



Scottish
Forestry
Coilltearachd
na h-Alba

Briefing Note 23 – April 2019

Update on Budget Categories and Threshold Scores

This note provides an update on the FGS budget position and threshold scores for Forestry Grant Scheme applications as from 25 April 2019.

1. Budget 2019/2020.

The FGS budget for 2019/20 is £46 m – this is divided into £40m for woodland creation and £6.4m for woodland management grants. About 80% of the budget is now committed and with the demand for some grants exceeding the budget we are having to close the following options for 2019:

- WIG Restructuring Regeneration - £2.4m cases (5680 ha) approved.
- WIG Habitat and Species - £812k cases approved.
- Forest Infrastructure - £405k applications submitted and £193k approved with 2020 claim year opened up for new applications.

2. Variations from 2018 to 2019

Variation requests from claim year 2018 into 2019 will be considered during April 2019. We will do our best to accommodate variation requests. However, where there is not sufficient funding headroom in 2019, in particular for closed options, we will offer a future year.

3. Budget Availability and Threshold Scores

Table 1 has been updated to show the current budget availability and minimum score thresholds. The only change to threshold scores is for Forest Infrastructure which moves from 4 to 3.

4. Queries

If you have any queries then please contact your local Conservancy or our National Office on 0131 370 5250 or Scottish.Forestry@forestry.gov.scot

Table 1 Forestry Grant Scheme: Clearing and Budget Categories with Threshold Scores – April 2019

Grant Category	Clearing categories	Frequency of Clearing	Indicative 2019 Budget £m	Claim Years available for first year of contract	Number of Claim Years available	Indicative Headroom 2019	Indicative Headroom 2020	Threshold Score(Max)
Woodland Creation	WC with CSGNC	Monthly	£8.0m	2019 & 2020	N+2			10 (31)
	WC High Cost* (>£6k/ha)		£2.0m	2019 & 2020				10 (31)
	WC with Nat Regen		£0.25m	2019 & 2020				2 (6)
	WC Other		£29.65m	2019 & 2020				10 (31)
Woodland Improvement Grants	Restructuring Regeneration	Monthly	£2.0	2020	N+2			3 (6)
	Planning options		£0.35	2019	N+2			2 (6)
	Habitats & species/Liss		£0.80	2020	N+2			4 (6)
	WIAT		£0.85	2020***	N+2			9 (16)
Sustainable Management of Forests	Native Woodlands/ LISS/ livestock/Grazing	Monthly	£0.72	2020	N+1	N/A		2 (6)
	Squirrels/Predators/Deer		£0.36		N+1	N/A		2 (6)
	WIAT		£0.03		N+1	N/A		6 (16)
	Rural Access		£0.15		N+1	N/A		2 (6)
Tree Health		Monthly	£0.44	2019 & 2020	N+1			2 (6)
Forest Infrastructure**		Monthly	£0.3	2020	N			3 (6)
Agroforestry		Monthly	£0.1	2019 & 2020	N+2			2 (6)
Harvesting and Processing**		Annual	£0.3	2019	N		N/A	2 (6)
Co-operation		Monthly	£0.1	2019	N+1		N/A	3 (16)
Total			£ 46.4					

Notes: *Projects with average cost is £6,000/ha or higher **Projects must be completed and paid in the approved claim year. *** Projects limited up to £100k/BRN. N = current calendar year

Indicative Headroom Colour Key:

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 such as fencing and initial planting - up to 3 claim years (ie within N+2, where N = the current calendar year at time of application submission) with work having to start in the first 2 years eg one option is to apply in 2019, start work in year 2019 and complete in 2020. Another option is to apply in 2019, start work in 2020 and complete work in claim year 2021.

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 & next year claim year (within N+1 where N = the current calendar year at time of application submission)

Forest Infrastructure – one claim year available (within N, where N = the calendar year of available claim year)

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)