

Statistics Work Plan 2014-15

The Forestry Commission's Statistics Team produces statistics on forestry to meet the needs of a wide range of users, provides advice on statistics and enables all parts of the Forestry Commission to comply with the standards set out in the UK Statistics Authority's Code of Practice for Official Statistics. The work of the team contributes to the objective for a robust evidence base in the Forestry Commission's Corporate Plan for Cross Border Activities.

This work plan for the year April 2014 – March 2015 has been developed to meet the needs of users of our statistics and services, including all parts of the Forestry Commission (FC), Natural Resources Wales, Welsh Government, international organisations and other external stakeholders. Further information on user engagement is available at www.forestry.gov.uk/forestry/infid-7zejnv.

The work plan for 2014-15 is based on a total expected staff resource of 3.0 full time equivalents (1 Statistician, 1 Assistant Statistician and 1 Administrative Support). A number of changes have been made from the 2013-14 work plan, to take account of user requirements in the coming year. The main changes are:

- **UK Official Statistics releases:** Reduced resources will be required to analyse and report on the Public Opinion of Forestry surveys, due to the biennial nature of the surveys. Additional resources are expected to be required for methodological developments, to take account of the incorporation of fire statistics into annual releases and of work to develop statistics on plant health.
- **Official Statistics for international organisations:** Little overall change is expected in the resources to compile UK data for international organisations. Work to compile the 5-yearly Forest Resources Assessment for FAO and the 4-yearly State of Europe's Forests for Forest Europe is expected to reduce, but additional resources will be required for the biennial Joint Wood Energy Enquiry for the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe. There is also an increase in the amount of time set aside for international liaison activities, to better reflect the level of input required in this area.
- **Compliance with standards:** Work in this area is expected to reduce, as the biennial User Engagement Survey is not planned to run in 2014-15.
- **Statistical services:** The staff resource required to commission Public Opinion of Forestry surveys is expected to increase, as a result of the biennial nature of the surveys. There is also an increase in the amount of time set aside to provide advice and support on emerging issues.

1. UK Official Statistics publications

Work on UK Official Statistics is expected to account for 1.2 person-years (39%) of staff resource and to comprise the following:

- Carry out surveys and data collection to cover UK timber industries (February to April), as agreed with Expert Group on Timber & Trade Statistics.
- UK Wood Production and Trade (provisional figures) first release (May), as in 2013, based on UK industry statistics and surveys and Overseas Trade Statistics.
- Timber Price Indices first release (May and November), as in 2013
- Woodland Area, Planting and Restocking first release (June), as in 2013.
- Nursery Survey (September), as in 2013.
- Forestry Facts & Figures (September), as in 2013.
- Forestry Statistics (September), as in 2013.
- Produce quarterly releases on Woodland Carbon Code Statistics, in April, July, October and January, as in 2013.
- Analyse and report on 2014 Public Opinion of Forestry surveys in Northern Ireland.
- Methodology developments, including the production of annual fire statistics and the development of statistics on plant health.
- Maintenance of Statistics pages on FC website.

2. Official Statistics for international organisations

Work on Official Statistics for international organisations is expected to account for 0.3 person-years (11%) of staff resource and to comprise the following:

- Joint Forest Sector Questionnaire (provisional May, final September) for timber production and trade, as in 2013.
- Timber Committee Questionnaire (September) for timber production and trade forecasts, as in 2013.
- Integrated Environmental and Economic Accounts for Forestry (July) – annual economic data, as in 2013.
- Joint Wood Energy Enquiry – biennial, as in 2012.
- Forest Resources Assessment and the State of Europe's Forests – 4-5 yearly.
- Participate in international meetings on forestry statistics.

3. Compliance with standards

Work on compliance with standards is expected to account for 0.3 person-years (11%) of staff resource and to comprise the following:

- Develop and maintain statistics documentation to meet the requirements of UK Statistics Authority and GSS guidance.
- Provide advice to others in FC to assist them to identify and develop other official statistics and to comply with the Code of Practice (includes National Forest Inventory, climate change, FC National Offices, Forest Research).
- Undertake annual statistical quality reviews, covering one survey and one output, similar to those undertaken in 2013.
- Undertake Survey Control duties on behalf of the FC, providing advice to all parts of the FC and reporting on statistical survey activity.
- Liaise with other Government Departments on statistical issues.

4. Statistical services

Work on statistical services is expected to account for 1.2 person-years (38%) of staff resource and to comprise the following:

- Support development and reporting of indicators for country forestry strategies (England, Scotland, Wales).
- Consult on requirements for and commission Public Opinion of Forestry Surveys, to run in England/ UK, Scotland and Wales.
- Participate in and advise on collaborative household surveys on recreation in Scotland, England and Wales.
- Support on-site visitor monitoring, including All Forests Survey (Scotland), FE England/ Sport England monitoring and local surveys.
- Support Human Resources Division on diversity monitoring reporting.
- Support other parts of the FC and Natural Resources Wales/ Welsh Government by providing statistical advice and analysis (including Native Woodland Survey of Scotland).
- Advise on environmental monitoring and social and economic research (including work to improve statistics on wood energy).
- Provide statistics for other government publications, PQs, researchers, public enquiries.
- Provide statistical advice and support for emerging issues (not yet identified).

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Comments on this work plan for 2014-15 or possible future work can be directed to the address below.

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