

Dear Sir or Madam,

I am writing to express my concern about proposed changes to the open season on the cutting of hedges and the burning of upland vegetation.

I am fully aware of the need to manage vegetation in the landscape and that many trees and plants benefit from regular pollarding, harvesting or other forms of human management. (Many of our oldest trees are pollards or coppices, and some meadow plants have evolved in response to traditional, effective programmes of human management and seasonal grazing.) However, I believe that it is very important that any changes to current regulations are only made under full consultation with wildlife experts who understand the symbiosis between such living features as hedges and upland vegetation and the wide variety of living things, animal and vegetable, vertebrate and invertebrate who are dependent on these environments.

We share this island with other living things and respect for ourselves as a nation should include respect for the living things we share this precious island with and respect for the land that we profess to love so dearly. Farmers, as the wardens of our land should be supported by the government in carrying out appropriate management that lets other living things flourish. I am happy to pay taxes for the collective good, and this includes caring for our environment with long term and universal benefits in mind.

I hope the government is able to take a holistic and considered view on this matter and reaches the right decision, in the interests of all the living things of Ireland.

Thank you very much.

I would be pleased to hear of any developments, and would also like to be informed to which authorities, specialists, and farmers you are referring for guidance.

Yours faithfully

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