

Abi Reader
NFU Cymru Deputy President
NFU Cymru HQ
Agriculture House
Royal Welsh Showground
Llanelwedd
Powys
LD2 3TU

09 May 2024

Dear Ms Reader,

We recognise the forthcoming changes within the Welsh Government policy and subsidy schemes and the uncertainty that this brings. The lack of financial support for societal outcomes is something we relate to strongly.

The Welsh Government has set ambitious goals for forests and forest policy and we at the Institute of Chartered Foresters (ICF) would like to extend our support. As a professional body, the ICF is perceived as an unbiased voice in the sector, serving as a partner and facilitator to governments and stakeholders, both within and outside the sector, to uphold professional standards in forestry and arboriculture. We encourage you to utilise us as a sounding board, a balanced voice or a critical friend to disseminate communications, solicit sector opinions and inform policy discussions.

As a sector we are facing a major skills crisis. We are aiming to harness the technical skills of those working within forestry and our affiliate sectors through our Technical Membership Entry process, to include those with field-based skills and a professional attitude in our pursuit of excellence in trees, woodlands and forests. We are interested in discussing opportunities with you to increase the offer to farmers, tenants and workers for training, skills and professional development. Our view is that the broader and stronger the skill base, the more able we will all be to navigate the current shifting sands of rural development support.

We have been working in a collaborative partnership with the Soil Association and Linking Environment and Farming (LEAF) to develop and deliver a Farming for Foresters Continuous Professional Development series, which we hope to replicate with Forestry for Farmers.

We would welcome a conversation with you to discuss how we can best support the National Farmers Union and its members to deliver the Sustainable Farming Scheme in collaboration.

Yours sincerely,



Louise Simpson
Executive Director
Institute of Chartered Foresters