



10th June, 2020

Circular 08/2020

To all Registered Foresters

Re: Continuous Cover Forestry (CCF) Scheme

With reference to Circulars 01/2019 and 07/2020, applications for support under the above scheme are now being accepted. The scheme will run until the end of the Forestry Programme 2014 – 2020. The Scheme is open to those who wish to choose CCF to manage Ash Dieback or where the adoption of an alternative silvicultural system to clear-felling is clearly stated as being a management objective.

The scheme will comprise of CCF Transformation Management Plan that will run for a period of 12 years with three installments of €750 occurring at intervals throughout the 12-year period. The first installment will be at year 1 with the final payment issuing within 12 years from the date of completion of works relating to the first intervention. The middle payment can be paid at any stage during the intervening period; schedule of payments and timing of these interventions are to be described within the Transformation Management Plan.

Conifer, broadleaf and broadleaf mixed forests are eligible. Applications will be considered for silvicultural systems where restructuring of the forest is required to provide conditions for an uneven aged and permanent forest. The forest must be managed to promote natural regeneration and to positively diversify species composition. The forest manager and/or owner must have recognised skills and knowledge in CCF.

Foresters wishing to develop applications under Element 2 Woodland Improvement CCF Scheme must already be on the list of registered foresters and must also satisfy the Department in advance that they have the necessary knowledge and expertise to undertake the specialised work involved in developing and implementing CCF projects. Details of the CCF forester's experience, (describe any involvement in previous CCF projects) and qualifications must be submitted at Form 1 stage to determine whether the forester has experience in CCF. This may include a list of dates and venues in which the forester attended CCF training/information days in which the forester received Continuous Professional Development points accredited by the Society of Irish Foresters. Foresters at this stage should also indicate if they wish to be identified on the list of registered foresters as having CCF expertise that is, listed as a registered CCF forester.

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