

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?

Not Answered

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?

Not Answered

Please explain your answer in the text box.:

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.:

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,

Not Answered

Please explain your answer in the text box.:

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.:

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?:

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.

Are there others not listed above?:

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.:

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.:

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.:

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?:

Encouraging deer control in all forest areas will help to provide a better level of deer control on a landscape level. If in an area you have some forest owners who do and some who don't control the deer you can end up with an issue where the areas being controlled can not keep on top of the deer that are moving into there from the neighbours through no fault of the controller. The controllers can be fighting a losing battle, where if all the forests in an area had a level of control (this can vary depending on level of new planting/ restock in a forest) the overall deer population could be managed at a suitable level.

There are areas where professional deer control is less viable because the neighbours are not controlling their deer to the same level, resulting in a higher level of damage in the controlled areas even though the number of deer being removed is high.

Small scale mixed land use?:

Talking to neighbours about getting permission for deer controllers to shoot on their land that surrounds small areas of planting to restock can make deer control of smaller areas much more viable.

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

Please add your comments here.:

Deer fences are a barrier to all wild animals and their use should be kept to a minimal and only used to protect a high value crop in small areas that could be subject to high levels of damage.

Using deer fence for plots of Sika spruce on open hill or agricultural land is not required and should be discouraged as it is a waste of a resource. If the deer in the local area are being controlled effectively on a landscape scale there should be no reason for deer fencing.

Where deer fences are used (especially if funded) there should be a requirement that they are removed or at least taken down to livestock height after 5 years or when the trees are established.

The use of rabbit or hare netting along a livestock fence in areas of open agricultural or open hill land can be effective to prevent hare damage that can often

be more an issue than deer in more open lowland landscapes.

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 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?

No

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