



**Confor**  
Promoting forestry and wood  
Hyrwyddo coedwigaeth a choed

Cabinet Secretary for Environment and Rural Affairs Lesley Griffiths  
Welsh Government  
5th Floor  
Tŷ Hywel  
Cardiff Bay  
CF99 1NA  
August 24<sup>th</sup> 2017.

Dear Minister.

We warmly welcome the inquiry by the Committee on Climate Change, Environment and Rural Affairs into the Woodlands for Wales strategy, and the subsequent publication of the report “Branching out: a new ambition for woodland policies”.

The report tackles issues that have previously been ignored and asks questions that needed to be asked. It is forthright in its findings and recommendations, calling on the Welsh Government to address the shortfalls it identifies.

We thank the Committee and the Welsh Government for their time and effort in compiling this report. It is essential that the sector and Welsh Government work together to follow up on the report.

We ask that as Minister you:

1. Accept the all the findings and recommendations of the “Branching out: a new ambition for woodland policies report”.
2. Present a clear plan for implementing the recommendations of the report, with timescales, and provide Natural Resources Wales with the resources it needs to implement those recommendations and enable the private forestry sector to do so.
3. Specify a target area/volume for both non-commercial and commercial woodland creation that will give Welsh companies confidence that the raw material crucial for their businesses will be available in the future, thus enabling and encouraging them to invest in Wales.

Martin Bishop.

Confor National Manager for Wales representing timber processing companies.

*Confor Wales represents a wide cross section of the woodlands and forestry sector in Wales including the timber and wood processing companies listed below who rely on the timber products from Welsh forests as the raw material essential to their businesses. These companies employ many thousands of Welsh employees directly, creating products from Welsh wood which also supports many more jobs in the supply chain throughout rural Wales.*

Martin Bishop, National Manager for Wales, Rheolwr Genedlaethol i Gymru .

[www.confor.org.uk](http://www.confor.org.uk)

Confederation of Forest Industries (UK) Ltd. Registered office: 59 George Street, Edinburgh EH2 2JG





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A E Evans Ltd

BSW.

Charles Ransford & Son Ltd

Clifford Jones Timber.

Esgair Timber.

G & T Evans

James Davies.

Kronospan Ltd

Llandre sawmill.

M&M timber

Pontrilas Sawmills.

Premier Forest products.

Western Bio Energy (fuels) Ltd

Woodknowledge Wales. Well done – this feels like progress.

Martin Bishop, National Manager for Wales, Rheolwr Genedlaethol i Gymru .

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**Wood for Good**