

Review of Land Managed by Forestry Commission Scotland

Analysis and Summary of Consultation Responses

April 2004

Introduction

A review of land managed by Forestry Commission Scotland (FCS) was announced by the Scottish Forestry Minister, Allan Wilson, in August 2003. The purpose of the review was "...to take stock of our national forest estate and to ask whether its current size, nature and geographical distribution are appropriate for the 21st century." As part of the review a consultation exercise was conducted with the distribution of a Consultation Paper, provision of the same document on the Forestry Commission's website and concurrently setting up seven public meetings across Scotland in January 2004. The consultation period officially closed on 27th February 2004.

This report has been prepared for the Working Group and aims to provide an analysis and a summary of responses received from the consultation process.

Level of Response

The consultation process elicited 403 responses from a wide spread of individuals and organisations. The number of responses from individuals was 224, and 179 were received from organisations. A number of responses arrived after the 27th February deadline but all responses received have been included in this analysis.

Figure 1 shows the distribution of responses at the GB level and figure 2 provides more detail of the geographic distribution within Scotland. There were no responses from outside GB. It should be noted that the maps were plotted using the postal districts (the first part of the postcode) and therefore provide an indication rather than precise location of responses. This is less accurate in rural areas with larger postal districts. Not all responses are included since some were received by e-mail without a postcode. A full list of respondents is given in Appendix 1.

Methodology of Analysis

Given the high number of responses that were received the analysis has relied on codification of answers, wherever possible, followed by a numerical presentation. The initial analysis was undertaken a response at a time, which provided a better overall impression of the respondents views and attitudes. Where the questions allowed the response was codified according to Table 1. In addition, the key points raised in the answer were also noted and both this information and the code were collated into an Excel spreadsheet. Subsequent analysis was then undertaken on a question by question basis reviewing all the points raised.

Figure 1. The GB wide distribution of responses received for the FCS Forest Land Review Consultation (based on postcodes).

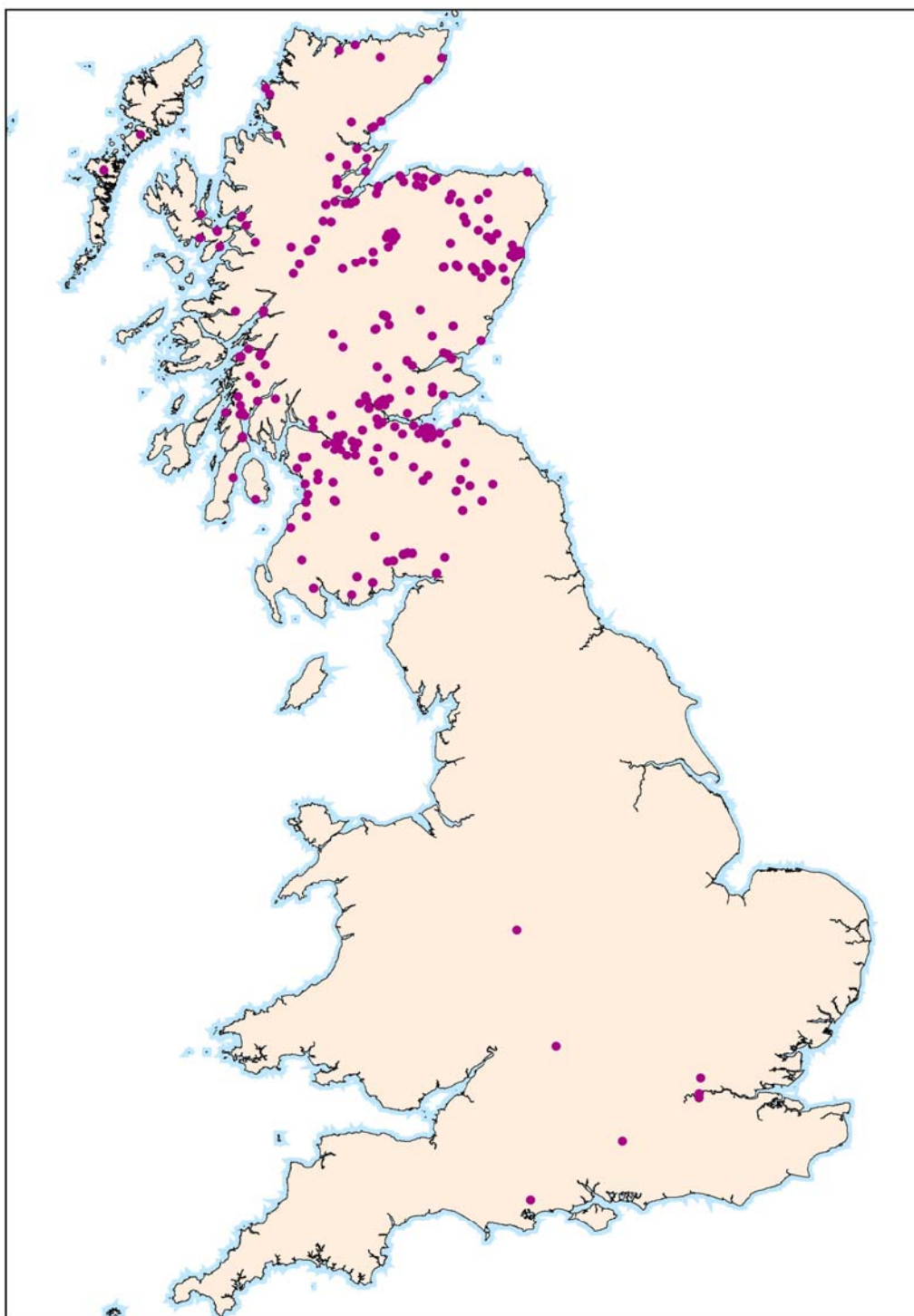


Figure 2. The distribution of responses received from Scotland for the FCS Forest Land Review Consultation (based on postcodes).

