

## Suspending a Felling Licence

We may have to suspend a Felling Licence where we believe that the Felling Licence has not been complied with and/or that the felling has or is likely to result in harm to the environment or any living thing.

When might we suspend a licence?

- If an accident or incident as a result of your felling operations causes damage to the environment
- You have failed to comply with the conditions of the Felling Licence
- If a new sensitivity is identified on the site which may require us to review the conditions of the licence to help you manage your operations within environmental legislation

Our first step will be to visit your site, and we will inform you of any non-compliance with your Felling Licence that is observed. We will provide you with support, guidance and advice to help you manage the non-compliance to bring you back in line with your felling licence. We will aim to allow you time to manage the site and bring it back into compliance.

We may decide to serve a notice to suspend your licence if we determine that you have failed to comply with the conditions set out within the licence, or have failed to mitigate against damage to the environment. If you have taken some steps to rectify the issues, we may also allow you additional time to bring the site back into compliance.

## Serving a notice:

If we have to progress to suspending your licence we will serve a notice; this will be on the licence holder.

When we serve a notice we may:

- Suspend your felling licence, either in full or in part
- Vary or remove a condition of the felling licence or we may impose new conditions
- Where conditions have not been complied with or are not being complied with

When issuing a notice to the applicant or landowner, depending upon the specific notice and in accordance with the legislative requirements, we will:

- Set out the reason for serving the notice
- Set out steps that are reasonable and proportionate to remedy the failure to comply with the condition or amend the felling licence to address the unexpected environmental harm
- specify the period within which those steps must be required
- If necessary, suspend the licence (in full or in part) for a time period or until such a time that any steps to remedy the failure to comply with the condition have been taken

State the date when the variation of conditions, suspension or revocation will take effect

- Where suspending the licence in part, specify what elements of the licenced felling can continue
- Where amendment would not address the issue, cannot be agreed or no other options are available, revoke the licence.
- Provide details of how to appeal.

During the time your Felling Licence is suspended we may conduct an investigation if we have reason to believe that there has been a breach of legislation, or where new sensitivities are identified after the issuing of the Licence. The suspension of operations would allow the potential breach to be investigated and correction action agreed and implemented, if required.

We may lift the suspension before the agreed timeframe if you have been able to bring the site back into compliance sooner than we agreed.

Whilst a suspension is in place all felling operations must stop in the area specified. If felling continues during the suspension period it would constitute an offence.

You can appeal our decision to suspend your Felling permission.