

## COVID-19 AND KEY WORKERS IN THE FORESTRY AND WOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRY IN WALES

During the lockdown from March to July, the Welsh Government through a letter to Confor from the Minister for Environment Energy & Rural Affairs recognised the important role of forestry and wood processing businesses in supplying wood for key goods stating:

“Those involved in the supply chain of wood for key goods (including, but not limited to pallets, heating, packaging, tissue paper, timber harvesting, sawmills) should be considered **key workers**. Only necessary workers, producing key goods, should continue to attend workplaces. Working from home should be encouraged for administrative staff.”

Having spoken with Welsh Government officials on Monday, October 19<sup>th</sup>, Confor can confirm that there **has been no change in policy** and that the forestry and wood processing sectors **retain Key Producer status**.

It is important that these key workers are able to travel to work, to take children to and from school where required, and to undertake their activities related to their role as key workers.

Stuart Goodall  
Confor  
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