

Trudy Harrison MP
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

28 July 2023

Dear Ms Harrison,

The Institute of Chartered Foresters (ICF) welcomed the recent Environmental Audit Committee Report, *Seeing the wood for the trees: the contribution of the forestry and timber sectors to biodiversity and net zero goals* on the 19 July. We are pleased that it highlights a balanced case for productive forests and environmental targets featuring in tandem within our landscape.

Our President, Geraint Richards MVO FICFor, and I would welcome a meeting to discuss how the ICF can support with the delivery of the outcomes from this inquiry by being the impartial voice for the forest industry across all sectors. We are much heartened by your commitment to the timber and climate crisis and are pleased to support this inquiry, which recognises the importance of cross-sector collaboration.

We had hoped to see stronger political leadership to drive forward this critically important topic when we provided both written and oral evidence for the initial Sustainable Timber and Deforestation inquiry in September 2022. However, your response puts our previous ministerial concerns to bed, and we appreciate the recognition and acknowledgement all sectors of the forestry industry have received within this report. As the professional body for forestry and arboriculture, our broad membership covers a spectrum of interests including productive and environmental forestry; this is one of our greatest strengths. The Institute is a great place to begin collaborations, partnerships and gain unique perspectives. Our members are obligated to adhere to a code of conduct, guaranteeing reliability and integrity, endorsed by evidence-based decision making.

There is still progress to be made with striking a balance between food and timber security, as well as meeting environmental and net zero targets. We recognise the need for more woods under active management following sustainability principles, as per the UK Forestry Standard, to mitigate threats and increase resilience. Our partnership with the Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental

Management (CIEEM) on a pending position paper highlights the opportunities of bringing woodlands back into management, acknowledging the importance and the need for all types of woodland.

Through a voice that is truly representative of the sector as a whole, we can help succour the recommendations for both productive and environmental outcomes from this inquiry, upholding professional standards as we deliver social and environmental responsibilities. We look forward to working with you in the near future.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Louise Simpson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Louise Simpson
Executive Director