

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?

Yes

Please explain your answer in the text box.:

Grant support is important for incentivising new forests to be planted and maintained to a high standard, which is in turn crucial for our environment

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.:

Give more power to landowners for deciding what they use their land for - forests, agriculture or both.

## 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.:

By providing consistent and fair support and grants to landowners and forest developers, allowing opportunities to design and maintain their land with a fair approach to both climate benefits and benefits to the landowner - people have a right to make a living and if they can do this fairly whilst also helping the climate this should be promoted and encouraged

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,

Yes

Please explain your answer in the text box.:

Flexibility will help encourage people to use their lands for forestry - this will in turn help the government achieve net zero and help the climate and environment

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.:

Give more flexibility to land owners and be respectful of their right to make a living, work with them to promote the growth of woodlands.

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?:

By following protocol that is currently in place - inspections, planning etc

## 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.

Better integration of support for woodland creation with farm support mechanisms, Clearer guidance on grant options, Flexibility within options, Information on how current land use could continue with trees integrated throughout

Are there others not listed above?:

Support for landowners that wish to use their land to plant trees - especially in communities that are against forestry, I feel some farming communities believe that land should only be used for food production and are unwilling to change their views, even for land they do not own. Give more power to the landowners that wish to use their land for planting trees instead of listening to farmers that are against it, for land they do not own. Educate those communities on the benefits of planting woodland.

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.:

Support with sustainable management and education

#### 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.:

Provide grants for education and equipment in local communities- through schools, local community centres and youth groups

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 providing information on the benefits, getting government forestry staff in the communities to provide education and support, and grants for local communities to help with tree planting

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.:

By ensuring that local communities that are against forestry are not allowed to block applications simply because they do not believe in the benefit of forestry - ensure woodlands are well planned and diverse but allowed to be planted, this is essential if net zero is to be achieved

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.:

By ensuring that information is publicised when appropriate

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?

Yes

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

By continuing to promote forestry and give support to landowners wishing to use their land for this purpose

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

By giving education and advice to community groups, schools and landowners

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.:

By providing materials and resources for training

#### 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.:

By promoting and encouraging the planting of diverse forests and forests in general and educate local communities on the benefits of woodlands

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?:

Provide grants for suitable equipment

Small scale mixed land use?:

Provide grants for suitable equipment

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

Please add your comments here.:

New woodlands being planted and maintained is essential for our climate and environment and should be encouraged in every area

## About you

What is your name?

Name:

[Redacted]

What is your email address?

Email:

[Redacted]

Are you responding as an individual or an organisation?

Individual

What is your organisation?

Organisation:

Scottish Forestry would like your permission to publish your response. Please indicate your publishing preference:

Publish response only (without name)

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

I confirm that I have read the privacy policy and consent to the data I provide being used as set out in the policy.

I consent