Statement of Business Need for a Farm Office Building and On-Site Security Accommodation

Due to the continued expansion of our business, there is now a clear and essential requirement for a dedicated farm office building to support the day-to-day operational needs of our forestry and agricultural activities.

The proposed building will provide suitable and necessary facilities, including an office and staff working area, kitchen facilities, toilet and wash room facilities, and a designated staff rest area. These facilities are required to support our workforce, improve the efficiency of business operations and provide appropriate welfare provisions for staff working across our agricultural and forestry contracts.

In addition to these operational requirements, the property has unfortunately been subjected to several recent burglaries, all of which have been reported to the Police. In view of these incidents and the continuing security concerns affecting the premises, it has become necessary to employ full-time security guards to protect the farm, its buildings, machinery, equipment, livestock and other business assets, doing 12 hour shifts day and night. Appropriate welfare facilities and accommodation for the security guard are therefore also required on site to enable this role to be carried out effectively on a full-time basis with immediate effect.

Our business remains fully operational within the forestry and agricultural industries, providing daily contract services alongside the ongoing agricultural activities undertaken at the farm itself. The farmyard serves as the principal operational base for our business, housing essential machinery, vehicles and equipment, as well as livestock. The security and effective management of these facilities are fundamental to the continued operation and viability of the business.

The security concerns are further compounded by ongoing unauthorised development and activities on neighbouring land associated with the Travelling Community. Despite the involvement of the relevant enforcement authorities, the situation remains unresolved, with further unauthorised development reportedly continuing on a daily basis. This has contributed to our ongoing concerns regarding the security of our property and business operations.

In light of these circumstances, the provision of appropriate on-site facilities is considered both necessary and proportionate to the needs of the business. The proposed development will enable us to manage our expanding operations more effectively, provide suitable welfare facilities for staff and maintain a full-time security presence to safeguard our premises.

There will be limited additional vehicle impact in the lane adjoining our Farm premises, and designated staff parking is already provided.

We are committed to taking all reasonable and necessary measures to protect our property, employees, livestock, machinery and equipment. The proposed farm office building and associated security facilities will provide essential support for the continued safe, efficient and sustainable operation of our established forestry and agricultural business.

Mr. & Mrs. P a'Barrow