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HEALTH AND SAFETY EXECUTIVE

AGRICULTURE INDUSTRY ADVISORY COMMITTEE (AIAC)

Discussion document

Future role and membership of the Arboriculture and Forestry advisory Group (AFAG)

Summary

1. At the AIAC meeting of 3 November 2016 members discussed the role of AFAG, particularly in the light of the continued development of the Forestry Industry Safety Accord (FISA) and the balance between forestry and arboriculture representation on AFAG
2. It was agreed that this discussion document would be prepared to facilitate a discussion of the future role and membership of AFAG at the next AIAC meeting.

Background

3. AFAG is a sub-committee of AIAC. It exists to provide AIAC with advice on health and safety matters of concern to the arboriculture and forestry industries.
4. AFAG has been in existence for many years. One of the outcomes of the concerns raised by AFAG was the organisation of a forestry summit which led to the creation of FISA. Since then significant forestry input to AFAG has come from FISA and work which may previously have been done by AFAG, is now being undertaken by FISA working groups. However, FISA does not represent all forestry, nor does it represent arboriculture.
5. At the most recent AFAG meeting (16 May 2017) AFAG considered its role and whether or not changes were required to reflect FISA's contribution, and whether the group should become more targeted towards arboriculture. It concluded that it would continue in its current form as the only group where the arboriculture and forestry industries sit together and the Chair would write to non-attending members to encourage them to contribute. A list of current member organisations is attached (Annex 1).
6. However, as a sub-committee of AIAC, it is for AIAC to determine the role of AFAG and whether or not it should continue in its current form and is it providing AIAC with the advice it requires.
7. AIAC members are invited to consider whether or not:

- a) They still wish to receive an input from the forestry and arboriculture industries;
 - b) They are content for the forestry input and outcomes to be primarily delivered through the activities of FISA?
 - c) They are content with the current performance and membership of AFAG;
 - d) They are content for the Chair to write to members who have not attended recent meetings to encourage attendance and seek greater arboriculture representation;
8. AIAC members are also invited to give a view on the expected attendance of AFAG members.

Recommendations

9. This paper will be discussed at the AIAC meeting on 7 June 2017 with a view to establishing whether or not AIAC is content with the operation of AFAG and its proposals for its future role.

Andrew Turner
June 2017

Current AFAG membership

HSE – Chair and Secretariat

UNITE

Lantra

CONFOR (AFAG rep on AIAC)

DARDNI

City & Guilds/NPTC

Agricultural Engineers Association (AEA)

Public & Commercial Services Union (PCS)

Arboricultural Association (AA)

IOSH Rural Industries Group

International Society of Arborists (ISA) – membership lapsed as UK branch dissolved

UAG/Training provider/Assessor

Forestry Contractors Association (FCA)

Institute of Chartered Foresters (ICF)

United Kingdom Forest Products Association

Local Government Employers Organisation

Forestry Commission Scotland

Forestry Commission England

National Association of Tree Officers (NATO)

Tree Care Industry Association (TCIA)

Forestry Commission – Learning and Development

NRW

FISA

