

**Copy of EMail from Ewan Calcott, Forestry Commission in response to that from Adrien Wield (copy attached) dated June 2018**

Ewan Calcott  
Regulations national team manager  
Forestry Commission England – Forest Services

Dear Mr Wield

Thank you for your memorandum – copy attached.

In my role as lead Regulations manager for the Forestry Commission in England, and by way of a response, I have the following comments:

- The Forestry Act 1967 places an obligation on the Forestry Commission to consult with National Parks and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty, and with local authorities for larger afforestation proposals.
- Subsequent ministerial statements to Parliament in the 1980s and 1990s have led to additional consultation requirements with other statutory bodies, and to the creation of a Public Register through which the public can be notified of forestry proposals currently under review by the Forestry Commission.
- The Public Register is an accessible portal through which the public can obtain information about forestry proposals and provide comments, related to UK Forestry Standard guidelines, on how the project may impact upon them.
- Comments must be submitted and received during the 28 day window used to publish proposals.
- To note – the Forestry Commission is not a Statutory Consultee to the planning process; planning authorities can advise the Forestry Commission of planning applications but are not obliged to consult with us.
- The Forestry Commission Land Information Search (LIS) also provides an array of information on approved forestry projects, including for felling licences, and these records are displayed permanently.

From autumn 2018 a new Public Register and Land Information Search tool will be introduced making locating proposals, commenting on them, and accessing information on approved cases even easier. The new Public Register will publish applications to fell trees (excluding those to thin woodland only), applications to create grant funded woodland and Environmental Impact Assessment decisions for afforestation, deforestation and forestry infrastructure.

For the current and the forthcoming webpage portals, villagers and / or Parishes are able to log onto the Public Register or Land Information Search and locate any area within England at any time in order to determine if there is a project to be commented upon, or once approved, to be aware of. These self-service portals do not require the Forestry Commission to personally advise each and every interested party, contrary to your proposed approach to notifications of activity in your area, in the memorandum.

Also, the General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) place an onus on the Forestry Commission, which is a very small organisation, to protect personal information provided to us.

We do not see the personal information of non-applicants being valuable to our business when a self-service model can be used to advise of local activity, and in doing so, helps us to reduce the tax-payer funded resources required to administer a more complicated solution.

Yours sincerely

Ewan Calcott  
Regulations national team manager  
Forestry Commission England – Forest Services  
☎ 0300 067 4244 | VOIP: 4244 | Mob. 07831 235213  
✉ [ewan.calcott@forestry.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:ewan.calcott@forestry.gsi.gov.uk)  
✉ Forestry Commission | 620 Bristol Business Park | Coldharbour Lane | Bristol | BS16 1EJ