

Submitted to Future Grant Support for Forestry  
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Ministerial Foreword - Forestry in Scotland is a sector that we can be justly proud of.

## 1 - Introduction and Rationale for Providing Grant Support for Forestry

1. Do you agree that grant support for forestry should continue to be improved and developed as a discrete scheme within the overall package of land support?

Yes

Please explain your answer in the text box.:

2. Are there any changes that would allow for better complementarity between the forestry and agriculture funding options?

Yes

Please explain your answer in the text box.:

Farmers need to see a financial benefit to planting trees, in my experience this is one of the common drivers for planting woodland. The grant should therefore be increased to cover more of the initial planting and maintenance costs.

Specific grants targetted at shelter belts, and a significant increase to the Agri Forestry rates would be welcomed.

## 2 - Forests Delivering for Scotland's Climate Change Plan

3. How can the support package for forestry evolve to help tackle the climate emergency, to achieve net zero, and to ensure that our woodlands and forests are resilient to the future climate?

Please explain your answer in the text box.:

Consider funding for additional research into drought tolerant species, and tree breeding to create more resilience in the trees we plant.

Research into seed zones, and how climate change will affect the growth of trees. Should we be suggesting movement of seed zone northward?

Additional open ground funding for fire breaks, and funding to manage fire break vegetation.

4. Private investment through natural capital and carbon schemes can make a valuable contribution to climate change. Do you agree that the grant support mechanism should have more flexibility to maximise the opportunities to blend private and public finance to support woodland creation,

No

Please explain you answer in the text box.:

Rules around eligibility of commercial forestry, an important part of the Scottish economy, mean that commercial schemes are not eligible for carbon funding.

5. How could the current funding package be improved to stimulate woodland expansion and better management across a wide range of woodland types, including native and productive woodlands?

Please explain your answer in the text box.:

Higher rates for all initial planting and capital items.

New option somewhere between conifer and diverse conifer model, which provides flexibility on using SS with a diverse range of conifer species.

6. Do you agree that it should be a requirement of grant support that woodlands are managed to ensure that they become more resilient to the impacts of climate change and pests and disease?

Yes

How can the grant scheme support this?:

More financial support to establish diverse species, or mixed stands.

Additional open ground funding to encourage fire breaks, and a woodland improvement grant to manage vegetation on fire breaks.

### 3 - Integrating Woodlands on Farms and Crofts

7. Which of the following measures would help reduce the barriers for crofters and farmers wanting to include woodland as part of their farming business? Please select all that apply.

Flexibility within options, Support with cashflow, Information on how current land use could continue with trees integrated throughout

Are there others not listed above?:

Financial incentives to cover planting costs, or clear demonstration using case studies of how the economic situation (e.g. productivity of livestock and crops) has increased to cover lost land.

8. Establishing small woodlands can have higher costs. What specific mechanisms would better support small scale woodlands and woodland ownership?

Please explain your answer in the text box.:

Higher grant rates for initial planting and capital items.

BPS, or equivalent payment on the land during the establishment phase.

### 4 - Forests Delivering for People and Communities

9. How can forestry grants better support an increase in easily accessible, sustainably managed woodlands in urban and peri-urban areas?

Please explain your answer in the text box.:

The WIAT system is too constrained, the specification for paths, stairs etc. can be over engineered leading to high costs.

Vandalism and damage is an ongoing problem, as is the management of people in a commercial forest later in the rotation. Consideration should be given to these factors, and how they can be overcome.

Education on commercial forestry, and its benefits is an important part of this. Scottish Forestry has a key role to play in this, as timber production is an important part of our sector in Scotland, and it often seems that Scottish Forestry are less supportive of commercial forestry.

10. How can grant support for forestry better enable rural communities to realise greater benefits from woodland to support community wealth building?

Please explain your answer in the text box.:

By providing educational resources to local communities on the benefits of woodland for physical and mental health, the economy and local jobs, as well as sustainable timber supply.

Having travelled to various countries, it is clear that our forestry sector is far more sustainable than other developed countries, we should be proud of this!

11. How can the forest regulatory and grant processes evolve to provide greater opportunities for communities to be involved in the development of forestry proposals?

Please explain your answer in the text box.:

The public register does not display any information.

Consultation focuses on negatives only, encouragement and acknowledgement of the positives of new forests and management of forests is key.

12. How can the forestry regulatory and grant processes evolve to ensure that there is greater transparency about proposals and the decisions that have been made on them?

Please explain your answer in the text box.:

This is a challenge, but I would advocate for clearer guidelines on what is acceptable to allow land owners and agents to confidently drive towards more new woodland.

The regulator must take charge of the consultation process, and be in a position to make prompt decisions about constraints whilst balancing them with the significant benefits of new woodlands.

13. Forestry grants have been used to stimulate rural forestry businesses by providing support with capital costs. Do you agree that this has been an effective measure to stimulate rural business?

Yes

a. How could this approach be used to support further forestry businesses?:

Consider funding training for tickets, as well as management and good business practice, health and safety etc.

b. How could this approach be used to support further skills development?:

As above

14. How could the FGS processes and rules be developed to encourage more companies and organisations to provide training positions within the forestry sector?

Please explain your answer in the text box.:

## 5 - Forests Delivering for Biodiversity and the Environment

15. The primary purpose of FGS is to encourage forestry expansion and sustainable forest management, of which a key benefit is the realisation of environmental benefits. How can future grant support better help to address biodiversity loss in Scotland including the regeneration and expansion of native woodlands?

Please explain your answer in the text box.:

Payments for ground dedicated to the protection of specific species.

Habitat and wildlife amangement support for these species.

16. Herbivore browsing and damage can have a significant impact on biodiversity loss and restrict regeneration. How could forestry grant support mechanisms evolve to ensure effective management of deer populations at:

Landscape scale?:

Integration with agricultural grants to encourage deer mangement. It is easier to manage deer in commercial woodlands due to available monies, outside of this it is difficult or uneconomic, funding would help.

Small scale mixed land use?:

Integration with agricultural grants to encourage deer mangement. It is easier to manage deer in commercial woodlands due to available monies, outside of this it is difficult or uneconomic, funding would help.

If you wish to make any other relevant comments, please do so in the text box below.

Please add your comments here.:

Temporary deer fencing, as in England, could provide an option to protect LISS regen.

## About you

What is your name?

Name:

[Redacted]

What is your email address?

Email:

[Redacted]

Are you responding as an individual or an organisation?

Individual

What is your organisation?

Organisation:

[Redacted]

Scottish Forestry would like your permission to publish your response. Please indicate your publishing preference:

Publish response only (without name)

We may share your response internally with other Scottish Forestry policy teams who may be addressing the issues you discuss. They may wish to contact you again in the future, but we require your permission to do so. Are you content for Scottish Forestry to contact you again in relation to this consultation exercise?

Yes

I confirm that I have read the privacy policy and consent to the data I provide being used as set out in the policy.

I consent