

From: Jason.Sinden
Sent: 26 January 2009 16:29
To: liz.kirk@forestry.gsi.gov.uk
Subject: Climate change consultation

Liz

Pls find attached my comments on this proposal. These are my personal comments and I am NOT authorised to speak on this subject on behalf of my employer.

1. I welcome the positive approach of the minister, who has clearly attempted to come up with a constructive approach to funding forestry.

2. I strongly support the intention to raise funding for new planting and agree that this will help with climate change mitigation.

This could create many new jobs and business opportunities in rural areas.

3. I support the approach of a long term lease of the FC estate, assuming the inclusion of sensible safeguards, which I understand are the intention.

Specifically, these safeguards should ensure that the estate remains economically active. My concern would be that it may be possible for a timber price speculator to essentially "sit" on the asset and wait for timber prices to increase. In my view, this could easily be dealt with in the terms of the lease.

In my view, there are many potential purchasers of a lease, including a large number from the UK. In general, these purchasers would seek to increase the output from the estate. In my view, this would create more jobs and business opportunities and lead to the development of a more innovative forestry/ timber processing sector.

4. I am irritated by the misinformed criticism of the proposal, which has been widespread in the press.

Many of these comments were xenophobic, or attacked the private sector (forestry or timber processing) in an unjustified way. The majority exposed wilful ignorance of the proposal or of general forest management practices.

With regards

Jason

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