

Ms Liz Kirk  
Forestry Commission Scotland  
Silvan House  
231 Corstorphine Road  
EDINBURGH EH12 7AT

18 December 2008

Dear Madam

Consultation on Forestry Provisions of Scottish Climate Change Bill

I write in response to the above consultation paper, dated November 2008 and wish to address my response specifically to question 4 on page 7 of the consultation paper.

As set out on page 4, private woodland presently comprises the majority of the woodland cover in Scotland, but in recent years expansion of this woodland has averaged only 5,000 hectares per year. The paper acknowledges a need to stimulate more activity even to meet existing targets and the need for additional sources of funds.

From a private woodland owner's point of view, I wish to record my extreme disappointment at the niggardly provision for funding of new private forestry planting and the bureaucratic minefield to source it under the much heralded Scottish Rural Development Programme. Compared with the former Scottish Forestry Grant Scheme administered by the Forestry Commission, the present arrangement is a serious retrograde step and will inevitably lead to a reduction of expansion of private woodland in the future.

Many private woodland owners in Scotland, like myself, possess the experience, skill and the commitment to bring about increasing woodland cover, but clearly this requires improved public sector support. The goal of the creation of a long term investment for the benefit of the nation in support of the fight against climate change seems a very worthwhile one.

I would recommend a scheme very similar to the former Scottish Forestry Grant Scheme which was administratively simple and worked well in the past.

Yours faithfully



Sir Michael Nairn