

Ms. Emer O'Gorman,
Meetings Administrator,
Corporate Services Department,
South Dublin County Council
County Hall
Tallaght
Dublin 24

Please Quote Ref Number on all Correspondence
Our Refs: 2013/46847N/SF & 2013/47003N/JC HO
Your Ref: M3/0413



13 May, 2013

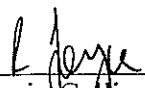
Dear Ms. O'Gorman,

I refer to your recent correspondence to the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine advising him of a Motion passed by South Dublin County Council on 8th April 2013 stating its views on the proposed sale of Coillte harvesting rights. As advised to you by the Department of Finance, a copy of your letter conveying the Council's views to the Minister for Finance, Mr. Michael Noonan, T.D., was also forwarded to the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine for attention and direct reply to you.

I wish to advise, on behalf of the Minister, that, further to the Government decision that a concession for the harvesting rights to Coillte's forests be considered for sale, NewERA, Coillte, the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform and this Department have been examining the financial and other implications of developing the potential of Coillte's forest assets. Substantial work has been undertaken on the identification of the forestry assets involved, the determination of their value and the consideration of a number of issues associated with the proposed sale of the harvesting rights. The outcome of the overall analysis will be considered by the Government upon its conclusion.

The Government is fully conscious of the concerns that have been raised in relation to the Coillte harvesting rights sale proposal. While the consideration process is at an advanced stage, no decision has been taken, as yet. The outcome of the overall analysis will be considered by the Government upon its conclusion.

Yours sincerely,


Kevin Galligan
Private Secretary