



Circular 29 of 2023

21st December 2023

To all Registered Foresters and other Stakeholders

### **Woodland Improvement Scheme 2023 – 2027**

The Minister is pleased to open the Woodland Improvement Scheme (WIS) 2023-2027 for new applications.

Forest owners can choose to avail from five different elements in the Woodland Improvement Scheme:

1. Thinning and tending
2. Agroforestry maintenance
3. Continuous cover forestry
4. Coppice and coppice with standards and
5. Seed stand management.

Full details of the scheme are available on the Departments website at [gov.ie - Forestry Grants and Schemes \(www.gov.ie\)](https://www.gov.ie/forestry-grants-and-schemes).

The Department has today written to the following categories of people offering them the opportunity to have their current approval or application in the system assessed under the terms and conditions of the new Woodland Improvement Scheme 2023 – 2027 at the improved rates.

- Category 1 – those who have an unused approval under the previous Forestry Programme
- Category 2 – those who currently have an application in the system, under the previous Forestry Programme, that has not been approved.

These two categories are eligible for Thinning and Tending or Continuous Cover Forestry - First Intervention only.



To opt in to the terms and conditions of the new Woodland Improvement Scheme 2023 – 2027, they must return the declaration which is attached to the letter.

For Category 2, the declaration must be submitted by 29<sup>th</sup> February, 2024 after which time any applications not opted-in will be withdrawn.

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

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