



**An Roinn Talmhaíochta,
Bia agus Mara**
Department of Agriculture,
Food and the Marine

Project Woodland

WG4 – Effective Processes Update

Working Group 4: Effective Processes



- WG4 has met on two occasions and has now scheduled fortnightly meetings to drive the process forward.
- Work is being initiated on each of the three key deliverables for this workstream (the potential for a single consent process will be considered at a later stage).
- Regarding the pre-application consultation deliverable, the WG at its second meeting considered a detailed briefing note which had been requested from the Department. The Chair hopes to table a draft recommendation to the Project Board for consideration at the next WG meeting which hopefully could lead to at least a pilot roll-out of this initiative by Q3 (see below re. timelines generally). Members have been asked to provide written comments to input to this draft recommendation.
- Similarly, the Department as requested has provided a detailed briefing note on the environment report/grant deliverable which will be considered at the next WG meeting.

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- Regarding the overall licensing process, the WG is seeking that an end-to-end business process review be undertaken urgently by the analytic capacity being retained by the Department. This should permit the WG to identify those changes which might quickly be adopted and applied on an administrative basis and, additionally, those changes which will require legislative action. The Chair would hope to get agreement around the precise ask of the Department in this regard at the next WG meeting.
- In general terms the WG is working well with a high level of engagement from members and the Department representatives.
- However, there are clearly differing viewpoints on the scope and level of ambition around what is being attempted and the resources which will be available to the WG to speedily progress its work programme.

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- The O'Hara report foresaw that milestone dates for delivery would be agreed by the WGs themselves and the Chair would hope to provisionally agree these at the next WG meeting. However, achievement of early and ambitious delivery will be contingent on the capacity of the Department to support the WG's deliberations and to deliver on its recommendations.