

Submitted to Future Grant Support for Forestry
Submitted on 2023-05-16 09:34:36

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.:

No comment.

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.:

No comment.

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.:

It is not enough for the support package to consider just whether woodlands and forests contribute to net zero and are themselves resilient to the future climate. The support package should also consider how woodlands and forests can contribute to increasing resilience of the wider community as part of catchment scale nature-based approaches to adaptation, to make a clearer link with the Scottish Government Water Resilient Places policy framework - <https://www.gov.scot/publications/water-resilient-places-policy-framework-surface-water-management-blue-green-infrastructure/>.

The support package should also recognise that establishing and maintaining trees in urban areas is highly likely to be disproportionately costly compared to rural settings due to challenges associated with utilities, contaminated land, risk of vandalism, constrained sites presenting smaller planting area scale, etc. As the benefits of urban forests are arguably greater than rural settings, consideration should be given to increasing the grant rates available for planting in urban settings to increase uptake, delivery and maintenance.

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 your answer in the text box.:

This should consider the benefits of relaxing any financial year spend conditions of grant funding, to reduce the risk of loss of full or partial funding stymieing overall delivery of a project.

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.:

No comment.

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 sure

How can the grant scheme support this?:

No comment.

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?:

No comment.

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.:

No comment.

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.:

Forestry grants should also recognise that establishing and maintaining trees in urban areas is highly likely to be disproportionately costly compared to rural settings due to challenges associated with utilities, contaminated land, risk of vandalism, constrained sites presenting smaller planting area scale, etc. As the benefits of urban forests are arguably greater than rural settings, consideration should be given to increasing the grant rates available for planting in urban settings to increase uptake, delivery and maintenance.

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.:

No comment.

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.:

No comment.

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.:

No comment.

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?:

No comment.

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

No comment.

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.:

No comment.

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.:

No comment.

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?:

No comment.

Small scale mixed land use?:

No comment.

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

Please add your comments here.:

Consideration should be given to increasing the rates available for Woodlands for Water Target Areas, to encourage woodlands and forests that can contribute to increasing resilience of the wider community as part of catchment scale nature-based approaches to adaptation and creating water resilient places.

Forestry grants should also recognise that establishing and maintaining trees in urban areas is highly likely to be disproportionately costly compared to rural settings due to challenges associated with utilities, contaminated land, risk of vandalism, constrained sites presenting smaller planting area scale, etc. As the benefits of urban forests are arguably greater than rural settings, consideration should be given to increasing the grant rates available for planting in urban settings to increase uptake, delivery and maintenance.

About you

What is your name?

Name:

[redacted]

What is your email address?

Email:

[redacted]

Are you responding as an individual or an organisation?

Organisation

What is your organisation?

Organisation:

The Metropolitan Glasgow Strategic Drainage Authority

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