM. Road upgrades which meet the definition of the same in the COFORD Manual require development consent. I have submitted a legal opinion to this effect which has not been contradicted by DAFM. I note that since receipt of that opinion you have removed the administrative advice on Forest Road Works not requiring development consent that was in the previous version of the Forestry Standards Manual. Those works were undertaken during the period of breeding and rearing and involved disturbance activity within 1.2km of a recorded Hen Harrier nest location.

I trust that you will investigate immediately.

Regards,

[REDACTED]