

Submitted to Future Grant Support for Forestry
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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.:

The FGS as it stands is not suitable for small scale foresters such as crofters who want to plant relatively small areas. The scheme needs to be redesigned to make it useful and supportive of small scale forestry. Small scale forestry has the potential to make a really positive impact on the environment. At the present time support for crofters is based on available area for livestock grazing and forestry obviously impacts this.

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.:

The change of use of land from grazing to forestry is detrimental to crofters as it impacts the eligible area they claim for under the Single Farm Payment. This has to be reversed to make forestry an attractive option for small scale crofters and farmers.

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.:

Trees capture carbon.
Trees provide fuel.
Trees provide shelter.
Trees provide amenity.
Trees improve the local environment.
Trees increase wildlife diversity.
Trees are wonderful!

A support package should recognise that and encourage small scale planting which makes a real difference.

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.:

The Scottish Government should create an effective grant mechanism for small scale producer. This does not exist at present.

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.:

The support scheme needs to focus on small scale foresters with packages that encourage the planting of trees.

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?:

The grant scheme needs to support a management scheme to ensure maximum success.

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?:

Cannot think of more.

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.:

Grant support should be loaded at the start to avoid cash flow issues that small scale producers can have.

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.:

An extra financial incentive can be introduced to encourage accessibility to small scale woodlands that are close to where people live.

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.:

Wood can be free fuel that is carbon neutral meaning less dependence of alternative fuels such as oil and gas.

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 sure

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

As explained the current forestry grants are aimed more at large scale woodlands.
Focus should be on small scale producers - that would be a reflection of the real world.

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

Small scale woodlands have the potential to create woodland based skills some of which have fallen into disuse.

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.:

Reward the small woodland creator for producing imaginative woodlands that offer maximum benefit to the environment.

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?:

Protective measures such as fencing has to be part of the grant awarding mechanism.

Small scale mixed land use?:

As above.

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:

[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?

Yes

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