

Submitted to Future Grant Support for Forestry
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Ministerial Foreword - Forestry in Scotland is a sector that we can be justly proud of.

1 - Introduction and Rationale for Providing Grant Support for Forestry

1. Do you agree that grant support for forestry should continue to be improved and developed as a discrete scheme within the overall package of land support?

No

Please explain your answer in the text box.:

The whole thing needs stopped and rethought. Presently it is artificially inflating farmland prices so that large businesses and investment groups are the only ones able to afford to buy farms. These entities then use the purchase as a tax dodge, claim grant payments, and then claim carbon credits to allow the continued emissions of pollution.

2. Are there any changes that would allow for better complementarity between the forestry and agriculture funding options?

Yes

Please explain your answer in the text box.:

Small, suitably integrated woodlands as part of a farm not instead

2 - Forests Delivering for Scotland's Climate Change Plan

3. How can the support package for forestry evolve to help tackle the climate emergency, to achieve net zero, and to ensure that our woodlands and forests are resilient to the future climate?

Please explain your answer in the text box.:

Stop planting non native invasive trees in large monoculture plantations whilst claiming they help towards net zero when their overall effect is to sequester less carbon than well managed farmland whilst also increasing global surface heat absorption

4. Private investment through natural capital and carbon schemes can make a valuable contribution to climate change. Do you agree that the grant support mechanism should have more flexibility to maximise the opportunities to blend private and public finance to support woodland creation,

No

Please explain your answer in the text box.:

The whole thing is a falsehood that amounts at best to greenwash and at worst to blatant misinformation and so misappropriation of public funds.

5. How could the current funding package be improved to stimulate woodland expansion and better management across a wide range of woodland types, including native and productive woodlands?

Please explain your answer in the text box.:

It can't, the whole system needs scrapped and redesigned based on actual scientific basis

6. Do you agree that it should be a requirement of grant support that woodlands are managed to ensure that they become more resilient to the impacts of climate change and pests and disease?

Yes

How can the grant scheme support this?:

Stop unnatural large schemes that will interfere with water resilience

3 - Integrating Woodlands on Farms and Crofts

7. Which of the following measures would help reduce the barriers for crofters and farmers wanting to include woodland as part of their farming business? Please select all that apply.

Are there others not listed above?:

Make large schemes not eligible but encourage small integrated schemes.

8. Establishing small woodlands can have higher costs. What specific mechanisms would better support small scale woodlands and woodland ownership?

Please explain your answer in the text box.:

The higher cost is only a problem if regarding the grant schemes as a cash cow and tax dodge.

4 - Forests Delivering for People and Communities

9. How can forestry grants better support an increase in easily accessible, sustainably managed woodlands in urban and peri-urban areas?

Please explain your answer in the text box.:

Encourage small and community driven schemes to pluralise land and amenity ownership

10. How can grant support for forestry better enable rural communities to realise greater benefits from woodland to support community wealth building?

Please explain your answer in the text box.:

By actually doing more than simply paying lip service to the consultation of local communities

11. How can the forest regulatory and grant processes evolve to provide greater opportunities for communities to be involved in the development of forestry proposals?

Please explain your answer in the text box.:

Make community engagement and approval a necessity for any schemes over 5 acres

12. How can the forestry regulatory and grant processes evolve to ensure that there is greater transparency about proposals and the decisions that have been made on them?

Please explain your answer in the text box.:

Engage with the public and communities from day one

13. Forestry grants have been used to stimulate rural forestry businesses by providing support with capital costs. Do you agree that this has been an effective measure to stimulate rural business?

No

a. How could this approach be used to support further forestry businesses?:

It has mostly only benefited large non rural businesses

b. How could this approach be used to support further skills development?:

14. How could the FGS processes and rules be developed to encourage more companies and organisations to provide training positions within the forestry sector?

Please explain your answer in the text box.:

5 - Forests Delivering for Biodiversity and the Environment

15. The primary purpose of FGS is to encourage forestry expansion and sustainable forest management, of which a key benefit is the realisation of environmental benefits. How can future grant support better help to address biodiversity loss in Scotland including the regeneration and expansion of native woodlands?

Please explain your answer in the text box.:

Don't plant huge monoculture plantations that will displace all wildlife present, especially endanger species of ground nesting birds

16. Herbivore browsing and damage can have a significant impact on biodiversity loss and restrict regeneration. How could forestry grant support mechanisms evolve to ensure effective management of deer populations at:

Landscape scale?:

Make control and use of deer a legal requirement for all land owners with significant fines and/or land sequestration for entities that neither control or make practical use of the population

Small scale mixed land use?:

Make taking of deer for personal consumption easier

If you wish to make any other relevant comments, please do so in the text box below.

Please add your comments here.:

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Name:

[Redacted]

What is your email address?

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What is your organisation?

Organisation:

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We may share your response internally with other Scottish Forestry policy teams who may be addressing the issues you discuss. They may wish to contact you again in the future, but we require your permission to do so. Are you content for Scottish Forestry to contact you again in relation to this consultation exercise?

Yes

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