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

The UK Government has through DEFRA 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.”

Where workers can work from home they should. However, many forestry workers and those working in wood processing sites simply cannot work from home.

It is important that these forestry workers are able to travel to work and to undertake their activities without harassment or obstruction.

The forestry, wood processing and nurseries sector takes its responsibilities seriously during this current outbreak. Further information is available at <http://www.confor.org.uk/covid-19/> (PLEASE CHECK ADDRESS)

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5 November 2020