

### Budget Update on FGS

This note provides information on budget availability for FGS applications in 2021 and 2022. It also provides a reminder of key dates associated with 2021 SAF.

#### 1. Budget Availability

Table 1 has been updated to show the current indicative budget availability and minimum score thresholds for all options with a claim year of 2021 and 2022. Changes include:

- **Re-opening of the WIG-Restructuring Regeneration** option for applications with a 2021 claim year – additional funds have been made available for new applications, or to bring forward work from 2022. All works with a 2021 claim year must be completed and claimed before 31 March 2022
- **Harvesting & Processing Claim Year 2022:** the table has been updated to clarify indicative budget headroom for 2022. Applications are invited for works that can be completed in the 2022 claim year, the closing date for applications is the 31 January 2022. Contracts will be issued to successful applicant's in April 2022.

#### 2. Key Date: 31 January 2022 - Submission of Evidence Supporting 2021 SAF Claim

Most of the FGS Sustainable Management of Forests (SMF) options claimed on the Single Application Form (SAF) have an eligibility requirement to submit evidence of works undertaken to enable payments.

The options requiring a monitoring form/record/assessment to be submitted are:

- SMF - Low Impact Silvicultural Systems (LISS)
- SMF - Native Woodland
- SMF - Woodland Grazing
- SMF - Species Conservation – Grey Squirrel Control
- SMF - Species Conservation – Predator Control: Capercaillie & Black Grouse
- SMF - Species Conservation – Reducing Deer Impact

You must **submit your annual monitoring form/record/assessment** to your local Conservancy office **between 1 December 2021 and 31 January 2022** for the above SMF options claimed on your 2021 SAF.

The evidence supplied must comply with the option guidance and demonstrate that the works have been satisfactorily undertaken throughout 2021.

If we do not receive your evidence we will not be able to pay your claim that was submitted on the 2021 SAF.

Please [contact your local Conservancy](#) if you have any queries about the content of this note.

### **Operational Delivery**

#### **National Office**

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**Table 1 Forestry Grant Scheme: Clearing and Budget Categories with Threshold Scores – November 2021**

Grant Category	Clearing categories	Frequency of Clearing	Indicative 2021 Budget £m	Claim Years available for first year of contract	Number of Claim Years available	Indicative Headroom 2021	Indicative Headroom 2022	Threshold Score(Max)
Woodland Creation	WC with C SGNC	Monthly	£ 8.0	2021 & 2022	N +2			10 (31)
	WC High Cost* (>£6k/ha)		£ 3.0	2021 & 2022				10 (31)
	WC with Nat Regen		£ 0.25	2021 & 2022				2 (6)
	WC Other		£ 43.25	2021 & 2022				10 (31)
Woodland Improvement Grants	Restructuring Regeneration	Monthly	£ 2.0	2022	N+2			3 (6)
	Planning options		£ 0.35	2021 & 2022	N+2			2 (6)
	Habitats & species/Liss		£ 1.80	2022	N+2			4 (6)
	WIAT***		£ 0.90	2021 & 2022	N+2			9 (16)
Sustainable Management of Forests	Native Woodlands/ LISS/ livestock/Grazing	Monthly	£ 0.60	2022	N+1	N/A		2 (6)
	Squirrels/Predators/Deer#		£ 0.75		N+1	N/A		2 (6)
	WIAT		£ 0.05		N+1	N/A		6 (16)
	Rural Access		£ 0.15		N+1	N/A		2 (6)
Tree Health		Monthly	£ 0.45	2021 & 2022	N+1			2 (6)
Forest Infrastructure**		Monthly	£ 0.55	2021 & 2022	N+1			3 (6)
Agroforestry		Monthly	£ 0.1	2021 & 2022	N+2			2 (6)
Harvesting and Processing**		Annual	£ 2.0	2022	N	N/A		2 (6)
Co-operation		Monthly	£ 0.1	2021 & 2022	N+1			3 (16)
<b>Total</b>			<b>£ 64.3</b>					

Notes: \*Projects with average cost is £6,000/ha or higher. \*\*Projects must be completed and paid in the approved claim year, the next deadline for applications is 31 January 2022, contracts will not be issued until April 2022. \*\*\* Projects limited up to £100k/BRN. N = current calendar year. #Includes £250k for landscape scale deer management and woodland restoration.

There is currently good availability of funds within this FGS clearing category and we will be able to support most good quality application

It is likely the demand for funds within this FGS Clearing Category will exceed the available budget and there will be strong competition for funds

There are no longer any funds available within this FGS clearing category

**Claim Years Available** - Our approach to claim years is set out in Table 1 and depends on the grant type. This has been structured to ensure applications go through the competitive clearing process whilst at the same time manage the grant budget without a long forward booking of projects.

**Please note that for an application proposal with multiple claim years, the application score must meet the higher of the threshold scores for each claim year to obtain full approval.**

**Woodland Creation** - capital items such as fencing and initial planting - up to 3 claim years (i.e. within N+2, where N = the current calendar year at time of application submission) with work having to start in the first 2 years e.g. one option is to apply in 2021, start work in year 2021 and complete in 2022. Another option is to apply in 2021, start work in 2022 and complete work in claim year 2023. In exceptional circumstances multiple claim years up to N+4 may be allowable, but only where significant areas of woodland creation are proposed **and** initial planting capital items are claimed in each preceding year, by prior agreement with Scottish Forestry National Office.

**Woodland Improvement Grant** - up to 3 year claim years (within N+2, where N = the current calendar year at time of application submission) with work having to start in the first 2 years except for WIG Restructuring Regeneration where a delay until year 3 is acceptable to meet species diversity rules.

**Sustainable Management of Forests** – next claim year is available as the first annual management claim year.

**Agroforestry** – as for woodland creation up to 3 claim years (within N+2, where N = the current calendar year at time of application submission) with work having to start in the first 2 years.

**Tree health** – current and next year claim year (within N+1 where N = the current calendar year at time of application submission)

**Forest Infrastructure** – current and next claim year available (within N+1, where N = the calendar year of the application round)

**Harvesting & Processing** – one claim year available (within N, where N = the calendar year of the application round)

**Co-operation** – current and next claim year available (within N +1, where N = the calendar year of the application round)