**Get involved – contact your candidate**

**CONFOR MANIFESTO 2024 – LETTER TO CANDIDATES TEMPLATE**

**Checklist**

* **Confirm your local constituency**
* **Find your local candidates**
* **Amend our letter template**
* **Send to your local candidates**
* **Arrange a call, meeting or visit**

**Why is the election important?**

Whoever wins the UK General Election on 4 July, the make-up of the House of Commons will be substantially changed.

**Template Letter**

We need your help in constituencies across the country to reach out to and influence as many local candidates and parties as we can. We have created this letter template to help you write to or email your local candidates, which we hope you’ll use to support Confor’s manifesto and our 5-point action plan.

You should feel free to adapt this letter to reflect the situation and specific priorities of your business and for your region. To aid in reflecting the situation in your community we have also provided the woodland cover for each constituency in the country.

[Click here to access that list.](https://www.confor.org.uk/media/3777002/copy-of-confor-gb-constituency-nfi-data-03062024.xlsx)

**Find your candidate**

As of 6 June, 131 current MPs have indicated they will not be running in the 2024 UK General Election. As a result of a 2023 Boundary Commission report there have been [significant boundary changes](https://commonslibrary.parliament.uk/boundary-review-2023-which-seats-will-change/) for this election. It is important that you are aware of the candidates running in your constituency.

Find the candidates in your region: [Who Can I Vote For?](https://whocanivotefor.co.uk/)

Dear [Candidate Name],

Congratulations on your selection as the (insert party) candidate for the (insert constituency) constituency. As a local business with deep roots in the region we share your commitment to the improvement of the community and of the region.

As you know forestry is an important part of the economy at the national level but it also a critical economic engine and job creator communities across our region. To ensure that forestry and wood using industries are given the security to continue to grow and invest in communities and jobs we are looking at all candidates committing to work with the industry to ensure we can:

1. **Create more forests**: As part of the CCC’s target, plant at least 9,000 ha annually in England, including at least 3,000 ha of wood-producing forests, and protect all our existing forests.
2. **Create a Timber Security Strategy**: Commit to a future level of sustained domestic wood production that will see the proportion of timber imports to the UK reduce, including from endangered forests overseas.
3. **Promote Home-Grown Wood**: Set a target to significantly increase the number of new homes in England built with domestically sourced timber frames by 2030. Utilise government’s procurement power to make homegrown wood the material of choice for all government construction and renovation work.
4. **Develop a Skills Action Plan**: To ensure these goals are met, implement a skills action plan in partnership with industry, to address workforce needs in the forestry and wood sector, including initiatives to help armed forces veterans enter the industry.
5. **Communicate the big messages:** Surveys repeatedly show that people love trees, and wood products, but don’t often join up the two. A communications campaign should promote the importance of forests, timber security, and the economic and environmental benefits of the forestry and wood sector.

This 5-point plan, building on The National Wood Strategy for England published in December 2023, sets out a plan to enhance an industry that brings benefits to our region and to the country. We urge all political parties to work with us to deliver it.

Yours sincerely,

[Your Name]
[Your Business]