



All-Party Parliamentary Group for the Wood Panel Industry

Thursday 12th January 2023, 08:00am

Westminster, Dining Room B

Attendees:

Members of Parliament:

Selaine Saxby MP

Conservative MP for North Devon (Chair of APPG)

Jim Shannon MP

Democratic Unionist Party MP for Strangford (Vice Chair)

Industry Representatives:

John Paterson

Manager, EGGER UK

Andrew Laidler

Commercial Director, EGGER UK

Alastair Kerr

Director General, WPIF

Chris Emery

Timber Procurement Executive, Kronospan

Secretariat:

Mark Cummings

Invicta Public Affairs

Brian Wilson

Invicta Public Affairs

Rory Chapman

Invicta Public Affairs

Meeting Minutes:

1. Welcome from APPG Chair, Selaine Saxby MP

2. Presentation from members of the wood panel industry

3. Discussion and assessment of key issues from the Terms of Reference as follows:

Forestry Cover and Tree Planting Targets to increase the security of wood supply

- Supports the UK Government's target increase from 13% to 17.5% forestry cover in England by 2050.
- Supports the Government's target of 30,000 hectares of trees to be planted per year by 2025.
- Requires the UK Government to deliver at least 60% of all forestry planting be commercial species, which has the greatest environmental; and economic benefit to Britain.
- Beyond this, we also require that the UK Government be more ambitious and move their targets in line with the ambition of the Committee on Climate Change UK targets of 35,000 to 50,000 hectares of trees planted between 2035 and 2050.

Stable Grant Regime to drive investor confidence

- Requires the UK Government and Forestry England to ensure that grants are available equally to landowners and tenants in order that all of those who steward the land can help deliver the required increase in forestry investment that is needed in England

Simplify the regulatory regime that is required to secure forestry investment scheme approvals

- The APPG agrees that to meet tree planting targets, forestry regulations to be streamlined in order to help secure timely permission for forestry planting and asks that a presumption be established in favour of all forestry investment schemes containing at least 60% commercial species

5. Address by Chair of the APPG for the Wood Panel Industry

Following the first meeting of the Chair of Expert Working Group, the Chair of the APPG and the industry members, an update on the forward plan for the Fourth Edition of the Expert Working Group Report was provided. An event was proposed for the middle of 2023, with a focus on the wood panel industry within the context of Net Zero.

6. Meeting Adjourned