

Submitted to Future Grant Support for Forestry  
Submitted on 2023-05-17 20:03:43

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.:

The ambitious target set to expand woodland cover and to integrate it with agriculture is best delivered as a discrete scheme provided that this enables more focused solutions for small scale applicants like crofters and hill farmers.

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.:

In my own setting as a crofter integrating woodland expansion into our landholding would be easier with more flexibility as to the type and scale woodland establishment that could be undertaken with a sliding scale regarding cost planting and fencing etc

## 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.:

Support packages need to develop to support small-scale forestry initiatives which help reduce timber miles and compliment the move to use more sustainable fuel and energy sources

We are woodland is created to changes in land management practice stimulating regeneration there should be better support mechanisms

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.:

Until the science catches up with a vision of carbon Sequestration many farmers and crofters would I feel be reluctant to engage private investment which could lead to financial exposure.

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.:

To ensure the funding is in place to manage existing woodlands and a more flexible approach to the creation of new small-scale woodland and agroforestry.

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?:

This is an area where support could focus on the establishment and management of a more diverse woodland there are greater cost implications and the longer timescale of support will be necessary.

### 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.

Better integration of support for woodland creation with farm support mechanisms, Flexibility within options, Intervention level, Support with cashflow, Information on how current land use could continue with trees integrated throughout

Are there others not listed above?:

Simplification of schemes to reduce burden of administration and have more accessible support and advice.

Greater support for small-scale projects given that additional cost is most likely to be the case

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.:

Currently the value to crofters wishing to create woodland of the current support mechanisms it's too small to mitigate the actual cost unless you commit the planting more ground then actually fits with the long-term objectives of your enterprise.

We require a higher minimum standard of payment for small scale woodland and greater support for the productive management of existing small-scale woodland.

### 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.:

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.:

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.:

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.:

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?

Not Answered

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

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

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.:

Provide funding for training placement within the agroforestry sector but the opportunity to job share with the forestry sector

### 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.:

Most of the funding and attention at the moment he is focused on woodland creation via planting including peatland areas. There is scope develop a grant support system for the sustainable management and expansion of existing Woodlands which could be met pan and your management Grant integrated into an agreed Forest and biodiversity improvement plan.

There is a potential opportunity to link the management of woodland with credible woodland and biodiversity targets.

The long-term ambition should be to then create an investment opportunity in biodiversity credits.

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?:

Currently wild deer are considered by government and agencies as a pest this should be addressed by creating community management hubs which are fully equipped and skilled to manage deer to a density that the impacts are sustainable and it provides opportunity and a local low carbon food source.

The current legislation limits the access to the deer resource by the crofting and farming communities future management targets should integrate all sustainable deliverable objectives from farming, forestry, Sporting. A more equal share of the benefits and a greater involvement of the community level.

Small scale mixed land use?:

The open range deer population has been largely static for 25 years, what is changing however is distribution and species and as stated above this is best addressed at a local level by supporting facilities for the handing of venison and other local meat products, improving training opportunities and allowing greater public access to the management of natural resources once adequate training standards have been achieved.

As we expand woodland cover there are other factors which will become an issue within the next 10 to 15 years for example expansion of the feral pig population which will have a profound impact on security of any fencing and a mix of impact on current agricultural practice. Feral pigs are now present throughout the great Glen Lochaber, North Argyll, Inverness Shire and moving into Ross-shire.

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

Please add your comments here.:

## 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:

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

Publish response with 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.

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