

## Funding to An Taisce from DAFM Forestry Division

### 2019/2020 Calls for Proposals for Forestry Promotion

Under the last call for proposals for Forestry Promotion in 2019/2020, An Taisce, received approval for a project entitled 'Investigate Forests' for €54,000 and received payment of €44,988.05 from the Department. Some planned activities were cancelled due to Covid 19 restrictions in schools while some other activities were moved online.

In their application An Taisce describes the project as follows: 'The Environmental Education Unit (EEU) of An Taisce is promoting the multifunctional benefits of forestry to primary and secondary school students through the development and delivery of school-based workshops and provision of teaching resources to promote, facilitate and extend learning beyond the workshops. The EEU is engaging schools through the Green-Schools Biodiversity theme and has adapted and developed supporting materials and resources from the LEAF programme to provide teachers with forest-based activities and lesson plans.'

Payment was claimed at 3 different stages as follows:

- Nov 2019 - €21,150.00
- Oct 2020 - €12,378.05
- Dec 2020 - €11,460.00

All claims were accompanied by invoice and status reports and feedback was received from some of the schools that took part in their workshops. Report details included the dates of the workshops, name of school and facilitator involved and number of students attending.

In the original approval letter issued to An Taisce they were informed that

- all grant funding is subject to the conditions set out in Circular 13/2014 issued by the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform (DPER) in relation to the provision of grant funding to all bodies.
- An expenditure statement together with a covering letter containing the confirmations listed at paragraph 24 of the Circular in relation to Vouched Expenditure will be required for interim and final instalments.

DAFM reviewed each of the three claims against the requirements of the circular and verified that they were in compliance before payment was made.

### 2021/2022 Woodland Support Fund

Under the current Woodland Support Fund for 2021/2022, An Taisce have also been approved for their project 'Investigate Woodlands' with approval for funding amounting to €64,875 over the two years. No payments have been made to date.

In their application, An Taisce state that 'the Investigate Woodlands project will build on the resources, activities and methodology developed and delivered as part of the Investigate Forests project 2019- 20. It will involve the delivery of tree planting and woodland awareness workshops to highlight the benefits of woodlands to c.100 school communities across Ireland.'

The same close monitoring as obtained for the 2019/2020 project will apply and all payments will be on the basis of invoices, status reports and feedback from target audience.