

15 March 2011



To: Director General

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Dear Tim

FORESTRY COMMISSION REVIEWS

The FCTU formally request that all SR10 changes within the FC and proposals being undertaken in the Business Units all cease until such a time when we can clearly see what the FC will be delivering into the future. We understand the pressure being placed upon the FC at this time and the need to meet the fiscal necessities of SR10 but we are very alarmed at the pace and scale of the proposed changes imposed on our members.

The FCTU are concerned that the ad hoc approach will put the business potential at risk, place greater stress on our members and result in the FC being unable to deliver what the public expect. Recently, many people signed up to support not just the estate but the FC as well and it would be intolerable for us to stop doing the very activities that the public demand. If we cease to deliver against expectation then we could damage our business potential irreparably and see talented staff leave the FC at a time when we need them the most. Evidence of this can already be seen within the Business Units where there is a great deal of uncertainty among staff and some are considering leaving at this time, which could seriously threaten the FC's ability to deliver the needs of the business.

We are aware that the advisory panel will report sometime in the Autumn on the future of the FC and the public estate and that the regulatory task force will be looking at the barriers preventing the creation and management of woodland in England.

We would like to request that you do not make any changes to our current structure and posts in respect of SR10 until both these groups have reported back to Ministers and a clear policy emerges on the future of the FC and the PFE in England.

The FCTU do not believe that putting SR10 programmes on hold will have any immediate impact on the fiscal deficit of Great Britain, and believe we should put these programmes on hold and take stock until we can better understand what the FC's future will look like.

Please postpone these proposals in England, Forest Research and Corporate Services, and bring the Business Units outsourcing review to a temporary halt.

It will be catastrophic if we weaken our ability to deliver the future new challenges and opportunities because we have cut too soon and too deeply.

Yours sincerely

Allan MacKenzie
FCTU Departmental Secretary

www.fctu.org.uk

The FCTU is a partnership of PCS, Unite, Prospect, GMB and the FDA.