

## Response ID ANON-VEPG-2GTF-5

Submitted to Future Grant Support for Forestry  
Submitted on 2023-05-17 08:07:13

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.:

I do, however we do not believe it should be entirely discrete. Forestry should be taken into consideration with other forms of environmental restoration. Whether it be wildlife reintroduction or other forms of environmental restoration. We think any urbanization or initiatives that could potentially free up land for restoration should also take forestry into consideration.

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.:

We believe there needs to be a much greater emphasis on promoting the use of CEA tech for food production, as well as the promotion of the production of synthetic fibres as an alternative to wool production, to free land for further environmental restoration efforts. We also believe that alternative forms of cellulose production like hemp wood should be promoted and subsidized.

### 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 believe that an emphasis on biodiversity in future planting efforts is essential to ensuring resilience in any restored forests. If any viable species reintroductions are available they should be taken into consideration as well, given that the more trophic interactions an ecosystem has, the more resilient it is. This also means a reduced emphasis on productive woodland. There should also be more planting based on the paleodata, given that human activity has dramatically altered the composition of Scotland's forests over the millenia.

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 Answered

Please explain you answer in the text box.:

We believe that forestry should have an interest in supporting and collaborating with industries that can free up land for reforestation or reduce pressure on forests. These include but are not limited to the CEA industry and cellulose industry.

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.:

We believe there needs to be an almost exclusive focus on native woodlands. Native woodlands are the most optimal carbon sinks forests can provide and given that carbon levels are already dangerously high, it is vital these are prioritized.

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?

Not Answered

How can the grant scheme support this?:

We believe the focus on building resilient forests should not be exclusively around management, but measures need to be taken to ensure resilience. Management is one way to accomplish this, but a stronger emphasis on biodiversity is another way to achieve this. Biodiversity is crucial for building

resilience to threats such as climate change and pests. We suggest that if an active management plan cannot be put in place, then an emphasis on biodiversity in the reforestation project should be required.

### 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?:

As mentioned before, we believe that there needs to be a greater emphasis placed on developing a relationship between forestry and the CEA industry. One possible way of doing this is developing a policy compensating CEA companies for the amount of land the operation has opened up for rewilding, similar to how farmers are compensated for providing land for restoration.

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.:

We believe smaller projects should have greater levels of community input. We understand that the wee forest initiative has involved many different community groups and we believe this should continue as it enables community members a greater sense of connection and understanding with the natural world.

### 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.:

We believe a greater emphasis on promoting the inherent value of woodlands is essential. We also believe that framing the value of forests in combating the existential threat of climate change is another effective way of demonstrating their value.

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?

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.:

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.:

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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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