

Update on FGS – Harvesting & Processing Option

This note provides information on changes to the Harvesting & Processing option for FGS applications in 2020.

1. Budget Availability and Application Dates

To increase forest nursery tree supply in support of creating more new woodlands across Scotland, and to help bring more existing woodlands into active management by encouraging primary and secondary wood processing, the Harvesting & Processing budget has been increased up to the value of **£2 million** in 2020.

This is a joint initiative between the Scottish, Welsh and UK Governments, which will provide additional funding to help farm and forestry businesses increase capacity, diversify and become more resilient in their recovery from Covid-19.

Two new application rounds will be introduced for projects that can be **completed by 31st March 2021**, and applications are invited for submission between:-

- 1) 10th July and 31st August 2020.
- 2) 1st September and 30th September 2020

2. Changes to the Harvesting & Processing Option

Forest tree nurseries in England and Wales who supply trees into Scotland can now apply for support under Aim 2 - *“new specialised equipment for forest tree nurseries and equipment for afforestation ground preparation projects”*.

Aim 2 has been broadened to support forest fencing projects and the wider forest tree seed supply chain wishing to invest in specialist equipment.

A new aim, **Aim 3**, has been introduced to support the purchase of mobile equipment to help forestry businesses or enterprises to adapt and recover from Covid-19.

Funding for training, undertaken in association to with the purchase of new equipment is now available.

Applications are particularly welcomed from:-

- Forest tree nurseries supplying trees into Scotland
- Farm businesses wishing to diversify into forestry

For full details of the changes to the scheme visit the [Rural Payments & Service website](#).

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

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