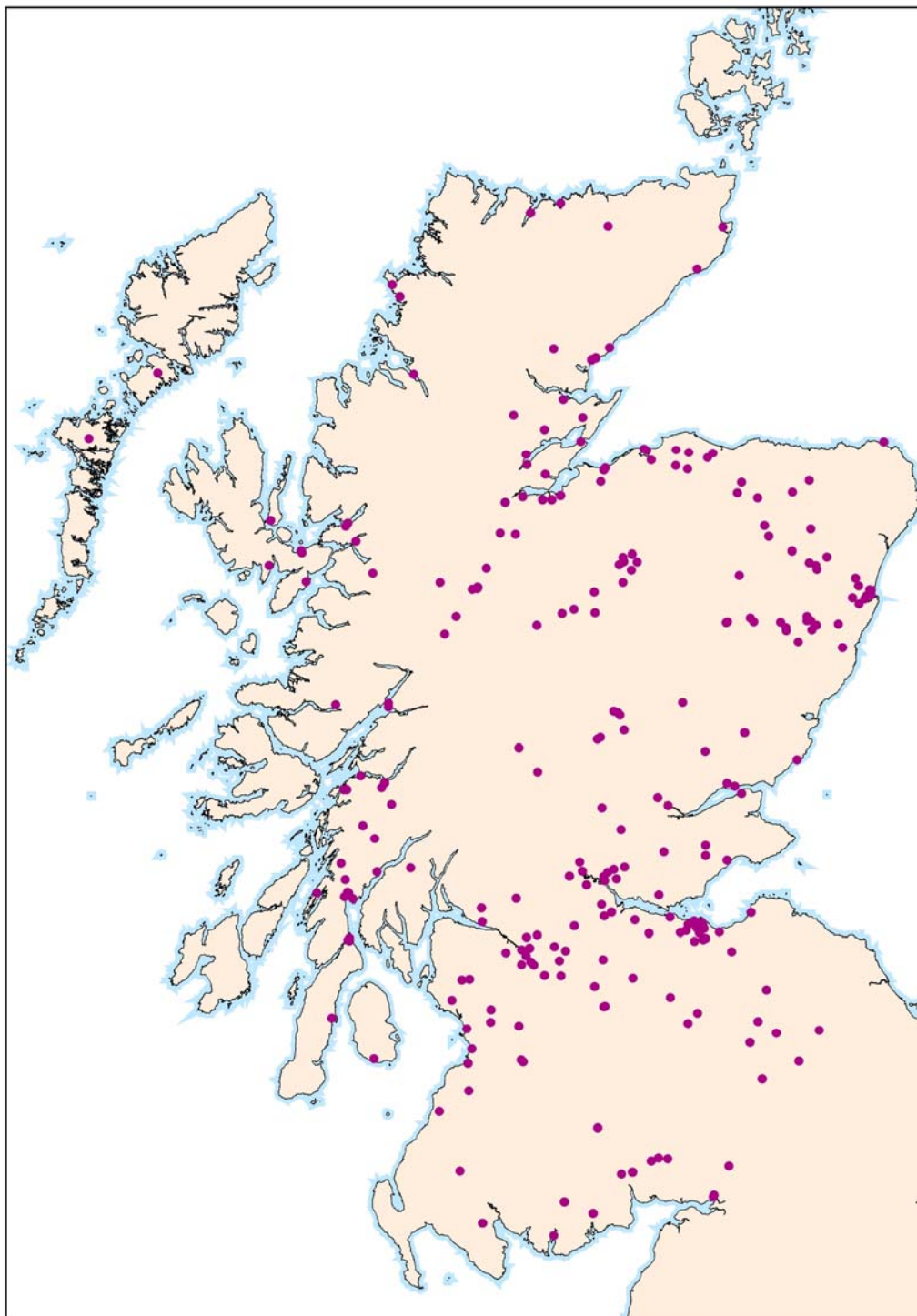


Table 1. Consultation questions and codification used in the analysis of the responses.

Question	Codification Used
1. We propose a vision for Scotland’s national forests. This is that they will benefit everyone in Scotland, promoting vibrant and healthy communities, enriching natural environments and creating opportunities for economic development. Do you agree with this proposed vision? If not, what changes should be made?	Yes; No; comments
2. Should Forestry Commission Scotland do more to encourage local community involvement in the management of national forests? If so, how?	Yes; No; comments
3. Should local communities be able to purchase or lease woodland (or other national forest assets) that are not identified as “surplus”? If so, what criteria should apply?	Yes; No; comments
4. Should Forestry Commission Scotland seek to provide new opportunities for recreation in national forests in and around towns and cities? If so, how should priorities be set?	Yes; Caution; No; comments
5. Should Forestry Commission Scotland undertake a number of large-scale, long-term environmental projects (such as forest landscape restoration, or water catchment or wilderness projects) on the national forest estate? If so, how should priorities be set?	Yes; No; comments
6. Should Forestry Commission Scotland become more ambitious in its environmental work on the national forest estate, including – in particular – delivery against Biodiversity Action Plans, improving the biodiversity of conifer forests and enhancing the contribution that national forests make to Scotland’s landscapes? If so, how should priorities be set?	Yes; No; comments
7. Should Forestry Commission Scotland do more to recognise and conserve the cultural heritage value of the national forest estate? If so how should priorities be set?	Yes; No; comments
8. What emphasis should be given to the strategic role of national forests in the supply of timber to Scotland’s wood processing industries? What are the priorities?	High; Yes but different; Lower; comments
9. Should sustaining and developing local economies be a key objective for the management of national forests? If so, how should this be done?	Yes; Caution; No; comments
10 (a). Should there be a more dynamic approach to the size and distribution of the national forest estate?	Yes; Caution; No; comments
10(b). In what circumstances should land be added to the national forest estate? What criteria might be applied?	Favour; In some circumstances; Last resort; comments
10(c). In what circumstances should national forest estate land be sold? What criteria might be applied?	Favour; In some circumstances; Against; comments
11. In what circumstances should there be a radical re appraisal of management options in national forests, for example in relation to wood production objectives?	Comments
12 (a). Do you have any views on the creation of a challenge fund for special projects aimed at significantly increasing public benefits from the national forest estate?	Comments
12 (b). Should this be funded in part by any ring-fenced income derived from the sale of national forest estate assets?	Yes; No; comments

Table 1. Consultation questions and codification used in the analysis of the responses. (cont.)

Question	Codification Used
13. How should Forestry Commission Scotland take forward its approaches to working in partnership in order further to develop the national forest estate?	Comments
14. How should the national forest estate be used to take forward wider Executive priorities, for example in relation to renewable energy, rural housing, health and tourism?	Comments
15. How should we ensure that everyone is aware of what Scotland’s national forests have to offer?	Comments
16. Given the long-term nature of forestry, the proposed vision will largely be delivered through gradual, evolutionary change. Is there a need for a more rapid approach to bring about some elements of the vision and, if so, what are they?	Yes; No; comments
17. Is it useful to try to express the proposed vision in more detail, perhaps quantifying the size, mapping the geographical distribution and describing the nature of Scotland’s national forests at some date in the future (say 2025, or 2050)? If so, how should this be done?	Yes; No; comments
18. What approaches might be adopted to strike a balance between local and national interests?	Comments

Each question was analysed independently, reflecting the method the majority of respondents used to answer them, and no attempt was made to determine whether a response was inconsistent between questions.

Given the wide range of organisations that responded replied to the consultation, it was possible to sub-divide them into a number of roughly equal categories based on function/interests. It has to be acknowledged that some organisations could possible span a number of categories and hence the categorisation has a subjective element to it, but sub-division allowed for more detailed analysis. No organisation appeared in more than one group. The list of organisations, and their category, is given in Appendix 1. A summary of the categories is provided in Table 2. A similar exercise was possible for a number of individuals who could be identified as employed by the Forestry Commission, although they represent a small proportion of the total number of individuals. It should be noted that since the results are presented in terms of percentages, where the number within a category is low each response represents a significant percentage, i.e. for 20 respondents each one represents 5%, and hence the margin for error due to the element of subjectivity required for some codification becomes greater.

