

Response to the Climate Change and Forestry Consultation.  
January 2008.

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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?

Sounds reasonable as long as those joint ventures include not only FCS and energy companies, but are also designed to directly benefit groups representing local residents in the vicinity of the proposed developments.

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

I am not convinced of the need for this approach in terms of funding the woodland expansion proposals, and I fear that it will lead to 'creaming –off' the best timber, rather than contributing to a sustained yield of timber and increased use of continuous cover forestry (with associated benefits for biodiversity, soils, water quality and amenity value).

I also strongly disagree with the idea of leasing it all to a single company, and would prefer to see a cap on the number of hectares leased to *any* single company or organisation, as well as a preference for leasing any state forest areas to capable or willing community bodies in the first instance.

3. 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.

I think this should be done (if at all) on a site by site basis, with each not-for profit body being a representative, community-based local organisation, perhaps with a broad structure, agenda and rationale agreed with SG.

4. 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.

- Improve the SRDP system (as per the recent CONFOR report)
- Increase or supplement the % contribution towards new planting to a rate which reflects real costs.
- Massive increase in resources, training and personnel for deer management and browsing impact monitoring both in state forests and the private sector, to enable extensive successful natural regeneration of broadleaved and conifers to occur (especially in upland areas).