

Kevin Quinlan
Chief Executive
Forestry and Land Scotland National Office
Great Glen House
Leachkin Road
Inverness
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Dear Mr Quinlan,

Congratulations on your appointment as Chief Executive for Forestry and Land Scotland – I hope you are enjoying your new role.

I am writing to introduce the Institute of Chartered Foresters, the professional body for people working with trees and forests in the UK. We have over 2,000 members employed in private, public and third sectors, working in universities and research centres, in consultancy and forestry management (both rural and urban). The Institute regulates standards of entry to the profession, supports its members, provides guidance to professionals in other sectors and offers educational advice and training. We work hard to foster greater public and political awareness and understanding of forestry, and we are the only UK body to offer the titles Chartered Forester and Chartered Arboriculturist.

Scotland has led the way on forestry policy and empowered the sector to deliver the multiple benefits that trees and woodlands provide. However, there are significant challenges to face, particularly in relation to the recent budget cuts and the impact this will have on woodland creation and the wider timber sector. As the professional body representing all those working with trees, we are the impartial voice of the sector, acting as partner and convener to governments and stakeholders within and outwith the sector. The Institute's diverse membership is one of its greatest strengths and by working in partnership with others we can dispel some of the current unhelpful polarisation within woodland creation discussions.

We all know how important a role forestry will play, not only in the climate and nature crises but the future of the rural economy. Our national conference which took place in April – [Trees, People and the Built Environment 5](#) – examined two very different roles for trees – how they can improve the quality of place for both people and nature and how they can contribute to the net zero carbon ambition for buildings and the built environment. To deliver the change needed, it is crucial that all professions and decision makers are on the same page when it comes to integrating trees in the built environment.

I look forward to working with you and would welcome a discussion about how we can support you and your team.

Yours sincerely,



Louise Simpson
Executive Director