Table 2. Categories used to sub-divide responses from Organisations

Category	Comments	Number of Respondents
Community Council	All responses identified as coming from a Community Council	25
Environmental	Any organisation whose main remit is environmentally based. For example SNH, RSPB, The John Muir Trust	25
Forestry	Any organisation whose main function is management, ownership or advice in the area of forestry or processing. For example, BSW, Reforesting Scotland, FTA, Tilhill, Estates, Forestry Trusts	50
Local Authorities	All responses identified as coming from a Local Authority or National Park Authority	35
Recreational	Any organisation whose main remit is recreationally based. For example Mountaineering Council of Scotland, Sport Scotland, British Horse Society	21
Others	Any organisation that did not fit into the above. For example, archaeological organisations, Crofting groups and trade organisations	23

Results

Q1. We propose a vision for Scotland’s national forests. This is that they will benefit everyone in Scotland, promoting vibrant and healthy communities, enriching natural environments and creating opportunities for economic development. Do you agree with this proposed vision? If not, what changes should be made?

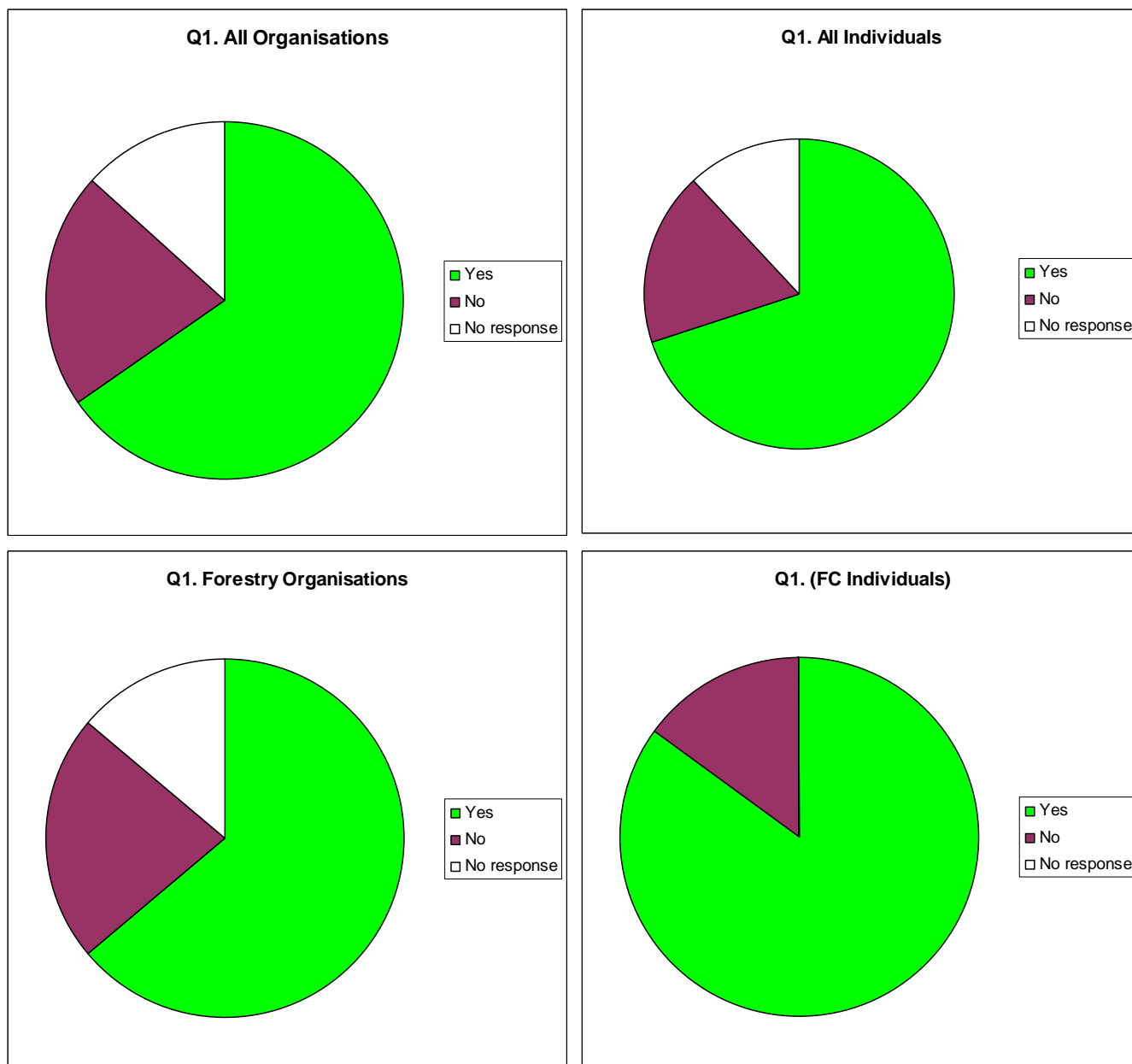


Table 3. Response to Q1. by organisational group (percentages rounded to nearest 0.1%)

Group	Yes (%)	No (%)	No response (%)
All Organisations	65.4	21.2	13.4
Community Council	68.6	17.1	14.3
Environmental	56.0	20.0	24.0
Forestry	64.0	22.0	14.0
Local Authorities	76.0	20.0	4.0
Recreational	66.7	23.8	9.5
Others	60.9	26.1	13.0

In general there was very strong support for the vision and even where categorised as “No” many supported some or most of the vision but felt that an element was missing. Cultural heritage was the element most commonly cited as missing from the vision and a number of organisations provided a similar vision but suggested including phrases such as “enriching the national and historic environment..” (**Historic Scotland**)

Many individuals who expressed concern about the vision used phrases such as woolly/vague/too broad/unattainable/pie in the sky and suggested that the vision was unrealistic in its breadth. As one respondent mentioned “It could be seen as if FCS was taking over the roles of the NHS, SNH and the enterprise agencies!” (**Individual, Argyll**). The issue of whether such an ambitious statement had been costed also arose, for example the FC has “failed ...to produce quality timber; failed to maintain previous levels of employment; destroyed habitats and biodiversity; (and) broadening of its remit is neither costed out nor discussed of how a centralised and specialist bureaucracy is equipped to carry out these wider functions” (**People Too**).

A number of respondents were also concerned that the breadth of the vision would mean that the forests would therefore be expected to deliver everything to everybody and this would give rise to conflicts of interest, such as “would allow for exploitation by bodies that are not pro-environment, e.g. off-road vehicles” (**Individual, Aberdeenshire**).

