

Guidance Notes:

Environmental Protection (Trees) Act 2014

Application forms: to cut down, uproot, top, pollard or prune more than 20% of tree canopy.

Any application relating to trees is filed with the Department of the Environment via the e-planning portal.

The application is highlighted for the attention of –

- 1) officers from our horticultural section; and
- 2) officers from our environmental section

At the Department of the Environment, the matter will be dealt in one of two ways –

- 1) If the application relates to simple routine works involving a tree reduction not exceeding the recommended 20% of the canopy – it shall be dealt with in-house by the horticultural section;
- 2) For any matters of more significance – the Government’s designated tree consultant is instructed.

Once the tree assessment has been carried out, a report is produced and it is submitted for the consideration of the Minister for the Environment.

The Minister shall review the application in conjunction with the report and shall –

- (a) grant consent (either unconditionally or subject to conditions);
- (b) refuse consent; or
- (c) refer it back to the Applicant through the Department of Environment for further consideration and amendment.

Ultimately, once a decision has been made on the application, the Department of the Environment will serve a copy of the determination in writing to the Applicant and the nominated Contractor as well. The purpose of this new undertaking is to ensure that all parties understand what has and has not been granted. Trees cannot be saved once they have been cut down and it is important that we minimise the risk of mistakes occurring.