



## **Budget Update on FGS**

This note provides information on budget availability for FGS applications in 2021.

### **1. Budget Availability**

Table 1 has been updated to show the current indicative budget availability and minimum score thresholds for all options with a claim year of 2021 and 2022. Changes include:

- **Closure** of the **WIG-Restructuring Regeneration** option for applications with a 2021 claim year - as the budget has now been fully allocated. However there is still good availability of funds for applications with a 2022 claim year
- **Closure** of the **WIG-Habitats & Species** and **WIG-Low Impact Silvicultural Systems** options for applications with a 2021 claim year - as the budget has now been fully allocated. However there is still good availability of funds for applications with a 2022 claim year.
- **Indicative Woodland Creation Budget Availability:** we are keen that applicants maximise planting in the 2021 claim year, in particular by bringing forward applications that are ready to be submitted. Conservancy teams will be prioritising applications with a 2021 claim year in order to minimise any delays.

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 – May 2021**

Grant Category	Clearing categories	Frequency of Clearing	Indicative 2021 Budget £m	Claim Years available for first year of contract	Number of Claim Years available	Indicative Headroom 2021	Indicative Headroom 2022	Threshold Score(Max)
Woodland Creation	WC with CSGNC	Monthly	£8.0	2021 & 2022	N+2			10 (31)
	WC High Cost* (>£6k/ha)		£3.0	2021 & 2022				10 (31)
	WC with Nat Regen		£0.25	2021 & 2022				2 (6)
	WC Other		<b>£43.25</b>	2021 & 2022				10 (31)
Woodland Improvement Grants	Restructuring Regeneration	Monthly	£2.0	2022	N+2			3 (6)
	Planning options		£0.35	2021 & 2022	N+2			2 (6)
	Habitats & species/Liss		£0.80	2022	N+2			4 (6)
	WIAT***		£0.90	2021 & 2022	N+2			9 (16)
Sustainable Management of Forests	Native Woodlands/ LISS/ livestock/Grazing	Monthly	£0.60	2022	N+1	N/A		2 (6)
	Squirrels/Predators/Deer#		£0.75		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	2021 & 2022	N+1			2 (6)
Forest Infrastructure**		Monthly	£0.55	2021 & 2022	N+1			3 (6)
Agroforestry		Monthly	£0.1	2021 & 2022	N+2			2 (6)
Harvesting and Processing**		Annual	£2.0	2021	N		N/A	2 (6)
Co-operation		Monthly	£0.1	2021 & 2022	N+1			3 (16)
<b>Total</b>			<b>£ 63.3</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. #Includes £250k for landscape scale deer management and woodland restoration.

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 items 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 2021, start work in year 2021 and complete in 2022. Another option is to apply in 2021, start work in 2022 and complete work in claim year 2023. In exceptional circumstances multiple claim years up to N+4 may be allowable, but only where significant areas of woodland creation are proposed **and** initial planting capital items are claimed in each preceding year, by prior agreement with Scottish Forestry National Office.

**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)