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Sent: 29 November 2008 19:42
To: liz.kirk@forestry.gsi.gov.uk
Subject: My response to MINISTERIAL DISCUSSION ON PROPOSALS FOR PRIVATE SECTOR ENGAGEMENT ON THE SCOTTISH PUBLIC FOREST ESTATE

1. What are your views on allowing the Forestry Commissioners to enter into joint ventures, with the intention of participating in renewable energy programmes on the national forest estate?

I need more information on specifics before any question can be answered. I have read the consultation document and what is striking is the fundamental lack of detail, so until such time as more detail is made available I am completely opposed to any changes in land ownership of land owned by the Forestry Commission.

You simply cannot have any kind of debate without knowing in detail what is being proposed.

I find it laughable that a debate is being encouraged without details being made available.

This is a disingenuous proposition because it places the burden on people who respond to offer their view from which policy will be formulated, IE the Government department involved is abdicating its responsibility because it fails to state what is being proposed in detail from the outset.

I am repeating myself but I hope you get the idea.

1. What are your views on allowing Scottish Ministers and Forestry Commissioners to offer leases and cutting rights over parts of the national forest estate?

To whom are the leases offered, or typically what type of organisations, and on what terms, who has a say in the drafting of the leases? What are the costs of the leases and what are the benefits?

1. What are your views on (i) transferring the proceeds from leases and cutting rights to a not-for profit trust, for investment in woodland creation; (ii) transferring the landlord's interest in this land to a not-for profit trust; and (iii) Ministers stipulating the constitution of such a not-for profit trust.

How much is involved, what is the *raison D'etre* of the trust, who manages it, who benefits from it and who owns the trust?

None of these are specified. Until such time as they are I cannot offer any response.

1. Are there other actions which need to be taken, or are there other changes in legislation which need to be made, in order to allow the public and private forestry sector to contribute to Scotland's target of reducing emissions by 80% by 2050? If so, please outline what these are.

This is gobbledegook. You are the Government, how about offering a proposal?

Regards
Jack Grudgings