The order of priorities given in the vision was also questioned and a number of respondents suggested that timber production should be given higher priority. **Tilhill Forestry Ltd.** broadened that out to include support for the forest industries and downstream industries. In contrast a similar number of respondents suggested that the delivery of BAPs and other environmental obligations should be given a higher profile and that Scotland’s forests should aspire to be exemplars of best practice on the global stage.

Another issue raised was the implication in the vision that the forests “will (*only*) benefit everybody in Scotland” and that the vision did not cover visitors to the forest and was therefore potentially rather parochial. For example, **Visit Scotland** stated “Whilst perhaps implicit, should “including visitors” be inserted after “Scotland”?” and the **International Mountain Bicycling Association** believed that “the vision for Scotland should include a welcome for everyone both Scots and visitors.”

A number of alternative visions were suggested, for example:

“Scotland’s national forests will benefit everyone by providing the basis to promote vibrant, healthy communities, enriching the natural environment and creating a wide range of opportunities for social and economic development.” (**Lauder Community Council**)

“They will benefit everyone in Scotland, promoting vibrant and healthy communities, enriching natural and historic environments and landscapes and creating opportunities for economic development.” (**Council for Scottish Archaeology**)

“They will benefit everyone in Scotland, promoting vibrant and healthy communities, enriching natural environments, supporting an innovative and profitable forest industry, and creating opportunities for further economic development.” (**Scottish Forest Industries Cluster**)

Scotland’s national forests will benefit everyone, playing a major role in sustaining vibrant, healthy communities, enriching environments and creating wide-ranging opportunities for economic development.” (**Community Woodlands Association**)

“In managing its own land the purposes (in order of priority) of Forestry Commission Scotland shall be (a) to promote and maintain the reforestation of Scotland...(b) to promote the maintenance of existing – and return to previous levels – of biodiversity...(c) to generate a good supply of affordable tree and tree products. In fulfilling these functions the FC will bear in mind and, as far as possible, act in a complementary fashion to, the privately managed forest enterprises in Scotland. It will also make recommendations to the Scottish, UK and European Parliaments regarding the fiscal and planning regimes required to encourage both it and the private enterprises to work to the above aims most effectively.” **(Freuchie Community Council)**

Q2. Should Forestry Commission Scotland do more to encourage local community involvement in the management of national forests? If so, how?

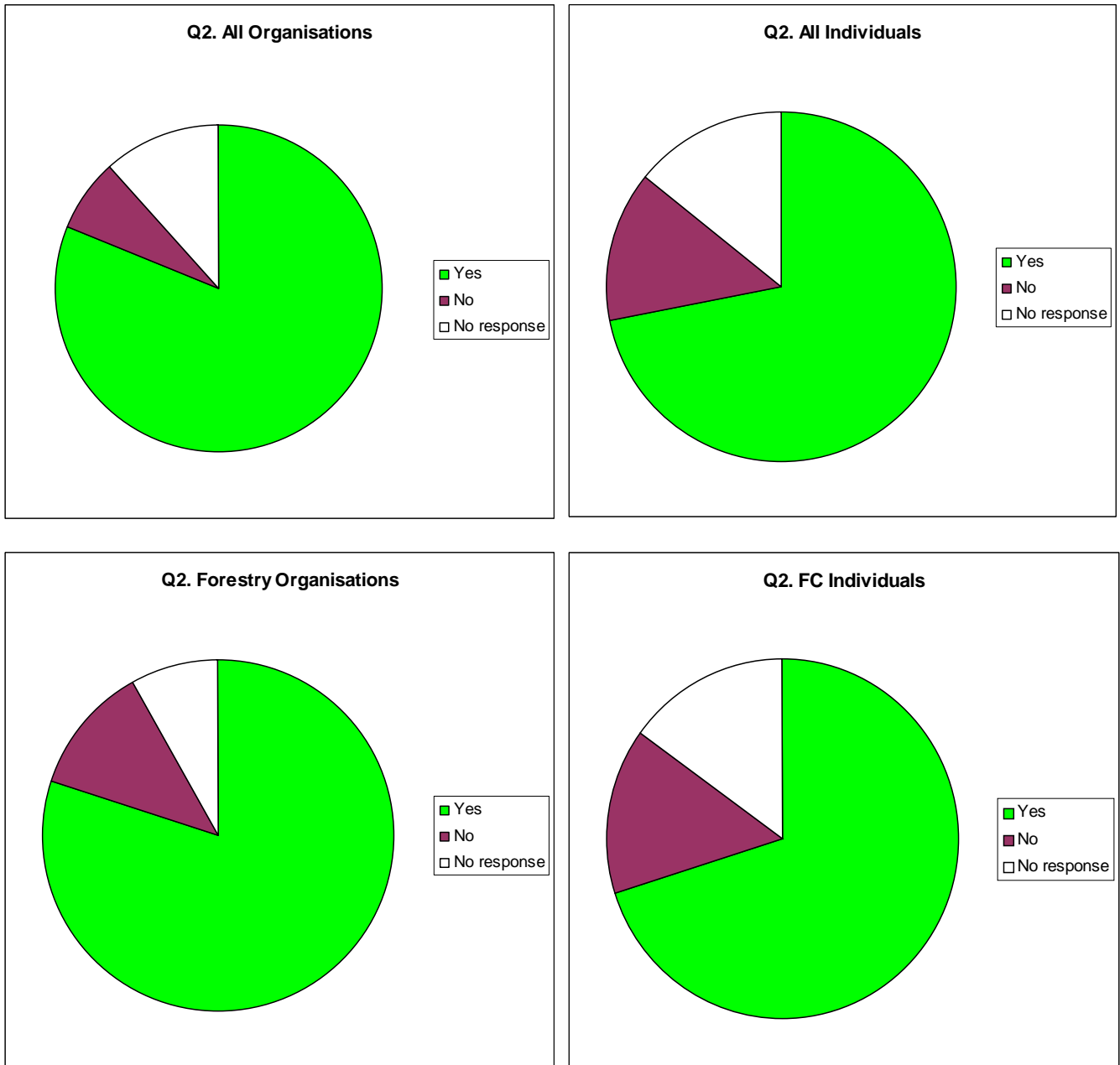


Table 4. Response to Q2 by organisational group (percentages rounded to nearest 0.1%)

Group	Yes (%)	No (%)	No response (%)
All Organisations	81.0	7.3	11.7
Community Council	74.3	14.3	11.4
Environmental	72.0	0.0	28.0
Forestry	80.0	12.0	8.0
Local Authorities	92.0	4.0	4.0
Recreational	90.5	4.8	4.8
Others	82.6	0.0	17.4

There was a high level of support for encouraging local community involvement in forest management from individuals and organisations. Interestingly, however, support from Individuals and Community Councils tended to be lower than that of Organisations and that Local Authorities were the most enthusiastic. This is possibly due to Community Councils being aware of the practical challenges of community participation whereas Local Authorities were supportive of the general principle involved in question 2. A number of individual respondents pointed out that local communities are not always unified groups. Many of the individuals who replied “No” felt that FCS was delivering enough in this area already and did not think that more was required.

