

Forest Research Board

Terms of Reference

This Board is appointed by the Forestry Commissioners to enable them, as 'the appropriate forestry authority' in England to discharge their duties and exercise their powers set out in the Forestry Act 1967¹, those powers most directly relevant to Forest Research are set out in paragraph 8 of the Act, the miscellaneous powers of the Commissioners.

The Board will also set strategy for Forest Research, provide leadership through directing the executive and offer constructive challenge and guidance in the development and delivery of strategic level objectives and support to the Forest Research executive.

Annex A describes the functions that the Board of Commissioners have delegated to the Forest Research Board.

The main duties of the **Forest Research Board** are to:

- discharge functions delegated to them by the Board of Commissioners;
- set the strategic direction for the activities of Forest Research;
- direct the executive in the conduct of business within Forest Research;
- provide leadership to Forest Research's activities to inform and ensure delivery of the shared forestry research strategy on behalf of the Governments of the UK, Scotland and Wales and overall Forestry Commission strategic objectives;
- identify and allocate resources required to meet Forest Research's objectives, including approval of the Business Plan, Annual Report and Accounts and other key corporate documents relating to Forest Research;
- promote the activities of Forest Research as a means to deliver wider government objectives and provide insight to future opportunities for the agency and wider sector;
- promote the long-term operational and financial sustainability of Forest Research;
- advocate forestry research expertise as a means to maintain the reputation of the agency and achieve objectives;
- regularly receive and review information on financial and operational performance of Forest Research against agreed objectives;

¹ The key relevant powers and duties of the Forestry Commissioners have been summarised in these Terms of Reference, the full text of the various Acts should be referred to for full details of the Commissioners powers and duties.

- demonstrate high standards of corporate governance at all times, to help the Board to address key financial and other strategic risks faced by the organisation, ensuring adequate systems and internal controls are in place to safeguard resources including by using the independent audit committee;
- ensure that any statutory or administrative requirements for the use of public funds are complied with;
- ensure that effective relationships are maintained with stakeholders, customers, suppliers, employees and other government departments and reputation is upheld; and,
- ensure effective communication both internally and externally through focused and consistent messaging showing evidence and accountability for decisions made.

The Forest Research Board is chaired by non-executive Commissioner. The other members are the FC Chief Executive Officer, three country non-executives (serving UK, Scottish and Welsh government officials), three non-executives one of whom could be a Forestry Commissioner, Forest Research Chief Executive Officer [Agency Accounting Officer], Chief Scientist Forest Research and FC Chief Scientific Adviser, and Forest Research Finance Director.

The Forest Research Board will share information as appropriate with the Forest Services Board, the Forestry England Board and the Forestry Commission Executive Board, ensuring collaboration and cooperative working to matters that require decision, resolution or co-ordinated action across the Forestry Commission.

The Forest Research Board will have the ability to escalate issues as appropriate to the Board of Commissioners.

The Forest Research Board may act by three of their number notwithstanding a vacancy in their number.

The Board will usually meet every two months in Alice Holt or NRS Roslin, but may elect to meet more or less frequently (but no less than once every quarter) and in other locations at its discretion.

Sub-Committees

Forest Research Audit and Risk Assurance Committee