

# Forest owners should obtain full value for their investments

At a time when timber prices are at an all-time high, forest owners must ensure they get full value for their harvested timber, maintains Irish Forest Owners (IFO) secretary Olive Leavy.

The IFO is the representative body for most private forestry producer groups in Ireland.

“Sitka spruce, fully mature, well stocked and managed, is making over €35,000 and up to €40,000/ha,” she says.

“Numerous forests planted in the 1980s and 1990s are now at clearfell stage and the IFO is concerned that many owners are unaware of the true value of their timber.”

IFO chair Nicholas Sweetman advises forest owners to get impartial advice from independent forestry experts, Teagasc and producer groups before agreeing to sell their timber.

“Owners should be aware of the various classes, quantities and values of timber whether thinning or clearfelling,” he said.

“Great vigilance is required when thinning to guard against unscrupulous op-



**David Connors, chair, and Tom Hickey, secretary, Waterford Forest Owners Group, which is a member of the IFO.**

timber and severely damaging the future potential of the remaining crop.”

He acknowledges the recent “difficulties with felling and planting licences” but said “forestry is a secure and valuable investment”.



**Olive Leavy, sec-**



**Nicholas Sweet-**

Donal Whelan of the Irish Timber Growers Association (ITGA) said it was important that private forest owner are fully informed of timber prices.

“I encourage timber growers, forestry companies, forest owner groups, timber processors and foresters to make prices available to the Wood Price Quarterly (WPQ),” he said.

“This confidential report is issued by UCD in collaboration with the ITGA.”

Standard Timber Sales Data Forms for private roundwood sales can be obtained from UCD ([roundwooddatabase@ucd.ie](mailto:roundwooddatabase@ucd.ie)).

Also check out ITGA website (<https://itga.ie/services/information/wpq>).