Many positive respondents, although very supportive, felt the need to express some caution and the general feeling was that a case by case approach was best with the communities leading the way, rather than a target based approach directed by FCS. Another commonly expressed note of caution was to beware the potential burden on the community and the problem of sustainability if the management is being driven forward by enthusiastic individuals or small groups. The **UK Forest Products Association** response best sums up the general note of caution “...exchange of information is vital in this respect... experience of professional foresters must not be overlooked... a balanced and reasoned approach is essential”.

A gradual approach was advised that would build capacity within a community before handing over management. This need for greater involvement with the community was also recognised as requiring greater resources, for example, “More needs to be invested in community facilitation, capacity building, training and networking. ...explore the options for formal partnerships...as a precursor to community purchase.” (**Scottish Natural Heritage**). One **FC individual** felt that because of the lack of resources that “these partnerships have reached saturation point where increasing resources are being directed and neglecting investment in core forest operations.” The investment would be needed to provide more staff on the ground and many respondents suggested that local staff, trained for the job, working with local forestry fora or community councils was the best method of achieving greater community involvement. Another suggestion was to appoint one community liaison officer per forest district to deal specifically with this area.

A few respondents were strongly against the idea and compared the situation to that existing in farming, for example, “ask yourselves whether farmers would want more local community involvement managing their farms?” (**Individual, London**). Another pointed out that the forest estate was a national resource and should therefore be managed that way.

Q3. Should local communities be able to purchase or lease woodland (or other national forest assets) that are not identified as “surplus”? If so, what criteria should apply?

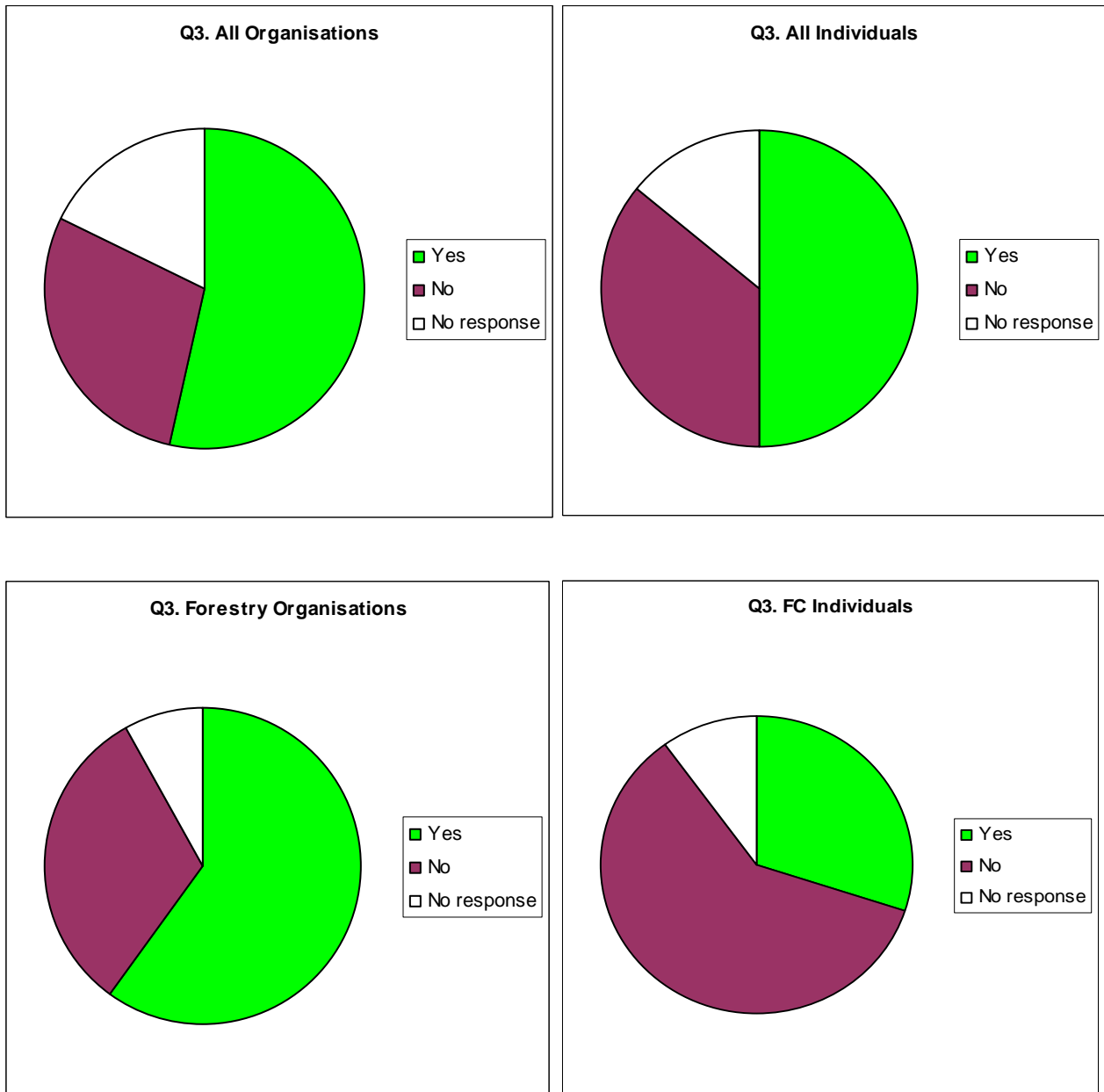


Table 5. Response to Q3 by organisational group (percentages rounded to nearest 0.1%)

Group	Yes (%)	No (%)	No response (%)
All Organisations	53.6	28.5	17.9
Community Council	45.7	42.9	11.4
Environmental	48.0	24.0	28.0
Forestry	60.0	32.0	8.0
Local Authorities	64.0	32.0	4.0
Recreational	38.1	19.0	42.9
Others	60.9	8.7	30.4

Many respondents made a point of distinguishing between buying and leasing land when replying to this question. Those who were against selling were placed in the “No” category regardless of their view on leasing since the majority viewed the question as being about land sales. However, when considering the Individuals as a group 15% of the “No” (12 out of 80) were against selling, but for leasing, and 21.6% (11 out of 51) of the Organisations responded in a similar way, hence leasing was seen as more preferable to selling.

There was broad agreement between organisations and individuals that communities should be allowed to buy land that was not “surplus”, although some respondents were not clear what the definition of surplus meant.

Interestingly Community Councils were the most negative organisational group perhaps being very aware of the challenge of local participation, for example “people in this community have little spare time” (**Torphichen Community Council**).

