

REF: 2015S40/0079

From:  
Sent: 09 January 2015 10:49  
To: Nature Conservation  
Subject: Re: Review of Section 40

David,

Thank you for your reply.

I am in agreement with the IWT submission on the point that if any change is to be made it should be that the burning of bogs and uplands should be banned completely. The benefits from such burning is minimal and burning is often carried out by way of habit or custom or to be seen to be doing something with ones land.

Thank you.

From:  
Sent: 04 January 2015 14:52  
To: Nature Conservation  
Subject: Review of Section 40

Dear Minister Humphreys,

We feel that there should be no change in the law which governs when roadside hedges are cut or when hill burning is allowed to take place.

Any tinkering around the edges with dates will only lead to further confusion and excuses for cutting hedges when birds are nesting and burning gorse with wild abandon.

The comments of Danny Healy-Rae were made to attract media attention but beyond that they hold no basis in fact. He has a few fellow Councillors supporting him who have no regard or understanding of our wildlife.

Roadside hedges help to make up for our lack of broadleaf woodland and should be cut back properly- not chewed to pieces as is often the case. Supervision of cutting should take place and clear instruction should be given in advance. It is sad to see how some beautiful hedgerows that took years to grow are destroyed forever in minutes. At present machine operators are let loose to cut back hedgerows with no training as to how the job should be done so that the hedgerow will regenerate and not look like something that was eaten by "the iron man"

With regard to the hillside burning it is clear that the Gardaí never register burning outside the legal timeframe as a crime because they feel that their chances of bringing someone to justice are very slim thus interfering with unsolved crime statistics. This is something that should be looked at and a greater effort made to prosecute offenders. If a few successful prosecutions were brought and stiff penalties dished out there is no doubt but that we would see a lot less blazing hillsides which destroy not alone birds nests but also amphibians, invertebrates and less resilient plants.