

ACTION POINTS FROM CUSTOMER REPRESENTATIVES GROUP MEETING

**Saughton House, Broomhouse Drive, Edinburgh, EH11 3XD
Ground Floor Meeting Room B-4**

Thursday 16th May 2024, 1-4pm

Members: Brendan Callaghan SF (Chair), Lindsay Bisset SF, Ian Cowe SF (Secretary), Craig Turner Confor Nursery Group, Willie McGhee Community Woodland Association, Mark Hamilton Social Forestry, Ben Law SRUC, Tim Hall Scottish Environment Link, Andy Leitch Confor, Andy Tharme SOSE, Jim Colchester Confor, Andrew Weatherall (alt Simon Ritchie) Scottish Environment LINK, Harry Wilson RSFS, Nathan Bryceland Scottish Land and Estates, Duncan Stone (alt Debbie Green) NatureScot, Tom Turnbull Association of Deer Management Groups, Keith Wishart SF, John Gorman SEPA, Fiona Holmes CNPA, Gwen Wilkie Forestry & Land Scotland, April Armstrong Confor, Andrew Vaughan ICF, Gordon Gray Stephens Community Woodland Association, Jonnie Hall NFUS, Eddie Addis Confor (represented by David Robertson), Morag Paterson Forest Policy Group.

1. Future Meeting Schedule

Dates for future meetings were agreed as:-

10th Sept 2024
23rd Jan 2025

2. Meeting Notes & Action Points

Action Points Carried Forward

- i) **Scotland's Rainforest:** Standing Item - Progress to be reported to the CRG (**WM**)
- ii) **Sub-group Meeting Notes:** Standing Item – To be shared at each meeting (**IC**)
- iii) **Woodland Creation Process:** CRG Recommendation - SF to give thought to publishing an agreed approach for Stakeholder consultation, to set expectation and to streamline the process (**SF**)
- iv) **Woodland Creation Process:** CRG Recommendation - Additional guidance from the sector required for communities to simplify and aid their understanding of the consultation process, this to be designed so that landowners/agents may offer it to consultees during project engagement/consultation (**SF**)

Welcome, Introductions & Agenda

- Note of Jan 2024 meeting was agreed.

New Actions

FGS Budget Management

- Error correction page two Briefing Note 47, inconsistent with table – section “Amber Budget Headroom for Some Budget Categories” (**IC**)

Note: The CRG reviewed Briefing Note 47 and supported the SF proposals on FY 23/24 End of Year Budget Management and the proposals for FY 24/25 Budget Management outlined in the Briefing Note, recognising the proposals delivered the principles agreed in the January meeting.

Changes to Woodland Creation Application Process – Presentation & Discussion

- SF to circulate draft of new WC guidance (**BC**)
- CRG members invited to send additional comments on the proposed changes to the WC application process to **IC (ALL)**

UKFS Implementation of New Version (Version 5)

Note: The CRG reviewed and supported the proposed changes to the FGS option guidance for the:-

- Conifer and Diverse Conifer Options
- Woodland Improvement Grant – Restructuring Regeneration Option

These proposed changes bring these FGS options in-line with the new UK Forestry Standard and will be implemented on the 1st Oct 2024.

A.O.B

- n/a

Meeting Close