

## Response ID ANON-VEPG-2GYU-S

Submitted to Future Grant Support for Forestry  
Submitted on 2023-03-13 13:51:35

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?

No

Please explain your answer in the text box.:

It requires major overhaul as productive farmland is being destroyed for negligible or even negative sequestration of CO2

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.:

Change the grade of land that is eligible and take into account the regional differences in land

### 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.:

Right trees in the right place not the present near free for all that includes planting Sitka which is regarded as an invasive non native plant. Take into account that woodland, especially monoculture conifer plantations, are far from the only or most efficient way of managing sequestration, temperature gain and water tables. Stop the ridiculous carbon credit system that allows big corporates to just pay to carry on polluting.

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 your answer in the text box.:

Whole system is faulty and open to abuse by wealthy corporations and individuals with nothing but lip service paid to consultation with local communities.

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.:

Needs major overhaul as the planting of excessive, biodiversity destroying schemes are proliferating at a rate harmful to both nature, rural communities and food security and reduction of food miles.

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?:

Also the increase not decrease of biodiversity

### 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.

Intervention level, Information on how current land use could continue with trees integrated throughout

Are there others not listed above?:

Stop mindless large schemes and replace with smaller environmentally integrated plantings

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.:

Remove support for the large carbon credit schemes and redirect the money into supporting small schemes, especially those for smaller landowners and small community groups

#### 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.:

By concentrating on such small scale and community driven schemes.

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 abandonment of the large scale inappropriate planting of farmland by wealthy entities.

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.:

By making meaningful engagement and approval by local populace a mandatory condition of approval.

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.:

Making publishing and public notices similar to planning and road closure notifications

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?

No

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

Take away the bias toward large corporate and non local developers

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

By engaging smaller locally based businesses the skills and income becomes more focused and diverse

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.:

Remove bias toward large corporate and absentee landlords

#### 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.:

Smaller and more open plantings, especially on open meadow and moorland. This will help protect a far wider range of species whilst a patchwork also reduces the risk of uncontrollable wildfires

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?:

Engage with local communities to make use of any cull to generate both income and food.

Small scale mixed land use?:

Local focused control

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

Please add your comments here.:

The present system is wide open to abuse as a tax dodge and carbon credit procurement for large polluters to carry on

## 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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