

This briefing is based on updated data that is not directly comparable to the original 2016 indicator:

ForestGALES (NF21)

Since publication of the 2016 version of this indicator, the ForestGALES tool has been upgraded (to version 2.5). This replaces all previous versions and incorporates research done since the last upgrade. Further information about the upgrade is available [here](#)

Changes have also been made to how the system is accessed. Users no longer need to register and log in, so much of the use is not captured in the same way.

The 2016 indicator provided data on the number of users and uses of ForestGALES at UK level (2008 – 2012). This brief provides an update with UK data on use of Forest GALES through both the legacy portal, and the new portal – from 2016 to 2018 (Forest GALES v.2.5 was released in 2015). Data for the years 2013-2015 is not available. Data on numbers of users is no longer collected.

Year	ForestGALES number of online uses		
	New portal	Legacy portal	Total uses
2016	1167	153	1320
2017	3625	37	3662
2018 (01 Jan 18 to 17 Jun 18)	1582	7	1589

Table 1: Number of online uses of ForestGALES in the UK, 2016 – June 2018

The 2016-2018 data is not directly comparable with the earlier data. The new system is easier to access as registration and logins are no longer required. The number of uses (log-ins) in 2012 was 124, compared to 1167 uses in 2016 and 3625 in 2017. There is an upward trend in use of the tool.

The data recording system is currently under review. In future it should be possible to record uses at Scotland level. We hope to be able to provide annual data for Scotland, and it might be possible to provide a regional breakdown. Forest Research estimate they will have the initial (baseline) data ready in September 2018.

Limitations:

The figures presented only represent online use of Forest GALES. The tool is also available for download with a greater range of functions than the online version. The total use of ForestGALES is therefore under estimated in the figures presented.

The impact of the tool, e.g. whether its use improves a decision, cannot be quantified by the simple logs used here.

