

Circular 14/2016

13<sup>th</sup> September 2016

To: GLAS Advisors

**Re: Update and Clarification on GLAS Circular 5/2016, Point 2 – Hen Harrier**

Dear Advisor,

Circular 5/2016, point 2, introduced the underlined text below to bring Tranche 1 into line with Tranche 2. The text of this point is copied below, for clarity.

2. Hen Harrier – requirement 6 is changed, removing the following text:  
“Parcels with rush cover are valuable to the Hen Harrier. Therefore where rushes are present within a Hen Harrier parcel and grazing does not prevent them exceeding approximately 70% of the area of the parcel, they must be cut rotationally by cutting no more than 50% of the area of rushes in a parcel on an annual basis.”

The text is replaced with:

“Parcels with rush cover are valuable to the Hen Harrier. Grazing can maintain a suitable mosaic of rush and open area. Mechanical control may be required from time to time to prevent rushes becoming excessive. Where mechanical control is to be undertaken, the rush cutting regime set out in Appendix 16 should be followed. If topping is not possible due to ground conditions, rushes can be weed licked. The frequency of rush control should be based on the vigour/cover of rushes on a field-by-field basis, but there should be no more than one round of cutting per year – Appendix 16 is set out overleaf.”

Please note the following exception to the above underlined point;

In years **where there is excessive rainfall and/or in regions of heavy marginal land**, where control of rushes is essential rather than a voluntary activity, control of rushes through topping and/or weed licking can be practiced provided, not greater than 50% of the area is topped/weed licked on an annual basis.

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