Another group notably against the question of selling or leasing was FC individuals. A common view here was that the public already owned the woods and hence why the need to sell the forest back to them. This view was best summed up the observation “The public already own this land, (sales) might be seen as: robbing the urban taxpayer to future subsidise a few rural people (and) excluding other local interests because they were further away ...or failed to speak up in time.” (**FC Individual**). The idea of using public funds to buy land already owned by the public was also mentioned by a number of respondents, not just FC Individuals, as being a problem inherent in community purchase of FCS land. A number of respondents thought that allowing access to SFGS funds on land leased by the community would be more preferable than a community taking on the potential burden of buying land.

The clearest consensus across all respondents was that some safeguards were needed for a sale. The community involved in the purchase would need to be able to demonstrate the ability to manage the wood to at least the same standard as FCS and deliver at least the same level of public benefits. Continued open access was commonly mentioned as a key feature of the woodland that would need to be guaranteed by the new owners. Sustainability of management and the danger that key individuals within the community might leave were also mentioned as areas that would need to be safeguarded. A number of respondents suggested that a “failed” woodland should revert back to FCS ownership. This was seen as a method of preventing selling the woodland on to third parties and potential asset stripping. Larger forestry organisations pointed out that “local involvement must not prejudice the ability of FCS to deliver its timber supply commitments” (**Tilhill Forestry Ltd.**).

The Land Reform Scotland Act 2003 was mentioned by a number of respondents as providing a mechanism for dealing with community purchases of FCS land.

Q4. Should Forestry Commission Scotland seek to provide new opportunities for recreation in national forests in and around towns and cities? If so, how should priorities be set?

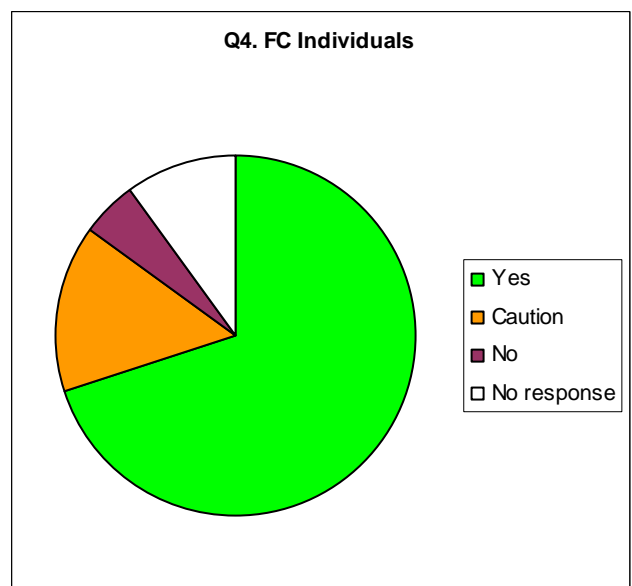
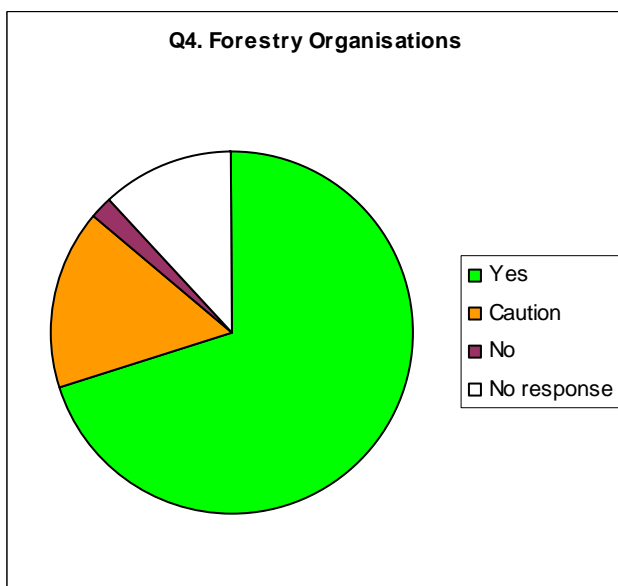
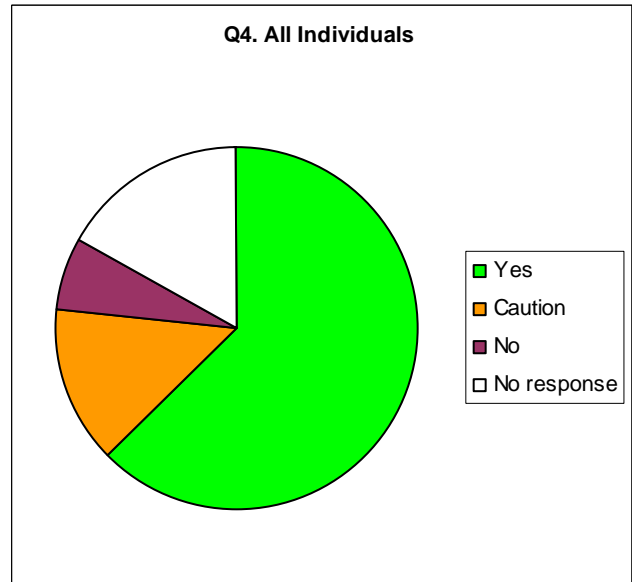
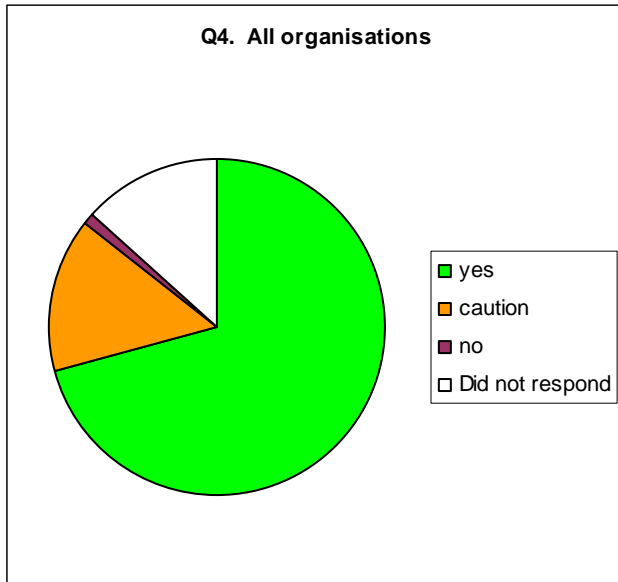


Table 6. Response to Q4 by organisational group (percentages rounded to nearest 0.1%)

Group	Yes (%)	Caution (%)	No (%)	No response (%)
All Organisations	70.9	14.5	1.1	13.4
Community Council	74.3	17.1	2.9	5.7
Environmental	68.0	12.0	0.0	5.0
Forestry	70.0	16.0	2.0	12.0
Local Authorities	76.0	16.0	0.0	8.0
Recreational	90.5	4.8	0.0	4.8
Others	47.8	17.4	0.0	34.8

There was a very similar response from both Individuals and Organisations and only the Recreational group was notably different from the others, with very strong support for the question.

