

Response ID ANON-VEPG-2GPK-6

Submitted to Future Grant Support for Forestry
Submitted on 2023-03-24 11:02:34

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.:

Baldernock Community Council has been trying to email Scottish Forestry with our concerns that Caledonian Properties are proposing to plan trees on land which is currently leased and used by local farmers for grazing.

If Caledonian Properties as landowners go ahead their proposals will remove, permanently, access for local farms to the land they currently use. Our emails to Scottish Forestry have all been blocked and we are now having to write to Scottish Forestry for answers to the questions we have asked, including how productive farming land can be protected and saved.

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.:

Priority should be to identify land needed for food production before any consideration is given to tree planting

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.:

Forestry should be evaluated not in isolation but alongside other land uses which protect the climate. Peatbogs etc.

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 scenario is driven by the profit motive and land owners can sell to business interests to off-set carbon damage. There is no assessment of the overall impact or the damage to other legitimate land use such as food production or the consequences of food imports.

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.:

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?

No

How can the grant scheme support this?:

We have local areas where woodland has been planted with forestry grant funding.

These areas have excessive density, are not sustainably managed and in the long term are unlikely to create attractive or effective 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.

Information on how current land use could continue with trees integrated throughout

Are there others not listed above?:

Priority needed for agricultural use as tree planting, as we currently see it locally, will remove agricultural use PERMANENTLY.

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.:

Our problem locally is the proposed woodland in rural areas , not urban.

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.:

Locally we do not see community wealth building, we see the interests of large land owners with financial incentives being given priority.

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.:

Genuine community engagement.

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?

No

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.:

Grants should only be provided for forestry planting on land which is unsuitable for agricultural use.

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:
Baldernock Community Council

What is your email address?

Email:
baldernockcc@gmail.com

Are you responding as an individual or an organisation?

Organisation

What is your organisation?

Organisation:
Baldernock Community Council

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