

31 October 2024

**FORESTRY AND WOODLANDS ADVISORY COMMITTEES (FWAC)
APPOINTMENTS and REAPPOINTMENTS****1. Purpose**

To invite the Forestry Commissioners to approve:

- The reappointment of two FWAC Chairs for a full three-year term.
- Twenty One Member reappointments for a full three-year term.
- Two Co-opted appointments for a full three-year term.

2. Background

The working title of the Regional Advisory Committees appointed by the Forestry Commissioners under Section 37 of the Forestry Act 1967, was changed in 2013 to Forestry and Woodlands Advisory Committees to better reflect their remit. This did not impact on their statutory advisory role under the Forestry act.

In 2018 the England National Committee (which made the appointments under delegated authority) agreed that, where possible and desirable, the existing members should be re-appointed for a further three-year term or up to a maximum 10 years' total, whichever was less. This arrangement has worked well, and there is no reason to change. An annual performance appraisal of the Chairs and members takes place to ensure that we have evidence that they are suitable for re-appointment.

The legislation requires that each Committee comprises not less than seven nor more than twelve members and that not less than four of the members are appointed after consultation with organisations representing forestry interests. Our national open recruitment rounds enable us to fulfil and maintain the 'consultation' requirement. We aim

to maintain, so far as possible, the maximum membership for each FWAC but it is not unusual to carry the occasional vacancy.

3. Reappointments

Two Chairs are eligible for re-appointment, their performance is satisfactory, and they are willing to continue; their details and their time in the role are at Annex 1.

There were new member appointments in 2018 or 2021, which is why we have 21 member reappointments on the three-year cycle.

4. Vacancies

Terms of appointment normally run to the end November and a small number of FWAC members have either served the maximum ten-year term or have stepped away from their duties as a FWAC member. Rather than run a local recruitment campaign it was decided to roll over the vacancies, as minimum numbers will be maintained, to next year and combine them with next year's vacancies to carry out a bigger local recruitment campaign. The next national recruitment will be carried out in 2026 when a substantial number of vacancies will arise. The regions carrying forward vacancies are listed in Annex 1. Area Directors have the ability to co-opt potential new members between recruitment rounds.

5. Co-opted Members

We have three co-opted members, who have covered vacancies on FWACs and their performance has been satisfactory and they wish to continue in the role. It is recommended that they are now formally appointed for a three-year term, these are listed at Annex 1.

6. Communications

Subject to Commissioners' acceptance of the recommendation in this Paper the existing and new members will be advised of the results of the appointment process by Commissioners Office as soon as possible. We do not normally undertake any additional publicity on these appointments.

Richard Barker
Secretary to the Commissioners
Commissioners' Office