



Circular 14/2023  
6<sup>th</sup> September 2023

To all Registered Foresters and other Stakeholders

### **Launch of Afforestation Scheme 2023-2027**

The new Afforestation Scheme under the Forestry Programme 2023-2027 is now open for applications. There are changes from the previous programme, the most notable being as follows:

- Grant and Premium Categories (GPCs) have been replaced by Forest Types (FTs).
- Payment rates have been increased. Applicants who qualify for farmer status will now be paid Afforestation premiums for a period of 20 years, while non farmers will be paid premiums for 15 years.
- Unenclosed land (GPC1) is no longer allowable for grant aid.
- The afforestation element of the former Creation of Woodlands on Public Lands Scheme has now been incorporated into the new Afforestation Scheme as FT3.
- There is now a requirement to plant a minimum of 20% broadleaves as part of your application.
- Certain areas of the country may no longer be eligible for grant aid due to new environmental considerations.
- All applications must be accompanied by a Habitats Map.

Full details of the Scheme and FAQs are available on the Department's website [www.gov.ie/forestry](http://www.gov.ie/forestry)

You can also refer to the following technical documents available on our website at this link [gov.ie - Regulation, Forest Health and Resources \(www.gov.ie\)](http://gov.ie - Regulation, Forest Health and Resources (www.gov.ie) -) -

Forest Standards Manual  
The Land Types for Afforestation  
Environmental Requirements for Afforestation

Any queries should be directed to [ForestryAppEnq@agriculture.gov.ie](mailto:ForestryAppEnq@agriculture.gov.ie)

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Martina Monaghan  
Higher Executive Officer  
Forestry Division

**Eastát Chaisleán Sheonach, Contae Loch Garman, Y35 PN52**  
Johnstown Castle Estate, Co. Wexford, Y35 PN52  
T +353 53 9163400 or 9163425 | [forestryinfo@agriculture.gov.ie](mailto:forestryinfo@agriculture.gov.ie)  
[www.agriculture.gov.ie](http://www.agriculture.gov.ie)