

Circular 22 of 2011

22 December 2011

Forest Roads

In Circular 20 of 2011, you were informed of the decision to close the current Forest Roads (Grants) Scheme to new applicants and also that no new approvals would issue from the date of that circular (16 December 2011). You were further advised of the intention to put in place a new Roads Scheme, details of which would be circulated to you in advance for purposes of consultation.

The following are the main changes proposed for the Scheme, which it is hoped to have in place as early as possible in 2012.

1. Maximum rate per linear metre to reduce from €45 to €35.
2. Payments will be made net of VAT, regardless of applicants VAT status.
3. Road density to be reduced from 25 linear metres per hectare to 18 linear metres per hectare.
4. The construction of a "Standard back in type loading bay" or a "Standard loading bay with internal turning area" may be grant aided where the area allows. Apart from a loading bay, only the minimum amount of roadway required will be grant aided to ensure forwarding distances do not exceed a maximum of 600 metres.
5. Total payments to any one applicant to be limited to €1m - including payments already made or committed since 1 January 2007.

All applicants under the current Scheme whose applications had not been decided upon/approved by 16 December 2011 are being advised that they will be offered the opportunity to switch to the revised Scheme subject to their acceptance of the new terms and conditions; submission of planning permission for new road access points, where required, or certification by their registered forester of the existence of such road access before 21 September 2011.

We would appreciate your comments on the draft provisions. These should be sent to the undersigned by Friday 13 January 2012 at the latest (gerry.cassidy@agriculture.gov.ie).

Gerry Cassidy

Assistant Principal

Forestry Division