The common theme to many of the responses was that this was an issue that was best tackled using a partnership approach and that FCS might not be the best placed organisation to lead. Local Authorities, the Woodland Trust, SNH, the private sector and community bodies were commonly mentioned as potential partners. For example, the **Forestry and Timber Association** responded “..more recreational facilities would be most desirable...But FC(S) need not own or even manage such developments. Some local authorities, Woodland Trust and others may have greater expertise and better communications with communities.” There were also suggestions that grants would be a more effective method of delivering recreational benefits and that “if they (FCS) use their political or financial powers to compete unfairly with the private sector, thereby discouraging the private sector from providing recreation opportunities, their efforts could be counter productive.” (**Badenoch Land Management Ltd.**).

The most common cause for concern raised by respondents who expressed “Caution” was the feeling that if this question was acted upon it would lead to a movement of funds from rural areas to the Central Belt. A number of respondents were wary that funds would be raised from the sales of rural forests and urged FCS not to abandon rural areas. Responses such as:

“Yes – but the funds to do this must not be raised by selling other woodland – every forest is someone’s local forest” (**Individual, Highlands**),

“FES should concentrate on developing partnerships...rather than the large-scale disposal of the rural state forest to directly finance the acquisition of a limited state urban forest.” (**Scottish Environment LINK Woodlands Task Force**),

“Yes but not at the expense of FES working in rural areas.” (**Borders Forest Trust**), and

“Yes, but not to the detriment of more fragile remote rural areas” (**North Sutherland Community Forest Trust**),

were typical of this concern. Direct funding from the Scottish Executive or Local Authorities was thought to be necessary for FCS to tackle this issue.

Another area of concern noted was that the FCS was becoming involved with social engineering a “concept behind some of the current pressure for developing new woodlands around deprived communities (which) may be considered naive by some; FC can only play a supporting role in enabling social change in this context.” (**Highland Council**)

When considering areas to target for new opportunities respondents suggested peri-urban areas, particularly where there are brown field sites available, that currently have poor access and high social deprivation. Many mentioned the necessity to consider transport links when planning a new forest and some even suggested that it would be cheaper to provide better transport to existing forests rather than create new forests near cities and towns. One respondent ironically noted “that no one has tried to move the Arrochar Alps into Castlemilk”. The development of the Core Path Network by Local Authorities was also mentioned as a useful tool for identifying opportunities. A good summary of responses is contained in the **Scottish Green Party** response “Top priority...given to those urban areas with high levels of social deprivation. Consideration should be given to compulsory purchase powers to buy peri-urban or brown-field land/...audit accessibility and work with public transport providers”

Angling was also mentioned as an opportunity that FCS should explore on its land.

Q5. Should Forestry Commission Scotland undertake a number of large-scale, long-term environmental projects (such as forest landscape restoration, or water catchment or wilderness projects) on the national forest estate? If so, how should priorities be set?

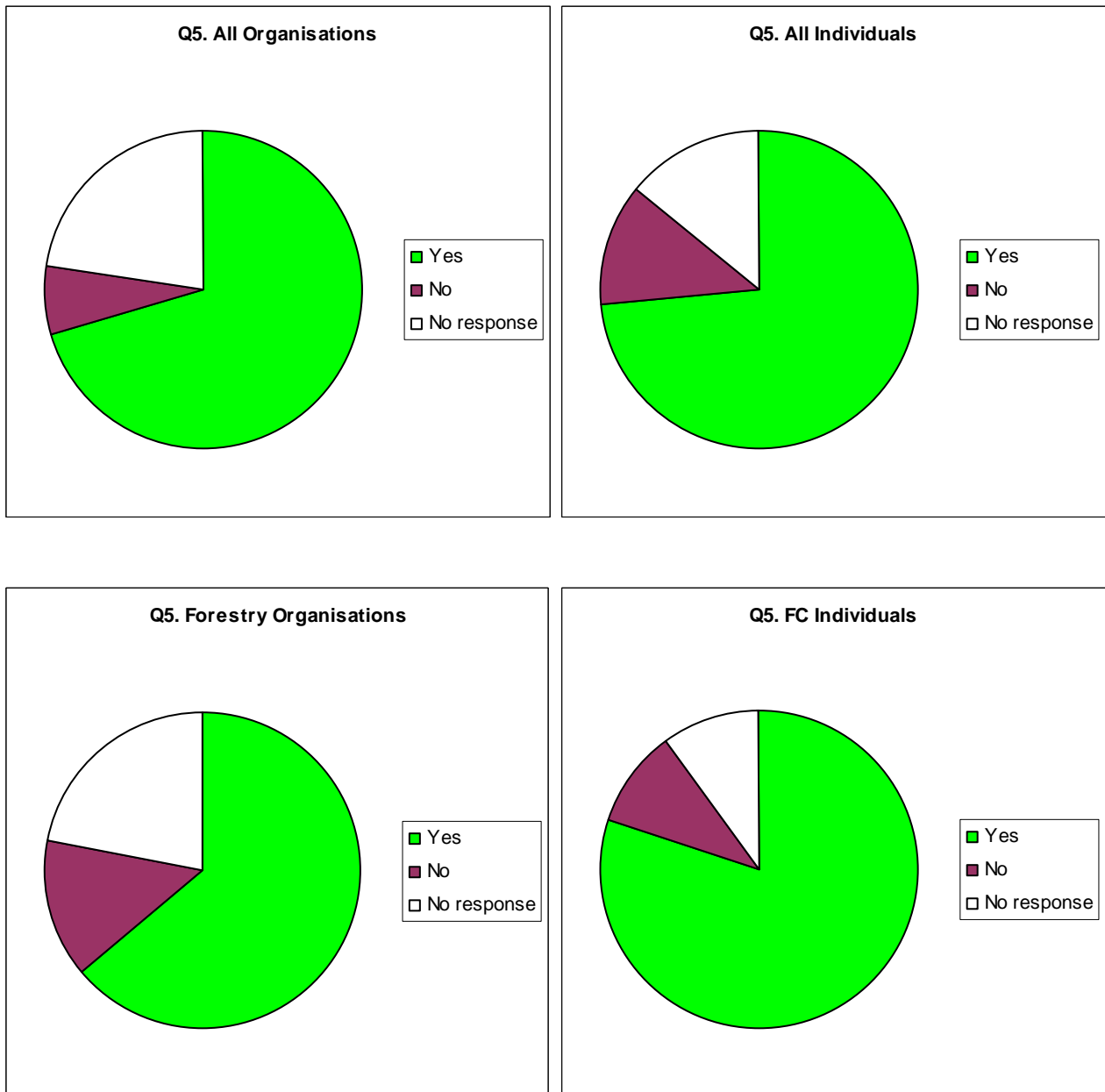


Table 7. Response to Q5 by organisational group (percentages rounded to nearest 0.1%)

Group	Yes (%)	No (%)	No response (%)
All Organisations	70.4	6.7	22.9
Community Council	77.1	2.9	20.0
Environmental	84.0	0.0	16.0
Forestry	64.0	14.0	22.0
Local Authorities	76.0	4.0	20.0
Recreational	66.7	4.8	28.6
Others	56.5	8.7	34.8

There was a strong positive response to the question with few against. The only organisational group with any significant “No” response was the Forestry Organisations. No environmental group responded “No” to the question and for most other groups there was only one or two negative responses.

