



The Rt Hon Lord Goldsmith
Minister of State
Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
Nobel House
17 Smith Square
London
SW1P 3JR

01 June 2020

Dear Lord Goldsmith,

APPG on Forestry and Tree Planting webinar on Green Recovery

As Chairman of the APPG on Forestry and Tree Planting, I'd like to report on our meeting on 20 May with Lord Deben and Confor Chief Executive Stuart Goodall, which focused on how forestry and wood processing can contribute towards the post COVID-19 green recovery.

As you know, the Committee on Climate Change wrote recently to the Prime Minister setting out its views on how best to ensure a resilient recovery from the crisis. This includes continuing to prioritise tree planting across the UK. The APPG wishes to add its support to this advice.

During the webinar Lord Deben stated that the UK Government should also take the lead to ensure that, in its own construction programme, priority is given to wood as the material of choice - because of the proven capacity for carbon sequestration this offers. He was also concerned that a current Government consultation on Combustible Materials in high-rise buildings might further limit the use of wood in construction without any basis in evidence and he urged that this be looked at again. This approach also has the support of the APPG.

A number of contributors to the webinar highlighted the forthcoming Tree Strategy and asked that the points raised above be considered within that Strategy.

A report on our webinar can be read on the Confor [website](#) and you can watch the event on Confor's YouTube channel [here](#).

As members of Parliament, we appreciate that, quite rightly, the focus of government must now be on tackling the public health crisis associated with COVID-19. We

appreciate that, through no fault of its own, this may make it more challenging to achieve ambitious tree planting targets set out during and after the 2019 general election. We want to offer our help to help achieve these goals and to discuss the role of greater use of wood.

It is my pleasure to invite you to participate in our next webinar, which would give you an opportunity to set out how the new Tree Strategy will set this country along the road to an expanded forestry resource.

We can be flexible in arranging our meeting at a convenient time for you and I hope you are able to take up this offer some time after Parliament returns from the Whitsun recess.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ben Lake', written in a cursive style.

Ben Lake MP
Chairman
APPG on Forestry and Tree Planting

Copies to:

Lord Deben
Chris Stark, Committee on Climate Change
APPG members