



Circular 21/2023

9<sup>th</sup> October 2023

To all Registered Foresters and other Stakeholders

**RE: Opt-in to New Reconstitution Ash-dieback Scheme 2023–2027**

We have written to the following groups of people offering them the opportunity to opt in to have their current approval or application assessed under the conditions of the new Reconstitution Ash-dieback scheme.

- Category 1 – those who have an approval under the previous Reconstitution and Underplanting Scheme (RUS) and have not yet commenced site clearance works.
- Category 2 – those who have a current RUS application that has not yet been approved.

To opt in they must return the declaration attached to the letter.

For category 1, the completion dates for those that opt-in have been extended as follows:

- Completion of site clearance works by 31<sup>st</sup> January 2024
- Replanting completed by 30<sup>th</sup> June 2024

For category 2, the declaration must be submitted by 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023, after which time any applications not opted-in will be withdrawn.

Please note that applicants will qualify for any amendments or additional measures resulting from the report of the Independent Review Group, provided that such changes do not disadvantage applicants to the current scheme. The Independent Group has published a review of supports for Ash Dieback and made recommendations which the Minister is considering.

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

Full details of the Scheme and a Frequently Asked Questions document are available on the Department's website at [www.gov.ie/forestry](http://www.gov.ie/forestry)

Martina Monaghan  
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