

Submitted to Future Grant Support for Forestry
Submitted on 2023-03-25 17:29:22

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?

Not sure

Please explain your answer in the text box.:

Mainly responding on biodiversity-related aspects of FGS

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

Not sure

Please explain your answer in the text box.:

Mainly responding on biodiversity-related aspects of FGS

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.:

One element is to ensure more variety of species is used for commercial forestry plantings, to increase resilience to current and future Tree Disease. Also reduce size of monoculture compartments.

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.:

Mainly responding on biodiversity-related aspect of FGS

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.:

Improve FGS for smaller landholdings including crofting.

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?:

Not my field of expertise, but am sure it has to be done somehow.

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?:

Not my area of expertise

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.:

Not my area of expertise

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.:

Not my area of expertise.

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.:

More openness by landowners regarding their plans - information boards up at sites, site walks led by Forest Agent/ Landowner to discuss options proposed and seek information advice from local people.

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 the consultation system more transparent.

Welcome and support novices about woodland to understand the process and how to contribute.

Increase the range of non-statutory consultees, for example wildlife groups, access groups, heritage groups at preliminary stages.

Lead Open Days on the site.

Find out about local groups of all kinds, all ages - young people, elderly people, ethnic minorities. Learn from other sectors how best to do this.

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.:

Let local people see responses from Statutory and Non-statutory consultees online.

Routinely give Feedback to all responders / contributors on the decisions made and the reasons for the decisions.

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?

Not sure

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

Not my area of expertise

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.:

Not my area of expertise

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.:

Improve the level of biodiversity and habitat surveys required. you have to know what is and isn't there before you can know what you may lose, and also what biodiversity could best be enhanced. Very often surveying is not adequate.

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?:

Not my area of expertise.

Small scale mixed land use?:

Not my area of expertise.

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

Please add your comments here.:

There have been examples of FGSs being approved without surveys eg peat depth surveys, NVC surveys, Ecological Surveys, and damage has been caused. This is just not good enough.

There are also examples of good practice with good outcomes, and this can be very pleasing in terms of avoidance of biodiversity loss. However, it is still necessary to put much more effort into proactive enhancement of biodiversity.

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 with 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