

FR 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 guiding 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 and review progress;
- support 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 in support of overall Forestry Commission strategic objectives;
- approve Forest Research’s Business Plan, Annual Report and Accounts and other key corporate documents relating to Forest Research;
- monitor Forest Research’s progress against its business plan and delivery of its corporate objectives;
- promote the activities of Forest Research as a means to deliver wider government objectives and provide insight to future opportunities for the agency;
- promote the long-term operational and financial sustainability of Forest Research;
- advocate the growth and development of 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.

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- 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 and Risk Assurance Committee; (The audit and risk assurance functions in support of Forest Research's accounting officer are undertaken by the Forestry Commission's Audit and Risk Assurance Committee of which one of the independent members is a Forest Research Non-Executive director.)
- ensure that any statutory or administrative requirements for the use of public funds are complied with and appropriate Health and Safety and Environmental Management systems are operated;
- 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 one of its non-executive members and comprises the Chair of the Forestry Commission, the Forestry Commission Chief Executive Officer, three country non-executives (serving UK, Scottish and Welsh government officials), up to three further non-executives, Forest Research Chief Executive Officer [Agency Accounting Officer], Forest Research Chief Scientist, and Forest Research Director of Finance & Corporate Services.

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, consisting of an appropriate mix of non-executive and executive members. If the Chair is not one of the members present, then the meeting chair will come from one of the non-executive members present.

The Board will usually meet every quarter, either virtually or in person at 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.

The Board will have the right to establish formal sub-committees as its remit or the business may demand.

FUNCTIONS DELEGATED BY THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

FUNCTION (listed by legal basis for activity ²)	FORESTRY ENGLAND BOARD (FEB)	FOREST SERVICES BOARD (FSB)	FOREST RESEARCH BOARD (FRB)
Forestry Act 1967 (as amended): Note: The Forestry Commissioners are the 'appropriate forestry authority' in England.			
To manage the land placed at the disposal of the Forestry Commissioners by the Minister (Secretary of State, Defra) for the functions of the Forestry Commissioners, including promoting the interests of forestry, the development of afforestation and the production and supply of timber whilst endeavouring to achieve balancing duty set out in part 3A of the Act.	X		
Promoting the interests of forestry, the development of afforestation and the production and supply of timber and other forest products.		X	
Promoting the establishment and maintenance in England of adequate reserves of growing trees	X	X	
To implement the powers to control tree felling as set out in Part II of the Act		X	
Undertake the collection, preparation, publication and distribution of statistics relating to forestry;			X
Promote and develop instruction and training in forestry	X	X	X
Carry out experiments and research either directly or with others for the purpose of promoting forestry and publish			X

² The key relevant powers and duties of the Forestry Commissioners have been summarised in this list of key functions, the full text of the various Acts should be referred to for full details of the Commissioners' powers and duties.

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the results of research aid the disseminate the information on forestry;			
Exploit any intellectual property or intangible assets arising from the carrying out of any activity.	X	X	X
The establishment and maintenance of regional advisory committees		X	
Countryside Act 1968 (as amended)			
To provide, or arrange for or assist in the provision of, tourist, recreational or sporting facilities on the land placed at the disposal of the Forestry Commissioners	X		
Plant Varieties and Seeds Act 1964:			
The establishment and maintenance of an official seed testing station for silvicultural propagating and planting material and charging powers in respect of seed testing activity.	X		
Plant Health Act 1967:			
The competent authority for the protection of forest trees and timber from attack by pests and diseases, and the power to make orders		X	
Forest Reproductive Material (Great Britain) Regulations 2002:			
The selection, development and marketing of seeds for use as forest reproductive materials, including establishing labelling, marking and record keeping requirements; in particular, they establish a regime for registration of basic reproductive materials and for their regions of provenance. The Regulations implement an EU Directive on the marketing of forest reproductive material and on external quality standards for forest reproductive material marketed within the EU.	X [Application]	X [Regulations]	

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Environmental Impact Assessment (Forestry) (England and Wales) Regulations 1999 and The Environmental Impact Assessment (Forestry) (England and Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2017:			
The appropriate forestry body undertake the role set out in regulations, primarily to decide if a project is a “relevant project” and if so grant or refuse consent having followed due process.		X	
Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000:			
The “relevant authority” for all woodland in England dedicated under the Act for public access		X	