

Kehoe, Theresa

From: Forestry Support Unit
Sent: Monday 11 August 2025 12:55
To: Felling.Coillte
Subject: FW: LM09-FL0064 Alleged Breach of Licence Conditions

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Hello colleagues,
Can you record this alleged breach of licence conditions and pass it onto the relevant staff for appropriate attention?

Best regards
Forestry Support Unit

From: Forestry Support Unit
Sent: Monday 11 August 2025 12:52
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: Forestry Support Unit <FSU@agriculture.gov.ie>
Subject: RE: LM09-FL0064 Alleged Breach of Licence Conditions

Dear [REDACTED],

The Department acknowledges receipt of your report and will look into the matter as appropriate. The Department will be in touch, if necessary, for further information.

Best regards
Forestry Support Unit

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday 11 August 2025 08:00
To: Forestry Support Unit <FSU@agriculture.gov.ie>
Subject: LM09-FL0064 Breach of Licence Conditions

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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, 