

Mael Ihamouchene
Via email

15th March 2022

Forestry England
620 Bristol Business Park
Coldharbour Lane
BRISTOL
BS16 1EJ

informationrights@forestryengland.uk

Information Request: Forestry Estate Sold and Acquired Since 1970 - our ref: 020_22

Dear Mael Ihamouchene,

Thank you for your recent enquiry we received on 17th February 2022 in which you asked for the following information:

Dear Forestry Commission,

Could you please provide me with statistics regarding the hectares or acres managed by the Forestry commission sold since 1970 (or if you don't possess the information up to that date, for as long as you can)?

I would also like information regarding the area acquired by the Forestry Commission for the same period of time.

We have considered your request under the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 (EIR) as the information you are seeking is considered “environmental information” as defined in Regulation 2 of the EIR. You can read more about the EIR here:

<https://ico.org.uk/for-organisations/guide-to-the-environmental-information-regulations/>

Please find our response to your request below:

When we acquire land, i.e. lease land to manage on behalf on the Forestry England estate, or sell land we own outright, this process is managed through deeds and leases. We do not have an overall database that compares how much land we have bought or sold since 1970 therefore in compliance to Regulation 12(4)(a) this



information cannot be disclosed because it is not held. You can read more about this at: https://ico.org.uk/media/for-organisations/documents/1169/determining_whether_information_is_held_foi_eir.pdf.

We do, however, have data of land that is been acquired and disposed of since 1991. While this does not show the change in the size of the estate, you may find of interest. Please find the export of data in a spreadsheet attached to our response email.

We can also confirm that we have no property up for sale on our estate at this time, this is line with the government's [commitment to ensuring that public forests are kept in trust for the nation with no net reduction in the size of the nation's forests](#).

You may also find of interest Forestry Research's Forestry Statistics' publications, which does capture (in hectares) the size of the Forestry England estate. These publications go back until 2016 where a comparison of the size could be measured. You can find these publications at: <https://www.forestryresearch.gov.uk/tools-and-resources/statistics/forestry-statistics/>.

You can also search the publicly available Forester Web for land that is currently owned within the Forestry England estate. You can find this at: <https://www.forestergis.com/Apps/MapBrowser/>

We have tried to deal with your request as fully as possible. If you have any questions, then we would be happy to try and answer these for you. However, should you wish to request an internal review of our response please contact:

Forestry Commission
Chief Executive Officer
620 Bristol Business Park
Coldharbour Lane
Bristol
BS16 1EJ

Email: commissioners@forestrycommission.gov.uk

We aim to resolve any concerns with you directly in the first instance. However, should the matter fail to be resolved to your satisfaction, you may make an additional appeal to the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO).

Further information on the role of the ICO and guidance on FOI/EIR can be found on the ICO's website: www.ico.org.uk or by calling the ICO helpline: 0303 123 1113



Yours sincerely,

Knowledge & Information Management (KIM) Team
Forestry England

