

Ferris Calls on Government to Stop Coillte Sale

Sinn Féin Spokesperson for Agriculture, Martin Ferris has called on Minister Simon Coveney to use his position as Director of Coillte to prevent the company selling over 1,000 acres of forestry land in Donegal. Deputy Ferris will also attempt to have the issue debated in the Dáil tomorrow.

Deputy Ferris said: “Both Fine Gael and Labour promised during the election that there would be no sell off of Coillte lands. Now alongside the imminent sale of forestry, we have the outright sale of public lands.

“No doubt the Minister will maintain the fiction that Coillte is a private company whereas in fact he is one of its directors, and the land under its control is held in trust for the Irish people. Any sale would be short-sighted and counter-productive. It is also clear that certain private interests have identified the huge potential of Irish forestry land and are preparing to take advantage of the Government’s willingness to sacrifice it in order to pay a small part of the massive bank debt.

“I am calling on Minister Coveney to use his position to prevent this sale, and to stop the imminent sale of forestry rights.”