

REF: 2015S40/0065

From:

Sent: 08 January 2015 21:16

To: Nature Conservation

Subject: Review of Section 40 Wildlife Acts 1976-2012 for the attention of Minister Heather Humphries

Dear Minister Humphries,

Responding to the question. 'Should the closed period for cutting hedges be changed? If so to which dates ?'

I wish to offer the following points for your consideration:

The closed period for cutting hedges should be extended to take cognisance of the longer breeding season of both native and migratory birds.

I propose that the closed period encompass *mid February to mid September*.

The future viability of 'biodiversity' requires more stringent conservation and mitigation measures to be put in place as a matter of urgency- (mitigation to include the creation nearby of habitat of greater or equal value to that which may have been removed)

Appropriate management practices including use of correct hedge cutting equipment (Attached are images of what ought not be done ! Shredding of large branches, decimation of wild food sources, jagged stems left close to the new walkway on R465 Killaloe/ Scarriff Road, (Progress in implementing as part of the 'Roadmap for Experience Development and Destination Marketing, 2014-2017), part of the €2 million stimulus fund for the Lakelands Lough Derg area.



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