

Review of Payment Rates for Woodland Creation under the SRDP

1. The current published payment rates for Woodland Creation are as follows:

(For further detail refer to:

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Rural/SRDP/RuralPriorities/Options/WoodlandCreation>)

Woodland Creation Option	Total Payment for Woodland Creation (initial planting + maintenance but excluding fencing) £/ha
Productive conifer woodland (low cost)	1400
Productive conifer woodland (high cost)	1645
Productive broadleaved woodland	2380
Native woodland	1645
Naturally regenerated native woodland	980
Mixed conifer/broadleaf woodland	2240

2. All of the above payment rates are based on 70% of the Standard Costs incorporated into the Planting Models from which the rates were derived. However, an amendment to the SRDP has been submitted and if approved will permit increasing the rate of support for initial planting in LFA from the current 70% to 80% of the Standard Cost. The amendment also proposes increasing all the maintenance payments from the current 70% to 100% of the Standard Costs.

The new payment rates arising from this amendment should be available to applicants by the summer of 2009.

3. FCS has also undertaken a review of the woodland creation planting models to ensure that the Standard Cost calculations are based on contemporary information on input costs and the intensity of inputs on a per hectare basis. This combined with the RDC wide review of Standard Costs, and the above increased intervention rates already sought would produce a substantial increase in the Woodland Creation payment rates. The following table is provided to give an indication of the likely effect on future payment rates.

Woodland Creation Option	Total Payment for Woodland Creation (initial planting + maintenance but excluding fencing) £/ha
Productive conifer woodland (low cost)	Range 1800 - 2200
Productive conifer woodland (high cost)	Range 2100 - 2600
Productive broadleaved woodland	Range 3200 - 3700
Native woodland	Range 2800 - 3300
Naturally regenerated native woodland	Range 1000 - 1300
Mixed conifer/broadleaf woodland (woods <10ha only)	Range 3000 - 3500

All of the above payment ranges are indicative at this stage, as some of the proposed changes have still to be submitted to the EC and all are subject to their subsequent approval.

4. The additional Community Woodland Contribution of £1000/ha is also being separately reviewed and the results of this will be included in the forthcoming submission to the EC referred to below.

5. The revised planting models and standard costs are planned to be submitted to the EC as an SRDP notification by the end of April 2009. **Allowing for EC scrutiny and Scottish Parliamentary approval this should lead to the combined new rates being available to applicants in the autumn of 2009.**

Please note that we cannot guarantee the timescale for introducing the new rates as stated above

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