

Forestry consultationFrom: Elizabeth Roberts  
Sent: 17 November 2008 07:41  
To: liz.kirk@forestry.gsi.gov.uk  
Cc: jhs; Jamie Farquhar  
Subject: Forestry consultation

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? Why not allow forestry - the last bastion of state ownership apart from now the banks - to become like farming, coalmining, water supply and power generation - ie privatise it all ? Appropriate university departments, botanic societies and private interests can carry out forestry research.

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? Government ownership is not the most efficient way of managing land

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. Forestry could still be privatised while setting targets for minimum carbon capture/energy generation/recreational use by a system of state incentives (ie tax allowances)

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. The private sector, whether represented by the great estates or other commercial interests has traditionally shown a greater responsiveness and innovation than governments or quangos (cf The Duchy of Cornwall; Buccleuch; Roxburgh and my own innovations here at Crookedstane Rig, where I am pioneering the uses of spruce in food flavouring, drinks manufacture, beauty and other therapeutic products).

Yours sincerely

Elizabeth Roberts

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