

What does Confor do for me?

Confor is working for you all year round. These are just a few highlights from the past year.

Planting the future

- Our lobbying has brought plan preparation funding and political support resulting in the first large productive schemes in England for a generation.
- On Confor's advice Michael Gove has appointed Tree Champion – Sir William Worsley to drive even more planting.
- Established woodland management group with government agencies and private sector to identify and drive improvement to grant schemes.
- Productive planting in Scotland is at a modern day high and additional funding has been secured to exceed the 10,000 ha target in 2018/19
- We held one of the first meetings with new Welsh environment secretary Hannah Blythyn, who then announced that planting trees would be one of her top priorities.
- We founded a cross-party group on Woodlands, Forestry and Timber in the Welsh assembly.
- We are advising the new CEO of the Northern Ireland Forestry service on mechanisms to increase planting.

Our year in numbers



12

visits of senior politicians to Confor members

40-50

articles in general media



15

radio and television interviews



16

Confor events around the UK

75

committees and forums around the UK at which we represent you



12

Confor local committees and technical groups



6

government policy documents in which we had extensive input

8

significant policy papers and briefings



over 20

consultations responded to



Children attending launch event of Doddington planting scheme. Photo credit: AOB Wooler



Questions at Confor's Westminster conference, 'Towards a Common Countryside Policy'

Telling the story

- We continue to promote forestry and timber on TV and radio and in print and social media, and we are piloting a communications network with members to amplify positive messages about the industry.

Certification that works

- We have opened the door to choice with dual certification possible in the wood supply chain.
- Representing members, we helped secure an improved and simplified UKWAS, the removal of Propyzamide (Kerb) from FSC's list of highly classified pesticides and helped establish the Hylobius Plant Protection Group.

Serving members

- Following on from developing an action plan to facilitate increased wood supply, we are working to provide market information and possibly a price index for members.

Protecting our woods

- Following feedback from members, we strengthened our plant health lobbying paper to tackle the threat of imported pests and diseases.

There for you

- Every day we are fighting for your interests. Currently, this includes resisting a proposal for 'plant passporting' that would add real costs to industry and provide no more protection from pests and diseases.

Better together

- Members will vote on a proposed merger with UKFPA, seeking to complete the Confor mission to unite the industry in a single, strong voice.



Stuart Goodall (Confor), Stephen Kerr (MP for Stirling), Michael Gove (UK Environment Secretary) and Tim Liddon (Tilhill forestry) visit the new woodland creation scheme at Jerah

Through **WOOD FOR GOOD** we have continued to promote the use of timber in construction, including the Right to Build event series attracting around 600 delegates, and a pilot project on new models for housing delivery with a London borough.

Through the **TIMBER TRANSPORT FORUM** we have continued to press for investment in transport infrastructure to support the forestry sector and welcome the Scottish Government commitment to £7.85m in 2018/19 to the Strategic Timber Transport Fund.

Across 2017-18, the **FOREST INDUSTRIES EDUCATION AND PROVIDENT FUND** has supported 14 award recipients with a total of £7365