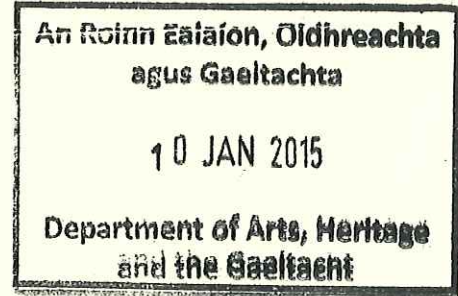


Dingle Lamb Producers Group Co-operative Society

Tel.: 066-9151675 / 087-2202314

Killelane,
Dingle,
Co. Kerry
8th January ~~2014~~ ²⁰¹⁵

Review of Section 40,
Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht
7 Ely Place,
Dublin 2



To whom it may concern,

The Dingle Lamb Producers Group has been inundated with requests from our members in relation to the present regulations governing the burning of vegetation and hedge cutting.

Prior to these regulations, our forefathers controlled the overgrowth of vegetation on their farms/commonages by burning when the weather was suitable and all that time the wild bird population was much higher. In our estimation, wild birds have a far greater enemy than burning.

In 1998, commonages were compulsorily destocked because of overgrazing and this has contributed in a major way to the present situation of undergrazing which was further exacerbated by the restriction on burning.

Regarding the review of Section 40, we wish to make the following submissions;

- The extension of the burning season to 15th April as is the case with our neighbours in Northern Ireland because adverse weather conditions make it impossible to burn vegetation earlier. Farmers should be encouraged to burn overgrown vegetation regularly as this is deemed to be good upland management.
- In the interest of safety, the date for hedge cutting be brought forward to 1st August. August is a very busy month for farmers with regard to machinery on the roads, saving silage etc. Further concern is the safety of our visiting tourists, cyclists, walkers, hire cars, caravans on our byroads.

Yours faithfully,

James Manning

Coordinator Dingle Lamb Producer Co-operative Society

