

ACTION POINTS FROM CUSTOMER REPRESENTATIVES GROUP MEETING

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

Thursday 18th Jan 2024, 10am-12:30pm

Attendees: 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 Scottish Environment LINK

Apologies: Harry Wilson RSFS, Nathan Bryceland Scottish Land and Estates, Duncan Stone NatureScot, Tom Turnbull Association of Deer Management Groups, Keith Wishart SF, John Gorman SEPA, Fiona Holmes CNPA, , Colin Hossack Forestry & Land Scotland, April Armstrong Confor, Andrew Vaughan ICF, Gordon Gray Stephens Community Woodland Association, Jonnie Hall NFUS.

1. Future Meeting Schedule

Dates for future meetings were agreed as:-

16th May 2024
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**).

Welcome, Introductions & Agenda

- No note of December 2023 was tabled.
- It was agreed that hybrid meeting options would be offered for future sub-group meetings, but that the full CRG meetings would remain as in-person only meetings.
- All CRG members to be added to the FGS Briefing Note distribution list (**IC**)

New Actions

CRG Sub-group meetings

- WM to be invited to join the Trees on Farms sub-group (**IC**)

Forestry Summit

- Data request for increased detail on species proportions approved for each claim year, to assist nursery production (**IC**).
- CRG Consensus: Forestry Summit was broadly positive, CRG hopeful that there will be an agreed set of outcomes/definitive actions arising from the Summit (**BC**).

Woodland Creation Process - Update

- CRG Recommendation: SF to give thought to publishing an agreed approach for Stakeholder consultation, to set expectation and to streamline the process (**SF**).
- 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**).

2023/24 Budget Handling

- CRG Recommendation: proposals for FGS budget handling in light of PfG funding announcement for Scottish Forestry are broadly reasonable.
- The FGS Budgetary proposals for 2024/25 and the End of Year claims handling arrangements should aim to:-
 1. maximise commitment in 2023/24
 2. maximise spend against the 2023/24 commitments
 3. not change/reduce budget allocation to non-woodland creation FGS options.

A.O.B

- Circulate slide deck from our RLUF consultation events (**IC**)

Meeting Close