

From: Cllr Joe Fox (MCC Trim MD) [mailto:joe.fox@members.meathcoco.ie]
Sent: 08 January 2015 20:25
To: Nature Conservation
Subject: Review of section 40

Dear Sirs,

I wish to make the following submission to the review of Section 40 of the Wildlife Acts 1976 to 2012 with regard to hedge cutting. I would like to call on the Minister to exempt roadside hedges from the closed period for hedge cutting 1st March to 31st August. I believe that proper maintenance of roadside hedges is a Health and Safety issue. With an increasing number of walkers and cyclists and motorists using our rural roads it is vital that they are made as safe as possible for all users. Roadside hedges account for just 3% of all hedgerows so exempting them from the closed period would have a very small impact on wildlife and birds.

The present cutting season from 1st September to 31st February may seem long but with bad weather short days etc I believe it is too restrictive.

Kind regards,
Cllr. Joe Fox
Clondoogan,
Summerhill,
Co. Meath