

# Statistics Work Plan 2016-17

The 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 Forest Research's aim to provide evidence and expertise to inform the development and delivery of UK Government and devolved administration forest policies.

This work plan for the year April 2016 – March 2017 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/infd-7zejnv](http://www.forestry.gov.uk/forestry/infd-7zejnv).

The work plan for 2016-17 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 2015-16 work plan, to take account of user requirements in the coming year. The main changes are:

- **UK Official Statistics:** An overall reduction is expected in the resources required to produce UK Official Statistics. A planned increase in resources to release datasets in open data formats is expected to be more than offset by the reduction in work on Public Opinion of Forestry surveys, due to the biennial nature of the surveys.
- **International Statistics:** The level of resources required to compile UK data for international organisations is expected to remain relatively unchanged. As a result of the periodic nature of some international data collections, the level of input required on the biennial Joint Wood Energy Enquiry is expected to increase, whilst work on other infrequent data collections is expected to reduce.
- **Compliance with standards:** Work in this area is expected to reduce to reflect the biennial nature of the User Engagement Survey.
- **Statistical services:** An overall increase in staff resources on statistical services is expected, reflecting the biennial nature of work to commission Public Opinion of Forestry surveys.

## 1. UK Official Statistics

Work on UK Official Statistics covers data collection, analysis, quality assurance and production of statistical releases. This is expected to account for 1.2 person-years (around 39%) of staff resource in 2016-17.

Tasks within this work area and indicative estimates of the staff resource required for each task in 2016-17 are presented in the table below.

<b>Task</b>	<b>% of total staff resource</b>
Carry out surveys and data collection to cover UK timber industries (February to April), as agreed with Expert Group on Timber & Trade Statistics	10%
UK Wood Production and Trade (provisional figures) first release (May)	1%
Timber Price Indices first release (May and November)	1%
Woodland Area, Planting and Restocking first release (June)	4%
Nursery Survey (September)	1%
Forestry Facts & Figures (September)	3%
Forestry Statistics (September)	11%
Woodland Carbon Code Statistics first release (April, July, October and January)	1%
Develop/ improve methodologies	3%
Maintain Statistics pages on FC website	2%
Release of datasets in open data formats	2%
<b>All tasks in UK Official Statistics Work Area</b>	<b>39%</b>

## 2. International Statistics

Work on International Statistics covers the provision of UK forestry data to international organisations and liaison on international statistical issues. This is expected to account for 0.3 person-years (around 10%) of staff resource in 2016-17.

Tasks within this work area and indicative estimates of the staff resource required for each task in 2016-17 are presented in the table below.

<b>Task</b>	<b>% of total staff resource</b>
Joint Forest Sector Questionnaire (provisional May, final September) - timber production and trade – for Eurostat, UNECE, FAO and ITTO	2%
Timber Forecast Questionnaire (September) - timber production and trade forecasts – for UNECE	1%
Forest Accounts – annual data – for Eurostat	2%
Participate in international meetings on forestry statistics: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Eurostat Working Group on Forestry Statistics,</li> <li>• FAO/ UNECE Working Party on Forest Statistics, Economics and Management,</li> <li>• FAO/ UNECE Teams of Specialists (Forest Products Statistics).</li> </ul>	2%
Joint Wood Energy Enquiry – final results – for UNECE	2%
Provide support to DECC reporting to UNFCCC on the UK’s Land Use, Land Use Change and Forestry (LULUCF) Greenhouse Gas inventory	1%
<b>All tasks in International Statistics Work Area</b>	<b>10%</b>

### 3. Compliance with Standards

The Compliance with Standards area covers work to ensure that the Forestry Commission complies with the UK Statistics Authority's Code of Practice on Official Statistics and with statistical best practice. This is expected to account for 0.3 person-years (around 12%) of staff resource in 2016-17.

Tasks within this work area and indicative estimates of the staff resource required for each task in 2016-17 are presented in the table below.

<b>Task</b>	<b>% of total staff resource</b>
Develop and maintain statistics documentation to meet the requirements of UK Statistics Authority and Government Statistical Service guidance	2%
Provide advice to others in FC to assist them to identify and develop other official statistics and to comply with the Code of Practice	4%
Undertake Survey Control duties on behalf of the FC, providing advice and reporting on statistical survey activity	1%
Undertake annual statistical quality reviews, covering one survey and one output	2%
Liaise with Defra, Devolved Administrations and other Government Departments on statistical issues	2%
Input to Defra Ministerial statistics briefing	1%
<b>All tasks in Compliance with Standards Work Area</b>	<b>12%</b>

## 4. Statistical Services

Work on statistical services covers the provision of statistical advice, support and analysis to the Forestry Commission and others. This is expected to account for 1.2 person-years (around 39%) of staff resource in 2016-17.

Tasks within this work area and indicative estimates of the staff resource required for each task in 2016-17 are presented in the table below.

<b>Task</b>	<b>% of total staff resource</b>
Support development and reporting of indicators for country forestry strategies	3%
Support development and reporting of country forestry statistics	7%
Consult on and commission Public Opinion of Forestry surveys	2%
Provide statistical advice, support and analysis to the FC and Natural Resources Wales/ Welsh Government (including diversity monitoring and support for emerging issues)	6%
Advise on/ commission relevant research (including market and statistical support to the Expert Group on Timber & Trade Statistics)	3%
Participate in and advise on collaborative household surveys on recreation (Monitor of Engagement with the Natural Environment, Scotland's People and Nature Survey)	1%
Support on-site visitor monitoring, including FE Scotland visitor surveys and FE England/ Sport England monitoring	5%
Provide statistics for other government publications, Parliamentary Questions, enquiries from researchers & the general public, including requests under the Freedom of Information Act	12%
<b>All tasks in Statistical Services Work Area</b>	<b>39%</b>

Comments on this work plan for 2016-17 or possible future work can be directed to the address below.

Sheila Ward  
 Statistician, Forest Research  
 E-mail: [statistics@forestry.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:statistics@forestry.gsi.gov.uk)