

### General Update on FGS

This note provides information on budget availability for FGS applications in 2020.

#### 1. Budget Availability and Threshold Scores

Table 1 has been updated to show the current indicative budget availability and minimum score thresholds for all options in 2020. Changes include:

- **Closure** of the **WIG-Restructuring Regeneration** option for 2020 applications - as the budget has now been fully allocated.
- **Indicative Budget Availability:** demand for grants within 2020 remains strong and applications to some budget categories are expected to exceed the available budget. Where this is expected the indicative budget headroom has been updated to amber.

#### 2. Key Date

**15<sup>th</sup> MAY 2020** – SUBMISSION OF 2020 SINGLE APPLICATION FORM (SAF)

SMF options all have annual management grants and Woodland Creation options have an annual maintenance grant. The deadline for submitting the Single Application Form, for annual management claims with a claim year of 2020, is 15<sup>th</sup> May 2020. Click [here](#) for further guidance on how to submit your SAF.

Please [contact your local Conservancy](#) if you have any queries about the content of this note.

#### Operational Delivery

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**Table 1 Forestry Grant Scheme: Clearing and Budget Categories with Threshold Scores – April 2020**

Grant Category	Clearing categories	Frequency of Clearing	Indicative 2020 Budget £m	Claim Years available for first year of contract	Number of Claim Years available	Indicative Headroom 2020	Indicative Headroom 2021	Threshold Score(Max)
Woodland Creation	WC with CSGNC	Monthly	£8.0m	2020 & 2021	N+2			10 (31)
	WC High Cost* (>£6k/ha)		£3.0m	2020 & 2021				10 (31)
	WC with Nat Regen		£0.25m	2020 & 2021				2 (6)
	WC Other		<b>£35.75m</b>	2020 & 2021				10 (31)
Woodland Improvement Grants	Restructuring Regeneration	Monthly	£2.0	2020 & 2021	N+2			3 (6)
	Planning options		£0.35	2020 & 2021	N+2			2 (6)
	Habitats & species/Liss		£0.80	2020 & 2021	N+2			4 (6)
	WIAT		£0.90	2021 ***	N+2			9 (16)
Sustainable Management of Forests	Native Woodlands/ LISS/ livestock/Grazing	Monthly	£0.60	2021	N+1	N/A		2 (6)
	Squirrels/Predators/Deer		£0.50		N+1	N/A		2 (6)
	WIAT		£0.05		N+1	N/A		6 (16)
	Rural Access		£0.15		N+1	N/A		2 (6)
Tree Health		Monthly	£0.45	2020 & 2021	N+1			2 (6)
Forest Infrastructure**		Monthly	£0.3	2020 & 2021	N+1			3 (6)
Agroforestry		Monthly	£0.1	2020 & 2021	N+2			2 (6)
Harvesting and Processing**		Annual	£0.3	2020	N		N/A	2 (6)
Co-operation		Monthly	£0.1	2020 & 2021	N+1			3 (16)
<b>Total</b>			<b>£ 53.6</b>					

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

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 (i.e. within N+2, where N = the current calendar year at time of application submission) with work having to start in the first 2 years e.g. one option is to apply in 2020, start work in year 2020 and complete in 2021. Another option is to apply in 2020, start work in 2021 and complete work in claim year 2022.

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

**Forest Infrastructure** – current and next claim year available (within N+1, where N = the calendar year of the application round)

**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)