

CONFOR DINNER AND AWARDS ARE BACK IN 2022

After a pandemic-related break in 2020, Confor is delighted to announce that our annual dinner event will once more take place on 1 March 2022.

In 2019, we perfectly timed our annual industry event to take place just before a National lockdown would put a stop to all socialising for months on end. Since then, there has been very little opportunity for people of the forestry and timber sector to get together, enjoy a meal and celebrate the achievements of inspiring people in our industry.

In Spring 2022, the Confor awards and dinner are back at last at the Sheraton Hotel in Edinburgh. In addition to our long-standing Award for Dedicated Service to Forestry, we will run the three awards launched in 2019: Future Forestry Leader Award, Changing Attitudes Award and Innovation and Research Award. The call for nominations will open soon - check the panel for more information on how to nominate your preferred candidate.

SAVE THE DATE

Confor dinner and Awards event

When: 1 March 2022

Where: Sheraton Grand Hotel and Spa (1 Festival Square, Edinburgh EH3 9SR)

Award nominations: 25 Oct-15 Jan 2022

Ticket bookings: from 1 Nov

NOMINATE FOR THE AWARD

To nominate someone, you will need to send us the following information:

1. Name, role title and organisation of the person you want to nominate
2. Award you want to nominate for
3. Reason for nomination (150-200 words, links are allowed).
4. Your name and contact details
Nominations can be submitted to Stefanie.kaiser@confor.org.uk from 25 Oct 2021 to 15 Jan 2022.

How do we shortlist and choose a winner?

For each award, relevant representatives of Confor and the sponsor will independently shortlist three candidates and eventually agree on one winner.

For selecting a winner, we value nominations that show that a person has shown exceptional engagement beyond what is their key professional role and whose work or initiative has had an impact not only on their organisation but the wider industry.

Sponsorship opportunities

Limited additional sponsorship opportunities might be available. Interested businesses may **contact** stefanie.kaiser@confor.org.uk to discuss.

THE AWARDS



CHANGING ATTITUDES AWARD

To be presented to an individual or business promoting the forestry and wood sector in a positive and impactful way through personal engagement, campaigning or communication, social media or other ways.

Sponsored by: Scottish Woodlands Ltd

Winner in 2020: Mima Letts, Tree Sparks



INNOVATION & RESEARCH AWARD

To be presented to a business or individual delivering successful innovation and/or research which has clearly demonstrated greater productivity or efficiency in the forestry and wood industry.

Sponsored by: Forestry Commission & Forestry and Land Scotland

Winner in 2020: Jon Ritchie, James Jones and Sons Ltd



FUTURE FORESTRY LEADER AWARD

To be presented to an individual with outstanding skills who has the potential to be a leader in the forestry and timber sector - someone showing initiative, passion and making a real difference.

Winner in 2020: Andrew MacQueen, Tilhill

Timeline





MARIA BELLISIMO JOINS CONFOR AS POLICY OFFICER

Experienced communications and engagement professional Maria Bellisimo has joined Confor as its new Policy Officer.

Maria, who joined the Confor team on 6 September, has a strong understanding of the UK's political and policy-making process – and detailed industry knowledge through her recent work with both BSW Timber and, previously, the Wood Panel Industries Federation.

She has held a number of roles across Westminster and the private sector, and understands forestry



and wood's vital role in contributing to the sustainability agenda.

Confor Chief Executive, Stuart Goodall, said: "Maria is a fantastic addition to the Confor team. Her strong background in public affairs and her specific experience

working with businesses in the sector mean she can hit the ground running and add real value to our work at a time when forestry and timber have never been more important to society."

Maria, who has vast experience of designing and running political and single-issue campaigns, is well-known to a number of the Confor team.

She said: "When I first started supporting businesses in the sector as a public affairs consultant four years ago, my knowledge of the forestry and timber sector was limited.

What I have discovered since then is a highly specialised, technologically advanced sector that is key to revitalising a lagging rural economy and an essential component of the systemic change that we as a society need to make to address the climate change crisis.

"I'm excited to be joining Confor, and to have the opportunity to build on my experience. I am very passionate about communicating all the benefits of forestry and wood to key decision-makers and help promote this vital industry."