Forestry Commission

Equality Impact Assessment Summary

Name of policy, function or service
Policy on the control of woodland removal

Purpose and aim(s) of the policy, function or service
The policy provides direction for decisions on woodland removal in Scotland.

Who will benefit mainly from this policy, function or service?
This policy will benefit FCS and Planning staff in that it sets out a strategic framework for assessing proposals for woodland removal. As it will be publicly available it will also benefit woodland owners and developers with their own decision making. Indirectly, everyone in Scotland will benefit from having a policy that has a strong presumption in favour of protecting Scotland's woodland resources.

Information and Data (evidence) used
This policy flows from the Scottish Forestry Strategy which was the subject of intensive public consultation (see **http://www.forestry.gov.uk/forestry/infd-6c3d4g**). It was also flagged in the FCS Climate Change Action Plan 2008-2010, itself subject to public consultation (see **http://www.forestry.gov.uk/ccapscotland**) This policy has also been subject to targeted consultation with key stakeholders in the Scottish Government and the wider forestry and energy sectors, culminating in Ministerial approval and made publicly available at **http://www.forestry.gov.uk/forestry/infd-7hyhwe**

Summary of Impact
The policy is not considered to have direct or indirect impacts on race, gender, disability, sexual orientation, religion or belief. It is viewed as having indirect adverse impacts on the very young or the very old if it was incorrectly assumed to compromise the Government's renewable energy commitments and wind energy in particular (fuel security issue). Care is being taken to ensure that the policy is not seen to prejudice the Government's renewable energy policies, indeed it actively seeks to support them by facilitating delivery of dual energy/forestry objectives.

Monitoring/Evaluation
The action plan will be monitored primarily through the Scottish Forestry Strategy Implementation Plan process and will be reviewed no later than 2013

Further Information
N/a