

## Response ID ANON-VEPG-2GPH-3

Submitted to Future Grant Support for Forestry  
Submitted on 2023-03-25 10:10:51

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.:

We are dependent on farming to maintain some of our most biodiverse habitats an example might be wildflower meadows. They can not do this without grant support. It is important that this support matches that given to planting the same area with trees. The best orchid meadow in central scotland is currently threatened because the return in forestry is significantly greater. We have already lost 97% of our wildflower meadows.

### 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.:

Sitka spruce is a very invasive non native plants whose spread is threatening many other important habitats in Scotland eg Atlantic rain forest. If grants are given to plant it they should be conditional on preventing the spread into adjacent land ie the current regulations for invasive species should be enforced.

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 you answer in the text box.:

This should be applied only to non-commercial woodland creation

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 is already too generous

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?:

### 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?:

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.:

#### 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.:

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.:

A major element in Scotland's rural economy is tourism and without better controls our wonderful rugged landscape is going to be swamped by woodland. It is already the case where I live. It is important that we realise what we are destroying.

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.:

At the moment forestry seems to be treated like a crop the controls of how much and where are very weak. Just compare the planning process for a wind farm with that of forestry on the same site ... we have the biggest new forest in the UK near us and once planted there is perhaps 2 or 3 jobs created about the same as the sheepfarming it displaced however once its grown up it will make the local landscape much less attractive than the rugged hills and we have a major tourist industry to think about.

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.:

My experience is that the public are completely unaware of the extent and impact of current planting. The local press needs to be involved. Making the web sites work. Having more public meetings as part of the consultation process so you can better judge public reaction rather than static displays. Publish the results of post-planting site inspections

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 Answered

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

I do not think increasing forestry will benefit biodiversity particularly conifer forest. Other habitats are destroyed when you plant forests and they are usually much more biodiverse than non-native woodland which makes up the bulk of what is being planted locally. The current planning process does not consider the cumulative impact of many contiguous projects.

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?:

I do not agree with the premise ... many of the meadows I visit which used to be grazed by sheep are now only maintained by deer grazing.

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.:

I would like to recommend Future Forests Company approach to the afforestation of Dumyatg on the Ochils as a model of what can be achieved

## 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:

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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?

No

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