

Forest Service Business Plan Targets 2022-23





Forest Service delivers forestry and plant health functions on behalf of the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA). Forest Service operates as an Executive Agency since 1 April 1998 and was further classified as a Non-Financial Public Corporation from 1 April 2020. The Agency is subject to the overall direction of the Minister, who determines the policy framework within which it operates, the scope of Agency activities and the resources available for its work.

For the 2022-23 business year, Forest Service has set Key Targets that align with the Agency's Priority Work Streams as established in successive Business Plans, and as set out in the Agency's Corporate Plan from 1 April 2021.



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Key Target 1		Deliver the 2022/23 Forests for Our Future programme to plant 600 hectares of new woodland.
	Supplementary Measure	Support at least 450 hectares of new woodland through grant aid.
	Supplementary Measure	Prepare an Outline Business Case to take forward and establish funding options for Forests for Our Future beyond the current RDP programme.
	Supplementary Measure	Prepare an Outline Business Case to consider partnership models to enable greater participation from landowners in afforestation projects.
Key Target 2		Identify at least three priority candidate sites for peatland restoration, taking account of restoration techniques and DAERA's developing peatland strategy & climate actions.
	Supplementary Measure	Contribute to the development of DAERA contributions to the Climate Action Plan.
Key Target 3		Provide at least 400,000m³ of timber from well-managed forests to customers.
	Supplementary Measure	Provide at least 40,000m ³ of timber from thinning from well-managed forests.
Key Target 4		Hold independent certification that the management of DAERA forests meets sustainable Forestry Standards.
	Supplementary Measure	Implement corrective action on findings from the 2022 certification audits, to ensure that DAERA forests continue to be sustainably managed.
	Supplementary Measure	Secure 1,500 hectares of previously unregistered land on GIS and submit a further 1,000 hectares for first registration process.
	Supplementary Measure	Extend forest recreational facilities at 3 sites, in partnership with local government in support of recreation, tourism and health and wellbeing benefits.
Key Target 5		Achieve an income of at least £12M from all sources
	Supplementary Measure	Achieve an income of at least £11M from timber sales.
Key Target 6		Maintain a FS Recruitment Plan and implement 22/23 priority competitions.
	Supplementary Measure	Secure a Forest Service Employee Engagement Index of at least 65%.
	Supplementary Measure	Commission a Task & Finish group to review Forest Service's workforce planning strategy and identify priority actions.
Key Target 7		Develop and adopt revised Standard Operating Procedures to regulate importation of high-risk plants and plant products in line with legislative requirements.



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	Supplementary Measure	Establish process for reporting implementation of SOP's through the Plant Health division command chain for FSMB scrutiny.
	Supplementary Measure	Engage in Defra led UK Plant Health policy development initiatives impacting NI trading in plants and plant products.
Key Target 8		Develop a plan for the transition of the Forest Service vehicles to use non-fossil fuels.



Monitoring & Reporting

Monitoring and Reporting of performance against the targets will be overseen by the Forest Service Management Board, with Senior Responsible Officers providing updates on a Red / Amber / Green (RAG) basis.



Not achieved or not expected to be achieved.



Rate of progress is less than planned.



Rate of progress is broadly on track with easily redeemable deviations from plans.



Achieved or on track for delivery.

At the end of the business year performance against Key Targets will be audited and achievement or failure reported in the Agency's Annual Report & Accounts.