

Woodfab Timber Limited

I am a shareholder of Woodfab Timber Limited and welcome the draft legislation and encourage its implementation. I have worked in Woodfab since I left college over 20 years ago. My initial role with Woodfab was looking after log supply so I am well aware of issues in relation to supply of logs. I have encountered many issues down through the years but this situation is unprecedented. The shortage of logs is crippling our industry.

The industry is at crisis point. We have no commitment of supply from late 2020. We have received assurance after assurance that there will be an increase in the number of felling licences granted by the Department but to date we are not seeing any increase in log supply. Since the introduction of new forestry licensing procedures in 2019, the processing and issuing of forestry licences have been seriously disrupted. The current system is not fit for purpose and the ability to operate and plan is being impeded by administrative inadequacies and procedural barriers. We believe that these issues can be addressed and solutions identified but action must be taken now before more jobs are lost rather than created and the true potential of the industry undermined.

There are long delays to licences caused by the FAC. At the current run rate it will take 18 months to clear the backlog of licences with the FAC. The FAC simply cannot cope with the workload. The changes to the legislation should help this situation providing the FAC is adequately and quickly resourced. These delays are hindering forestry activity and damaging the industry. Customers are concerned about supply and are looking for alternative suppliers. We are at risk of losing customers because we cannot meet the promises we made. It is vital that the FAC is reformed to make it fit for purpose. My livelihood and the livelihoods of the people I work with are at stake here!

Kind regards

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