

Submitted to Future Grant Support for Forestry  
Submitted on 2023-03-13 11:31:19

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.:

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.:

Funding towards more shelter belt and hedging types of schemes. This would further develop a more holistic approach to farming and forestry.

## 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.:

We need more grants that support the protection and safe guarding of existing woodlands. Currently they are very limited and those that are available do not offer enough of a financial incentive for the effort required to attain them.

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,

Not sure

Please explain your answer in the text box.:

Currently it appears the natural capital and carbon schemes are mainly benefitting larger schemes/investments. With minimum hectares required before being able to access this additional funding, this excludes many who would want to do a small scale scheme, for example crofters, where they are already limited financially and constrained by economies of scale in comparison to larger schemes.

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.:

Higher rates for natural regeneration. Currently there is a better financial incentive to plant trees rather than promote natural regeneration. This may financially benefit the owner/investor, however can have a negative impact on the environment when you consider the impacts of invasive ground cultivation and the use of heavy machinery to achieve planting positions.

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?:

There should be more funding towards delivering more diverse and resilient woodland. Particularly with the restocking grant the grant should be removed for those that are just meeting the bare minimum of UKFS and instead the incentive should be to deliver diverse and resilient woodlands.

## 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, Knowing where to get reliable advice, 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?:

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.:

Higher grant rates for small scale woodland. More support with the applications, such as the croft woodland scheme, as the cost of engaging a forestry agent can be prohibitive before a scheme is even approved.

#### 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.:

The grants available for wiat are very confusing, it's not clear what people need to do and are eligible for. These types of woodland are often smaller scale and/or in community ownership. Rural wiat, has very few options for doing anything within the woodland.

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.:

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.:

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.:

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?:

Needs to be more clearly defined what is eligible for funding.

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

A grant for skills development is needed.

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.:

Not sure how fgs can help with this. But there is a very clear shortage of forestry workers across all areas of forestry.

#### 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.:

Part of any grants should include a requirement by estates to bring unnaturally high deer numbers down to a level which can safeguard woodlands and promote natural regeneration.

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?:

Small scale mixed land use?:

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

Please add your comments here.:

## 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