



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

By email:

Our ref: ATISN 15408
Date: 09/09/2021

ATISN 15408 – TREE PLANTING AND FELLING IN WALES OVER THE LAST FIVE YEARS.

Dear

Thank you for your requests which I received on 9th August 2021. You made the following requests:

'How many trees have been cut down/felled in the past five years in Wales? How many trees have been planted in the past five years in Wales?'

Our response:

Information regarding the forestry sector, tree planting and the extent of woodland cover in Wales (and the UK) is published annually in collaboration with our partners in Forest Research. Please find a link attached for your convenience. [Forestry Statistics and Forestry Facts & Figures - Forest Research](#)

Tree Planting

Tree planting data is most accurately measured via the area of land (number of hectares), please see the table below on new planting and restocking data. Figures on re-stocking only include re-stocking which has been funded by the public sector.

Financial year April - March	New Planting (hectares planted)	Publicly funded restocking (in hectares)
2016-2017	400	1,700
2017-2018	200	1,700
2018-2019	520	1,440

Parc Cathays • Cathays Park
Caerdydd • Cardiff
CF10 3NQ

Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

2019-2020	80	1,500
Provisional 2020-2021	290	1,850
Totals	1,490	8,190

Tree Felling:

Most felling of trees in Wales requires a felling license to be issued by Natural Resources Wales. It is important to note that where tree felling will result in creating openings within a woodland, the felling license will normally include a re-stocking condition which requires the land manager to replace the trees felled.

Thinning is a silvicultural operation where the main objective is to reduce the density of trees in a stand promoting the vigour and health of the trees and habitat. It is part of the sustainable management of woodlands and meets the UK Forestry Standards guidelines.

Financial year April to March	Felling licences	Measured in hectares		No. of trees from 24/09/2020	
		Felling	Thinning	Felling	Thinning
2016-17	467	2,905.35	2,439.31	Data not recorded	
2017-18	405	2,567.75	1,550.25		
2018-19	506	4,186.79	1,638.26		
2019-20	571	2,276.76	2,785.95		
2020-21	463	2,126.09	1,726.84	885,790	327,844

As a caveat to the data, although applicants apply for a felling licence they do not always use it. Duplicate requests are not recorded, so the data remains contiguous.

Next Steps:

If you are dissatisfied with the Welsh Government's handling of your request, you can ask for an internal review within 40 working days of the date of this response. Requests for an internal review should be addressed to the Welsh Government's Freedom of Information Officer at:

Information Rights Unit,
Welsh Government,
Cathays Park,
Cardiff,
CF10 3NQ

or Email: Freedom.ofinformation@gov.wales

Please remember to quote the ATISN reference number above.

You also have the right to complain to the Information Commissioner. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

Information Commissioner's Office,
Wycliffe House,
Water Lane,
Wilmslow,
Cheshire,
SK9 5AF.

However, please note that the Commissioner will not normally investigate a complaint until it has been through our own internal review process.

Yours sincerely,