

Response ID ANON-VEPG-2GB6-3

Submitted to Future Grant Support for Forestry
Submitted on 2023-02-28 18:00:36

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.:

The grants for new woodland have been very successful,
Unfortunately they haven't kept up with inflation and no longer covers the costs of establishing these schemes.

Owners of long-standing forestry schemes get no financial help from SF but are also expected to go through expansive bureaucratic processes with regard to Scottish Forestry permissions etc. Forestry is a very important industry to Scotland both in the growing demand for timber products and in the effort to combat climate change.

After the devastating loss of timber from storm Arwen the Scottish government have been extremely negligent in both realising the full impact of this and have offered absolutely no financial support in replanting although the landowner is legally expected to do this, despite incurring huge financial loss due to the storm,

After the 1953 gale a considerable amount of Government support was provided.

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.:

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.:

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 your answer in the text box.:

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?

Not Answered

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.:

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?

Yes

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

It has been extremely good for establishing new commercial forests. It should be recognised that commercial forestry not only is important for the economy and for providing the ever increasing demand for wood products, but it also contributes to absorbing carbon,

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

More education about the importance of the forestry industry in schools and trying to encourage young people to take up a career in forestry whether in management or practical skills such as planting trees and chain saw qualifications. Forestry needs far more PR.

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.:

Requiring a felling licence to remove windblow is expensive, time consuming and unnecessary. It has also resulted in timber growers losing considerable revenue due to the windblow timber deteriorating due to length of time this bureaucratic process takes.

Also roadside trees should not require felling licence to remove. A responsible landowner will frequently inspect roadside trees and wish to remove any that are dangerous. Landowners should be allowed to fell Roadside trees within 7m of a public road without a licence.

The above activities are vital to good forest management and applying for a felling licence is expensive and time consuming both for the landowner and SF. It does not seem an appropriate use of tax payers funds.

Timber growers are running a business and have to make every effort to make a profit. forestry is a very long term, high risk business and Government should recognise this.

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:

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