



Department for Environment Food & Rural Affairs

Trudy Harrison MP
Minister for Natural Environment and Land Use

2 Marsham Street
London
SW1P 4DF

T: +44 (0) 3459 335577
E: correspondence.section@defra.gov.uk
W: gov.uk/defra

Rt Hon Philip Dunne MP
Chair, Environmental Audit
Committee
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

1 June 2023

Philip.Dunne.MP@Parliament.uk

Environmental Audit Committee – sustainable timber and deforestation

Following the EAC evidence session held on 29 March, we received a request for further information on the Timber in Construction Roadmap, National Wood Strategy, and Timber Sector Deal. Please find a description of each of the documents below outlining their aims, differences, interactions, expected delivery, and involved stakeholders.

Timber in Construction Roadmap

The Timber in Construction Roadmap is a joint document being developed between government (Defra, DESNZ, DLUHC, and DBT), industry, and other stakeholders which aims to set out the current landscape and future potential for the use of timber as a sustainable construction material. It will also include commitments by government and industry to encourage and increase the safe and sustainable use of timber in construction. The Roadmap is specific to the construction sector and will cover a range of barriers and opportunities relating to timber and construction including opportunities to increase use of domestic timber in construction projects, but also wider challenges such as issues relating to building safety and design and the availability of appropriate skills in the workforce.

National Wood Strategy for England (aka Timber Strategy or Wood Strategy)

The National Wood Strategy (NWS) for England is sector-led and is being developed by industry leaders, coordinated by Confor. It aims to highlight the opportunities for innovation and growth in the timber and wood processing sectors, and to outline the sector's proposals for what actions are needed from government and industry to increase productive forestry and wood production and utilisation. The industry is hoping for Defra to endorse the NWS and proposals within it but can publish the document without government support.

Timber Sector Deal

Stakeholders have called for a Timber “Sector Deal” to follow the sector-led National Wood Strategy (NWS) for England. We expect this could be a mechanism for government and industry to agree a shared action plan to support, maintain, and grow the timber and wood processing sectors. This may align with commitments made in the Timber in Construction Roadmap and proposals made in the NWS, and may include more details on how these commitments and proposals may be taken forward by government and industry. As the Timber in Construction Roadmap and National Wood Strategy are still being developed we are only at the very early stages of scoping what a sector deal in response to these documents may look like, and no formal commitment has been made by Government.

I hope this has been able to answer all your questions, please get back in touch if you would like to discuss any of the issues raised in this letter further.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Trudy Harrison', written over a horizontal line.

Trudy Harrison MP