

**Ref: 2015S40/117**

**Sent:** 09 January 2015 16:03

**To:** Nature Conservation

**Subject:** Review of Section 40 of the Wildlife Act

Hedge Cutting.

If there is any change to the closed period for hedge cutting it should be extended. At the moment the closed period is from 1st March until August 31st, any lengthening of this period would be beneficial, I suggest from around the middle of February to half-way through September.

There is a severe problem in Ireland with the bad management of hedgerows, most of the problems stem from over-cutting/trimming, and trimming in a way that is detrimental to the environment and biodiversity. I would recommend a Nationwide Campaign to educate land-owners on good hedge cutting practices. As you point out in your discussion document, Hedges are vitally important to many aspects of our Ecology, Biodiversity and Conservation, and they should become a major focus of attention for our Government before it is too late.

Thank you,