

COVID-19 AND WORKERS IN THE FORESTRY, WOOD PROCESSING AND NURSERIES SECTOR IN WALES

The Welsh First Minister has provided clear guidance that people must work from home if they can. However, people who are not able to work from home, but can work safely in their workplaces, can do so, provided their workplace remains open.

The planting, management and harvesting of trees is a largely rural industry, as is the growing of young trees in forest nurseries.

In our daily working lives, there is limited interaction with other people, and the sector is committed to working safely in accordance with government guidelines for employers and businesses on coronavirus (COVID-19)*, including social distancing, and in accordance with all existing health and safety standards.

Many forestry workers simply cannot work from home - including those growing young trees in nurseries and planting new forests and woods. In the longer-term, those young trees will be needed to help many businesses get back on their feet and, lest we forget, to support our ongoing climate change objectives.

It is important that these forestry and forest nursery workers are able to travel to work and to undertake their activities without harassment or obstruction.

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*<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-to-employers-and-businesses-about-covid-19/guidance-for-employers-and-businesses-on-coronavirus-covid-19>