

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

December 22nd 2008

Dear Liz

**CONSULTATION ON FORESTRY PROVISIONS IN THE SCOTTISH CLIMATE
CHANGE BILL
RESPONSE FROM THE SOUTHERN UPLANDS PARTNERSHIP**

The Board of the Southern Uplands Partnership has discussed the proposals set out in the above mentioned consultation document and this has exposed views both in favour and against the proposals, especially those related to the possible leasing FC(S) forests to the private sector. Discussion also highlighted a number of issues which required further information before a consensus could be developed.

We would therefore like to suggest that local meetings (at least 2) should be arranged to explain the proposals in more detail, allow questions to be raised and issues to be discussed. We gather that ConFor are arranging their own meeting in Lockerbie on the 12th January. We would strongly suggest that the implications of the proposals are such that a wider range of stakeholders should be engaged, including tourism businesses, local authorities, access groups and key rural communities. This is especially important in this area where much of any leased forestry would be likely to be located.

The Southern Uplands Partnership is well placed to arrange and publicise such meetings in southern Scotland if you felt these would be beneficial. We would however need to recover the costs involved.

Perhaps you could give this some consideration and let me know early in January so that we can make arrangements ahead of the consultation deadline.

Yours sincerely

Pip Tabor
Project Manager