



**Forestry Policy Group
2nd Meeting
Thursday 17th December 2020
14:30 – 16:30**

WebEx link:

<https://dafm.webex.com/dafm/j.php?MTID=m1ad064ca96f93ddef8ba7b5a3a341878>

Draft agenda

1	Opening Remarks by Minister Hackett	14.30-14.40
2	Licencing process	14.40-15.15
3	Implementation of MacKinnon report - Update <i>Presentation by Jo O'Hara</i>	15.15-15.30
4	Promotion of Forestry: <i>Teagasc on its work/promotions and 2021 plans</i> <i>Call for Promotion 2019-2020 and next steps – Review Presentation</i> Followed by break-out session	15.30-16.00 16.00-16.20
5	Dates for 2021 Meetings and AOB	16.25-16.30

Documentation from previous meetings is available to the public [here](#).



Forestry Programme Policy Group Terms of Reference – Revised

Background

The 2020 Programme for Government (PfG) set out an ambitious agenda for Irish Forestry. Minister Hackett has set up a new Forestry Programme Policy Group to provide a forum for stakeholders to input on the achievement of these PfG commitments and to address the range of immediate challenges currently facing forestry in Ireland.

Objective and Scope

The group provides a forum for stakeholders, state agencies, industry, community groups, farm bodies and NGOs to work together and with the Minister and the Department to propose improvements to the current operation of forestry policy and to input into the development of a new national forestry strategy. This strategy will reflect both Programme for Government commitments and international best practise from an environment, social and economic perspective.

Tasks

The group will work together in an atmosphere of trust, respect and co-operation to:

- Address the current difficulties with the Forestry Licensing system.
- Monitor and if necessary suggest adjustments to the current Forestry Programme.
- Contribute to the development of a new national Forestry Strategy and Implementation Plan so that forestry can:
 - Deliver on its multi-functional benefits from an economic, social and environmental perspective;
 - Contribute to wider Government and EU policy on climate, biodiversity, water quality, the rural economy and social and community engagement.