

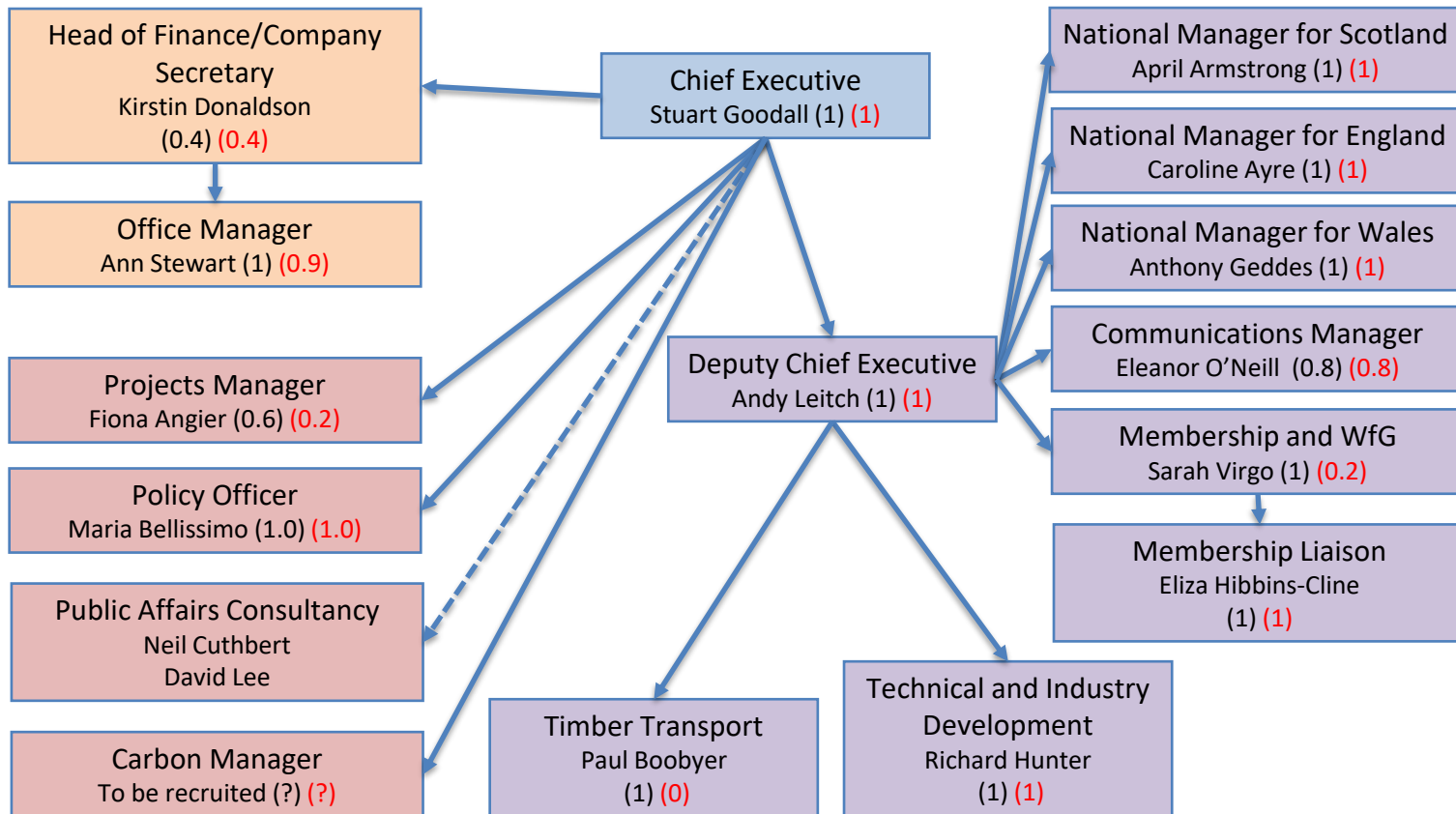
Confor Industry Update

Jamie Farquhar

Wednesday 23 March 2022

Confor Team

14 staff (12.8 FTE) Confor time (10.5 FTE)





April Armstrong -
your new
National Manager
for Scotland

Confor's Scottish work

ongoing principle work groups

- FGS Customer Reps Group (CRG)
- Agriculture & Rural Development Stakeholder Group (ARD)
- Timber Transport Forum (TTF) & STTS Assessment Panel
- Confor Nursery Producers Group (NPG)
- Scottish Tree Health Advisory Group (STHAG)
- SFTT Industry Leadership Group (ILG)
- Plus another 12+ permanent working groups and other ad hoc short-term issue groups

Confor's Scottish work

ongoing principle work groups (AL)

- ILG Skills Group
- Strategic Integrated Research in Timber (SIRT)
- Private Sector Production Forecasting Group
- Skills Action Plan for Rural Scotland Implementation Group
- Expert Group on Timber Trade Statistics
- Mass Timber Commercialisation Alliance
- UK Timber Grading Committee

Customer Reps Group – ongoing work

- Future of FGS
- Stability & Simplicity – getting rid of land parcels (2024)
- Earned recognition – initially just new woodland creation
- New guidance:
 - Value for money – e.g. deer fencing for Conifer model
 - Economic impact of ‘tweaking’ schemes beyond UKFS
 - Customer type
 - Neighbour engagement
 - For consultees on engagement with scoping, etc.

Timber transport

- £7m of STTS budget for 2022/23 – application deadline 21st March
- [Low ground pressure haulage regime](#) on some of the weak forest roads on the national forest estate – latest proposals:
 - FLS will undertake a strategic review of the FLS road network to check road status by 31st December 2022.
 - The current system, including referencing LGP Restricted Network in timber sales, will continue until April 2023.
 - From April 2023: all crane trailer and wagon & drag configurations travelling on any FLS road will require CTI.
 - From April 2025: all timber haulage on FLS LGP restricted roads will utilise CTI or other FLS approved LGP technologies.

Red diesel

- Lobbying continues to retain use of red at wood processing sites, including a new campaign to get members to write to MPs.
- Otherwise exemption lapses on 1st April
- The latest guidance on where rebated fuels can be used and preparing for the change in regulation can be found [here](#) and [here](#)
- HMRC have confirmed that red can be used for in forest road construction & maintenance

Skills & training

- Funded by ScotGov's National Transition Training Fund, we have delivered:
 - two successful timber haulage taster events
 - Four training events for forest machine operators
- Work continues to develop a National Technical Training Hub

Green Recovery

- The Tree Production Innovation Fund (TPIF) has reopened – details [here](#)
- GB Economic Impact Assessment Study – members are reminded to complete this important [survey](#)

New woodland creation (hectares)

Private sector in Scotland @ 10 December 2021

Claim year			2021	2022	2023 +
Approved			12,456	4,285	2,638
Submitted but not yet approved			1,914	3,751	580
Potential			14,370	8,036	3,218
Pipeline			0	9,048	4,373
Total possible			14,370	17,084	7,591
ScotGov target			13,500	15,000	16,500

Diary dates

- Timber Transport conference at Penrith 25 March
- 2020 Timber Production Forecast to be published end May
- Forestry day at Royal Highland Show – 24 June
- APF at Ragley Hall – 22-24 September
- Autumn 2022 SFTT meetings
 - 5 October South Scotland
 - 26 October North
 - 3 November Mid
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Catch-up

This and the other SFTT spring 2022 webinars will be recorded, and will be available shortly after each event on the Confor website

<https://www.confor.org.uk/resources/events/>

Any questions, please contact April Armstrong:

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