

Woodfab Timber Limited

Good Morning

I am an employee of Woodfab Timber Limited and welcome the draft legislation and encourage its implementation.

I have worked in the timber industry for 7 years and would like to continue my career in this industry.

I understand from management that we have no commitment of supply from late 2020. They 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.

I am aware of the long delays to licences caused by the FAC. At the current run rate it will take at least 18 months to clear the backlog of licences with the FAC and the number of appeals is increasing! The FAC in its current format simply cannot cope with the workload. The changes to the legislation should help this situation. The delays are hindering forestry activity and damaging the industry. It is vital that the FAC is reformed to make it fit for purpose and to secure our jobs and the industry going forward.