

## Response ID ANON-VEPG-2GTH-7

Submitted to Future Grant Support for Forestry  
Submitted on 2023-05-16 21:13:43

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.:

Yes I believe Scottish woodland creation should continue to be provided grant funding in order to meet government targets.

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.:

Improving the FGS stocking density requirements for new planting. Encouraging closely spaced stems being grown on too quickly does not produce a high quality timber that can be used in this country hence our fence posts are rotting after 5 yrs and construction industry imports alot of its timber.

### 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.:

By ensuring that a good quality timber crop is the focus of planting, with biodiversity net gain and ecological focus being a descriptor of good management practices. Encouraging a CCF approach instead of no thin regime and clear fell - and promoting diversity in species planted, with better rates for protection of soft conifers and the likes - biodegradable tree shelters for broadleaves or grant funding for effective deer control.

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 you answer in the text box.:

Private investment should not be scrutinized for carrying out woodland creation as they have the means and motivation to offset carbon - they are more likely to implement high biodiversity and ecologically viable schemes due e.g. productive broadleaves if the system allowed for a better quality crop production and protection.

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.:

- Lower density planting
- better rates for protection/deer management
- better incentives to plant alternative species
- more success stories/studies of site specific diverse planting
- overhaul/reassessment of ESC

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?:

As above.

Promoting species diversity, alternative productive conifers, lowering stocking density and providing incentives for continuous cover approaches / maintenance works.

### 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.

Better integration of support for woodland creation with farm support mechanisms, Clearer guidance on grant options, Information on how current land use could continue with trees integrated throughout

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.:

- funding to engage with management companies
- funding for effective deer management
- funding for better protection of crops

### 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.:

- by being easier for people to apply for/seek advice on , better guidance
- promoting public access in the right place

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.:

- to realise the recreation benefits of woodland even just if walks up forest roads - better cross site access
- to realise the overall management benefit of woodland in a community- shelter benefits, livestock, chlorophyll for mental health

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.:

Scottish timber still has to be the sole focus for woodland creation - but the adoption of continuous cover for communities would mean no clear fell site, still income from thinning. Better guidance on CCF and site specific conditions better communication between private and community

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.:

N/A - some proposals will not concern whole of general public

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?:

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

More future training

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.:

## About you

What is your name?

Name:

What is your email address?

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Are you responding as an individual or an organisation?

Individual

What is your organisation?

Organisation:

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