

## **RURAL ECONOMY AND CONNECTIVITY COMMITTEE**

### **PRE-BUDGET/FINANCIAL SCRUTINY ON ROADS MAINTENANCE IN SCOTLAND**

#### **SUBMISSION FROM CONFOR**

Confor is a membership organisation that promotes and supports sustainable forestry and wood-using businesses through political engagement, market promotion and supporting our members' competitiveness.

Confor's antecedent organisation Timber Growers was one of the founder members of the Timber Transport Forum, and we have maintained membership of the Forum ever since.

Confor supports everything that has been said in the response submitted to you by the Timber Transport Forum. In particular we wish to highlight the final comments in that submission:

“A solution is required to address the long-term maintenance of the 30,000km of low-volume minor rural roads otherwise Scotland's economy will be much diminished. Such a solution will require recognising rural Scotland as inherently productive and worthy of investment in social and economic activity.

Unless funding models can address the rural challenge, it is likely that large areas of Scotland will be left behind and will not realise their social and economic potential. 'Landlocked' forests, isolated by poor road condition, may become wastelands.”