

From: brid [bridconnor50@hotmail.com]

Sent: 14 October 2014 15:45

To: forestryprogram2014-2020

Subject: new forestry programme

The offaly farm forestry group very much welcomes the draft programme 2014-2020. However the offaly group has reservations over the proposed duration of years for annual premium. The majority of land planted in midlands is with Norway spruce due to frost pockets. This is a slower growing species than Sitka and will generally not be ready for thinning before it is 20 years old. Therefore many landowners will have no possibility of obtaining any income for more than 5 years. This will act as a major disincentive for new planting in midlands. Therefore the offaly forestry group hope that the annual premium be retained for the duration of 20 years.

yours sincerely,

murt connor, chairman