

From: Carl Morrow [carlmorrow@eircom.net]

Sent: 16 September 2014 12:41

To: forestryprogram2014-2020

Subject: New Forestry Programme 2014 to 2020

To whom it concerns,

I am planning to plant a considerable portion of my land with Oak/Beech in 2015, however the current proposals for the New Forestry Program 2014-2020 are making me think otherwise.

The main issue of concern is the Premium rates for Oak/Beech planting, which have been reduced from €10300 per hectare (€515 x 20 years) to €8400 per hectare (€560 x 15 years >8 hectares) or €8100 per hectare (€540 x 15 years <8 hectares).

The new rates need to be increased to match or exceed the previous Premium Rates especially for growing Oak or Beech trees as the end product won't be realized for 100 years at the earliest. Index linking the Premiums should also be applied to avoid devaluation over the 15 year term.

Additionally, Shaping/Pruning grants should also be maintained or increased for Year 5 and Year 10 to ensure productive woodlands and high quality timber for home and export markets.

sincerely,

Carl Morrow.