



24th April 2023

Circular 07/2023

To Registered Foresters and other Stakeholders

Re: Forestry Programme 2023 - 2027, *Forest Roads Scheme* and *Innovative Forest Technology Scheme Module 2 - Investment Aid for the Development of the Forest Tree Nursery Sector 2023*.

The new Forestry Programme 2023 -2027 will come into force in 2023 subject to State Aid approval from the EU Commission. The majority of Schemes offered within the Forestry Programme 2023-2027 are required to be assessed under the Guidelines for State aid in the agricultural and forestry sectors and in rural areas. This Department has submitted a formal State Aid Notification to the EU Commission, which is currently being assessed. All stakeholders will be informed once this process has been completed.

The below schemes are wholly funded by the Exchequer and comply with State Aid rules as outlined in the Commission Regulation (EU) 2022/2472 of 14 December 2022 declaring certain categories of aid in the agricultural and forestry sectors and in rural areas compatible with the internal market in application of Articles 107 and 108 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union.

The Minister is now pleased to open the below schemes for applications.

Forest Road Scheme

This scheme is being offered to provide opportunities for private forest owners to create or improve access to forests to facilitate sustainable forest management, mobilisation of timber and monitoring and protection of forest resources alongside providing opportunities for biodiversity.

Innovative Forest Technology Scheme Module 2 - Investment Aid for the Development of the Forest Tree Nursery Sector 2023

This scheme is being offered through a competitive call and will be open from 24th April 2023 for a period of four weeks and will close at 5pm on the 22nd May 2023. Applications to this scheme will proceed through an evaluation and scoring process as set out in the scheme document.

Please find the Scheme documents and application forms at:

www.gov.ie/forestry

These schemes are subject to an ongoing Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and Appropriate Assessment (AA) process.

The Minister therefore reserves the right to revise the terms & conditions of these schemes in accordance with the relevant findings.

Applicants may therefore be required to “opt-in” to any revised terms & conditions before a decision is made on their application.

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