

## COVID-19 AND KEY WORKERS IN THE FORESTRY AND WOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRY

The UK Government has recognised the important role of forestry and wood processing businesses in supplying wood for key goods stating:

“Those involved in the supply chain of wood for key goods (including, but not limited to pallets, heating, packaging, tissue paper, timber harvesting, sawmills) should be considered key workers. Only necessary workers, producing key goods, should continue to attend workplaces. Working from home should be encouraged for administrative staff.”

Adding to that, the vital role that forestry and the wood processing sectors are playing in the current COVID-19 pandemic was highlighted by Rural Economy and Tourism Secretary, Fergus Ewing on (Thursday, 26 March).

Mr Ewing commended the important contribution that the sectors are making in producing key products, such as pallets, packaging, biomass fuel and face masks, to help keep Scotland - and the UK - safe and well during these unprecedented times.

Mr Ewing said;

“In these challenging and difficult times, it is imperative that essential goods, such as food supplies and medicines, and biomass fuel for hospitals and care homes get to the places where they are needed. This needs pallet manufacture and woodfuel processing to continue.

“I am immensely proud that Scotland’s forestry and timber processing sectors are working closely together to play their part in fighting the impact of this virus.”

It is important that these workers providing these essential goods are able to travel to work and to undertake their work.

Further information on the forestry and wood supply chain is available at <http://www.confor.org.uk/covid-19/topics/key-workers/>

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