

REF:2015S40/0005

From:

Sent: 05 December 2014 13:31

To: Nature Conservation

Subject: Regarding the Review of Section 40 of the Wildlife Act - Burning/Cutting Controls

A chara,

As a member of the public I wish to give my input into the public consultation phase of the review of section 40 of the Wildlife Act..

I am totally against any measure that would allow for the cutting of hedgerows during the months of July and August.

I believe that cutting hedgerows in July and August would have a devastating impact on our biodiversity - in particular on our pollinators who rely heavily on pollen and nectar sourced from plants such as the bramble.

Bee and butterfly populations are already stressed and in decline due to the lack of forage in the Irish countryside. Allowing farmers/landowners to reduce this further by cutting hedges in July and August could be disastrous.

In my opinion many farmers already 'over-manage' hedgerows. What's left after cutting is of little use to wildlife of any sort. We should be working to encourage landowners to provide more forage/habitat in support of protecting our diversity. Not enabling them to further reduce it.