

Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food

Ref: 1/2009

9th January 2009

To the Forester or Forestry Company named in the address

Re: Environmental Impact Assessment for forest road development

The Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government has, through the Planning and Development Regulations 2008 (S.I. No. 235 of 2008) amended Schedule 5 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (S.I. No. 600 of 2001).

Schedule 5 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 sets out the classes of development which require Environmental Impact Assessment under Part 10 of those Regulations. By virtue of S.I. 235 of 2008, the classes of development to which Schedule 5 of S.I. 6000 of 2001 refers now includes “*all private roads which would exceed 2000 metres in length*”.

In relation to forestry, the effect of the amendment is that all forest roads which would exceed 2000 metres in length must be subjected to an Environmental Impact Assessment, in accordance with Part 10 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001.

Consequently, all applications submitted to the Forest Service under the Forest Road Grant Scheme, where the proposed road development exceeds 2000 metres in length, must be accompanied by an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).

Gerry Fogarty
Assistant principal
Forest Service