

s for 2022

One wish

A few respondents decided that if one wish was realised in 2022, they would be happy. This cohort included Clodagh O'Reilly, Coillte director of sales and supply chain; Marina Conway, CEO, Western Forestry Co-operative; Des O'Toole, marketing and communications director, FII; and Donal Whelan, director Irish Timber Growers Association.

Clodagh O'Reilly wished: "That the full spectrum of tangible benefits that the forestry sector delivers are recognised and included in forestry policy so that the sector can lead the way for a sustainable future."

Marina Conway said although the creation of a forestry development agency and a carbon payment for native woodland owners needed to be addressed, she would be pleased if just one wish was granted.

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"My wish is for a licence system that would work for, rather than against farmers, and allow them to plant and fell trees as a normal part of their farming enterprise," she said.

Donal Whelan said: "Despite forestry's contribution to biodiversity, flood control, air quality, wellness and particularly climate change mitigation, our woodland owners do not receive remuneration for supplying these public goods to society."

He called for "the development of a Forestry Carbon Code (FCC), which has real potential for the State and forest owners."

Des O'Toole focused on his role in promoting and marketing home-grown sawn timber products. "As we transition to a low-carbon economy, that the value of our commercial forestry sector to deliver low carbon, local and sustainable wood products is acknowledged and supported through 'wood first' policies," was his sole wish.