

## Forestry Commission

### 2011 Annual Report on Statistical Surveys in Scotland

#### Purpose

1. This report provides details of the statistical surveys carried out or authorised by the Forestry Commission in 2010-11, sets out the programme of surveys proposed for 2011-12, and presents outline plans for the following two years. Approval is now sought for the survey programme for 2011-12 to proceed in Scotland.

#### Background

2. UK Government Departments are required to provide Ministers with an annual report on all the statistical surveys of businesses and local authorities carried out in the previous year and plans for future surveys. This report covers regular and ad hoc statistical surveys of businesses and local authorities in Scotland. Some of these surveys run at the same time in England and Wales, so summary information for the three countries and GB totals are presented in an Annex.

#### Administrative Burden Cost - Summary

3. The administrative burden cost, previously called the response burden, is the estimated cost of the staff time required to fill in the survey questionnaires. The hourly rates supplied by the Survey Control Unit of ONS have been used. In calculating burdens, account is taken of expected response rates, with a nominal cost estimated for each non-respondent. The number of ad hoc surveys and their total burden vary from year to year, depending on the requirements for research related to policy development and monitoring.

4. For surveys in 2010-11, the total administrative burden cost was around £5,400. This was around one quarter of the level planned, mainly as a result of the delayed start to the survey of woodland owners as part of the National Forest Inventory.

5. Approval is now sought for the programme of surveys to start in 2011-12, with an estimated administrative burden cost in Scotland of £19,200. Outline plans have an estimated administrative burden cost of £19,700 for 2012-13 and £20,400 for 2013-14.

#### Regular Surveys of Businesses

6. The Forestry Commission regularly carries out five voluntary surveys of businesses in Great Britain to gather information on sawmills, round fencing, private sector removals, pellet manufacture and forest nurseries. Results from the first four surveys and other enquiries to wood processing industries are published in Forestry Statistics and other

statistical publications available on the Forestry Commission website, and are also used in compiling UK statistical returns for international organisations. These surveys are reviewed each year with the Expert Group on Timber and Trade Statistics. Since 2007, a small survey of forest nurseries provides information on the use of improved stock.

7. A survey to estimate the extent of industrial use of woodfuel in Scotland is also run annually, with results published in Woodfuel Demand and Usage reports.

8. In 2010-11, a total of 170 businesses in Scotland were approached, with an estimated burden of £2,500. It is planned that these six regular surveys will continue to run each year with little change, giving a total burden of around £2,600 in 2011-12, £2,700 in 2012-13 and £2,800 in 2013-14.

### Ad Hoc Surveys in 2010-11

9. Two surveys were run across Great Britain in 2010-11 but not included in last year's plans. A conifer site restocking survey was run to evaluate current practice in restocking conifer sites in relation to problems arising from damage from adult *Hylobius abietis* (pine weevil) on newly planted trees. The survey approached around 200 businesses in Scotland, giving a burden of around £2,200. A woodfuel boiler survey was run to establish the installed capacity of domestic woodfuel boilers. The survey approached around 35 businesses in Scotland, giving a burden of around £600.

10. The start of the survey of woodland owners as part of the National Forest Inventory was postponed to 2011-12 (see below). The survey to explore the contribution of green infrastructure (including woodland) to economic regeneration and the GB-wide Forest Business Health survey did not proceed.

### Ad Hoc Surveys - Plans for 2011-12

11. A survey of woodland owners is being considered as part of the National Forest Inventory to obtain background information on selected sample squares. The survey is expected to seek data from around 2,300 woodland owners in Scotland in 2011-12, giving an estimated burden of £13,600 for businesses and £300 for local authorities.

12. The woodfuel boiler survey is expected to continue in 2011-12, approaching around 35 businesses in Scotland, with a burden of around £600.

13. A Plant Health Service import/export customer survey is planned for 2011-12, but is only expected to approach around 15 businesses in Scotland, with a burden of around £100.

14. Previous outline plans for 2011-12 had included a continuation of a GB-wide Forest Business Health survey. This survey has been dropped from current plans.

15. We propose to make provision for other miscellaneous business surveys not yet identified to cover up to 240 businesses, with a burden up to £2,000.

### Ad Hoc Surveys – Outline Plans

16. A major ongoing requirement is for the survey of woodland owners as part of the National Forest Inventory, as described above for 2011-12. Estimated burdens are around £14,000 in 2012-13 and £14,500 in 2013-14 for businesses and around £300 each year for local authorities.

17. The woodfuel boiler survey is expected to continue in 2012-13 and 2013-14, with estimated response burdens for businesses of around £700 each year.

18. We propose to make provision for other miscellaneous business surveys not yet identified to cover up to 240 businesses with a burden of up to £2,100 in each year.

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