

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.:

Because the grant support for forestry should be focussed primarily on environmental and social benefits, in contrast to agriculture where the focus is on economic benefits.

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.:

Where forestry could make an environmental contribution to agricultural practices would potentially require consideration of relative scale, purpose of the proposals (such as shelterbelts) and effective management adjacent to agricultural 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.:

By being primarily focussed on the establishment and management of all forests and woodlands for their environmental benefits. The support package should focus on forest management that delivers adaptive and resilient forests that contribute towards the biodiversity emergency. Basically, the support package should promote forests and woodlands of native species and their survival through the effective management of grazing animals hence mitigating the requirement for fencing.

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.:

Such schemes are not an effective means of achieving real measures to mitigate the effects of climate change.

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.:

The funding package should be divided in three to be allocated when evidence of delivery is achieved over a period of specified time; 1. the establishment and protection of a new woodland. 2. evidence of the effective management of the woodland. 3. evidence of the delivery of the woodland to the original objectives. Only when the three allocations have been delivered could further management grants be applied for.

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?:

It should be an absolute requirement of all grants within the scheme.

## 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.

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

Are there others not listed above?:

Incorporating woodland management into the agriculture education sector so that there is a clear understanding of the environmental contribution that woodland creation can make to crofting and farming.

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.:

Individual small scale woodlands can potentially be ecologically isolated and visually too small scale in the landscape. Woodland creation should be encouraged at the farm scale and, if feasible, in association with other farms at the landscape scale. By their nature of being integral to the farmed landscape, such woodlands tend to be relatively linear resulting in higher costs for their establishment and management; there could be an equation of grant contribution based on the relationship between overall area and linear boundary length.

#### 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 making a contribution towards the woodlands long term stewardship that encourages local confidence in their use and discourages anti-social behaviour. Such funding may be required to fund a ranger presence for the woodland which could be offset by encouraging local people to engage in management and maintenance operations.

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.:

By developing the public registers to include all applicant plans, specifications and visualisations (as the planning portals do for built development)

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 sure

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.:

#### 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.:

The future focus of FGS should be entirely for the establishment of new and restructuring of existing non-native species forests to mixed native woodlands. There is sufficient non-native plantation material in Scotland's existing forests for the industry to prepare for such a transition. Mixed native woodlands should be effectively established and managed to provide environmental benefits, and also economic and social benefits.

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?:

Considering the importance of both increasing woodland cover and transition to native woodlands in my answer above, such adaptation should not be at the cost to society or the environment of protecting woodlands and forests with fencing. Deer management in forest and woodland areas has got to be reduced to a sustainable level where such herbivores can be accepted within a woodland environment without affecting its ecological integrity.

Small scale mixed land use?:

As above.

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

Please add your comments here.:

For nearly a decade, Forest Research has studied the twin topics of forest adaptation and resilience. My understanding of their general conclusions is that the establishment and clear felling management of primarily non-native single species is the complete opposite direction of travel we should be going in. land Such research will require interpretation and guidance but what is really required is land use and forestry policy to be changed to reflect climate change and biodiversity priorities, so facilitating the recast of FGS to promote the effective delivery of really sustainable forests.

## 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.

I consent