



An Roinn Talmhaíochta,
Bia agus Mara
Department of Agriculture,
Food and the Marine

18 February 2025

Circular 5 of 2025

To all Registered Foresters,

Re: Using existing Felling licences for Clearing Windblown forests

Existing Clearfell licences

Existing in-date clearfell licences (including thin+clearfell licences) may be used to clear and remove trees where the forest plots covered by these licences have windblow damage caused by Storms Darragh and/or Éowyn. The existing conditions of the licence shall apply to any cutting, felling and removal of timber, including any timing restrictions in the licence conditions that might apply for the protection of bird species.

Existing Thinning-only licences

Forest owners who wish to use their thinning-only felling licences to clear forests that suffered windblow damage from Storm Darragh and/or Storm Éowyn may now complete and submit the notification form in Appendix 1 to the following email address felling.forests@agriculture.gov.ie using the email subject line 'Notification of storm utilisation of Thinning licence'.

Replanting information set out in Appendix 2 must be sent to the same email address within 6 months after completion of clearing operations.

Vincent Byrne AP
Forestry Division

Appendix 1

Notification to utilise a Thinning Licence to clearfell a forest area following Storm Darragh/Éowyn damage

I wish to notify the Department of my intention to use my thinning licence (see Tree Felling Licence (TFL) number below) to cut, clearfell and remove trees in areas affected by storm damage (Storm Darragh and/or Storm Éowyn).

I enclose/ attach a map indicating (1) the area that was windblown and (2) the area that I intend clearing under my thinning licence (this cleared area may include area not windblown and extend to the plot boundary of the area with windblow damage). I confirm that the area to be cleared does not include any part of a plot that was not affected by storm damage.

I understand that I may not start these works until a period of two weeks has passed from the date of emailing this notice.

I confirm that the licence will be executed before the licence expiry date and that the existing conditions of the licence shall apply to any cutting, felling and removal of timber, including any timing restrictions in the licence conditions that might apply for the protection of bird species.

Replanting: I am aware that the replanting obligation for any cleared area will be executed by means of one or more relevant provisions in the Forestry Act 2014 and to facilitate the Department specifying the replanting obligation, I will submit a 'Replanting Proposal' to the Department within 6 months of completion of clearing operations (See Appendix 2). I am aware that any failure to comply with a subsequently specified replanting obligation will be dealt with by means of one or more relevant provisions in the Forestry Act 2014, by civil law means, and/or under applicable scheme rules, as appropriate.

TFL No	
Approx. area windblown (hectares)	
Approx. area to be cleared (hectares)	
Signed	
Name	
Address	

Name of Registered Forester (if any)	
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Appendix 2

Replanting Proposal

(To be sent to the Department within 6 months of completion of clearing operations)

A replanting proposal shall be by emailed to felling.forests@agriculture.gov.ie .

Insert into the e-mail Subject line: **Replanting Proposal-Storm damage–Thinning licence**

In the body of the e-mail, insert the details in the table below and attach* the documents required:

TFL No. (used to clear trees)	
Date clearing operations were completed	
Area of trees felled	
Approx. No. of trees cleared	
Completed ‘Part 4 - Proposed Replanting’ (this is part of ‘Application for a licence to fell trees’ available on Department website.)	*Please attach to your email
Completed Proposed reforestation map as described in the Departments’ publication ‘Standards for Felling and Reforestation’	*Please attach to your email
Name	
Address	
Name of Registered Forester (if any)	
Signed	