

From: Cormac Kearns <CKearns@masonite.com>
Sent: Thursday 7 February 2019 10:04
To: rses
Subject: RSES Submission
Attachments: Forest Industries Ireland - Think Forests PDF.pdf; IFFPA Timber value forecast 2018 FINAL.pdf

Importance: High

I refer to the Draft RSES and wish to submit the following observations.

Firstly, congratulations and well done on putting together the RSES which does a great job in capturing the level of activity going on, as well as highlighting the enormous potential the region has. It will provide an excellent framework for future development to 2040 which I hope all stakeholders will support and drive its implementation.

A few facts about Masonite;-

Masonite Ireland is a US Multinational headquartered in Tampa, US with Ireland operations based in Drumsna, County Leitrim. Masonite has been operating in Ireland for 22 years and is an integral part of the forest industry processing waste from the sawmills along with purchasing logs from forest owners in the region. We purchase 110,000 tonnes of wood per year for our process along with 35,000 Tonnes of bark/sawdust/wood shavings for our Heat Energy Plant. We manufacture value added door skins (essentially MDF) which is a component part of a door. We directly employ 150 people (Leitrim 55%, Roscommon 27%, Longford 11%, Sligo 6%, Galway 1%) with an annual wage contribution to the local economy of €8.4M. We export to 25 countries through Europe, North and South Africa and North America. We also contribute an additional €24M directly to the economy on goods and services. 37% of this is spent in the region while 97% is spent in the Republic of Ireland contributing significantly more jobs in the local rural economy. Masonite contributes €504,000 annually in Rates to Leitrim County Council.

I want to specifically make a submission on the forestry Section on Page 219.

I feel that the information and data provided for forestry is underwhelming and does not highlight the scale and importance of the industry in the region or its potential for future development.

I would like to highlight a few points that should be considered and included in the next draft;-

- Nationally, there are approximately 12,000 people working in the industry with a \$2.6Bn contribution to the economy – all of which is going into rural Ireland.
- There are 4,210 people working in forestry in the Northern and Western Regional Assembly area, the majority of which are in rural locations. Cavan 380, Donegal 545, Leitrim 565, Galway 950, Mayo 700, Monaghan 120, Roscommon 505, Sligo 445. Source: Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine
- 4,081 farmers in the NWRA area received €18,518,420 in forest premium payments in 2017. Source: Department of Agriculture, Food and Marine.
- Apart from Masonite, there are 2 other significant processors in the region, Murray Timber Group and ECC, both in County Galway. There are also two major processors on the border of the region, Glennons in Longford and Balcas in Enniskillen.
- I also enclose IBEC's 2018 Irish Timber Value Forecast for your information

On a separate note, the data around forest cover does not look right – I attach a document from Forest industry Ireland (FII) which gives the forest cover by county along with other information which may be helpful.

Should you require any further information or clarification, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Rgs
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