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**To:** Chairman  
Forestry Commissioners  
England National Committee  
GB Executive Board  
England Executive Board  
Edward Shephard TUS

## **PUBLIC FOREST ESTATE STUDY IN ENGLAND**

I am writing to inform you that the public forest estate study in England is being launched today by a Parliamentary Statement made by the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, Hilary Benn.

The purpose of the study is to consider the future long-term sustainable role for the public forest estate making recommendations about any necessary changes to improve its ability to deliver relevant priorities in the Strategy for England's Trees Woods and Forests and contribute to other government objectives.

Information about the study, including a booklet, is also on the Commission's Internet website at:

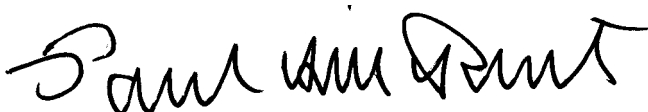
[www.forestry.gov.uk/england-estatestudy](http://www.forestry.gov.uk/england-estatestudy)

The study is also referred to in the Pre-Budget Report Operational Efficiency Programme announced today by the Chancellor.

I attach copies of the Ministerial Statement, Forestry Commission Press Release and Q&A prepared for internal use. The News Release etc. are embargoed until 5:00 p.m. as part of the cross-government approach to managing communications around the Chancellor's statement and I would be grateful if you could respect this confidentiality.

I will keep you informed of developments.

*via Outlook*



**Paul Hill-Tout**