Many respondents identified this as an area that FCS should tackle in partnership with other organisations and landowners. Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) was commonly mentioned as an obvious partner organisation. The large-scale nature of the proposals was very welcome, but many realised that this would require co-operation between FCS and others in order to deliver.

Organisations suggested that priorities should be set by addressing BAP’s and other “international commitments to Natura 2000 and the Water Framework Directive; National Parks and NSAs; habitat restoration, reintroductions or...catchment management. An extensive forest would also act as a more inspirational focus...” (**Scottish Natural Heritage**). Similar suggestions were received from **Scottish Environment Protection Agency**, “It will be necessary for SEPA, FCS and other partners to work together to ensure...River Basin Management Plan (RMBP) development. Priorities should be based on the need to comply with European Directives and international legislative instruments;...establish best practice demonstration sites.” More generally, increasing native woodland was the most popular suggestion with a view to creating native habitat up to the treeline. This was followed by water catchment projects.

Individuals tended not to mention existing mechanism or directives but were very strongly for increasing the area of native woodlands and creating a range of habitats again up to the treeline. The response from Individuals tended to be more ambitious than that from the organisations. A number suggested that such projects would allow for the re-introduction of mammal species such as lynx, boar and beavers and pointed to successful European projects in Switzerland and the Netherlands, “these species will contribute to FC objectives and be significant draws for the burgeoning Scottish wildlife tourism industry.” (**Individual, Aberdeenshire**).

Those who responded “No” were often concerned that this was an area outside FCS’s core functions and should be best left to SNH to deliver. A number mentioned the high cost of undertaking such ambitious projects and the likely drain it would have on management of the existing estate and hence the potential repercussions on timber supply. It is interesting to note that the greatest resistance to this question came from the forestry sector and those working in the sector. The following are typical responses of those who responded “No” to the question.

“Much more information is required regarding...cost implications and the impact on timber production before this question can be answered. ...we believe that...environmental improvements...are likely to come as current rotations end anyway.” (**Moray Estates Development Company**)

“High profile projects have limited impact...and drain resources from sound day to day forestry.” (**FC Individual**)

Q6. Should Forestry Commission Scotland become more ambitious in its environmental work on the national forest estate, including – in particular – delivery against Biodiversity Action Plans, improving the biodiversity of conifer forests and enhancing the contribution that national forests make to Scotland’s landscapes? If so, how should priorities be set?

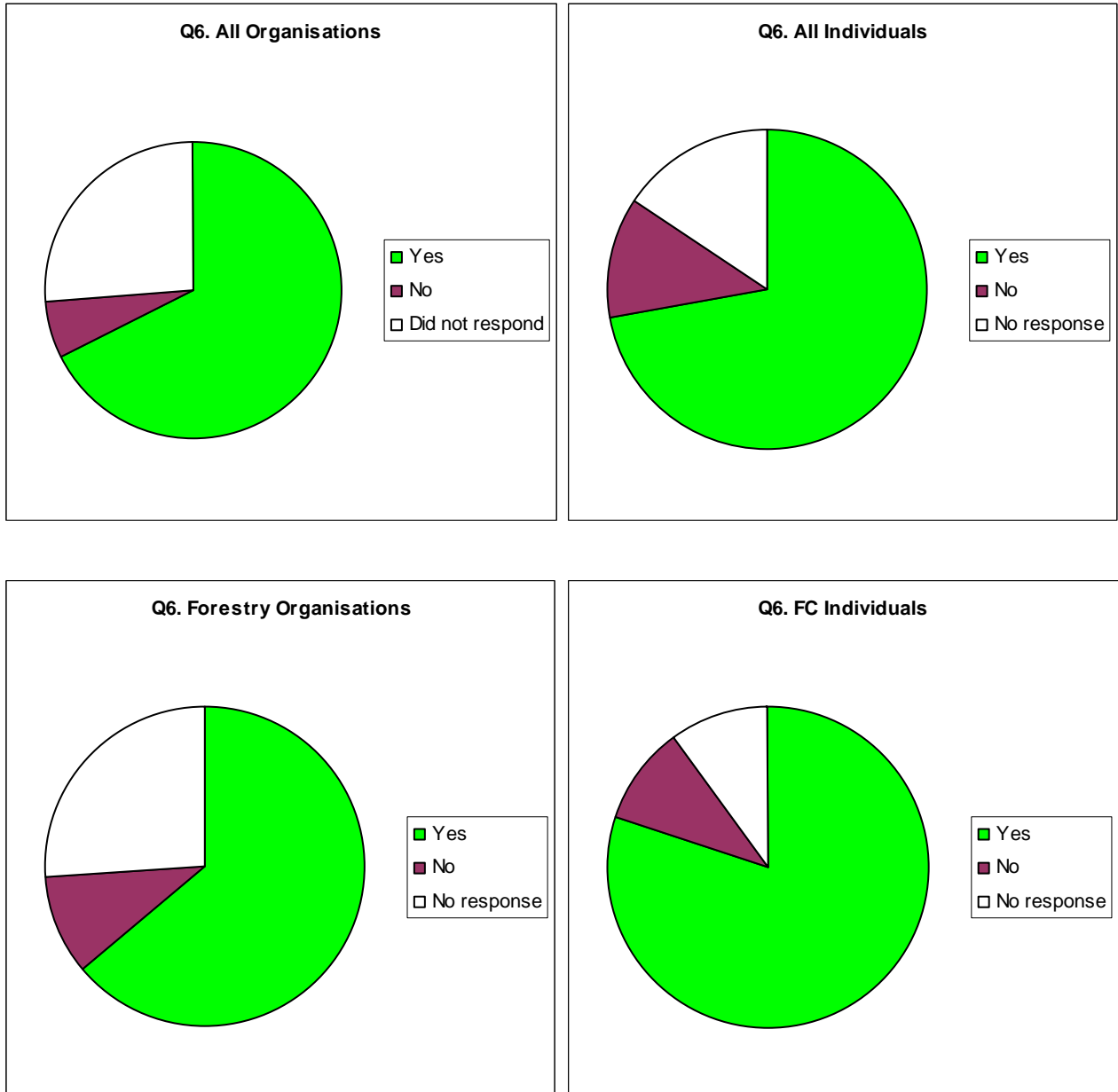


Table 8. Response to Q6 by organisational group (percentages rounded to nearest 0.1%)

Group	Yes (%)	No (%)	No response (%)
All Organisations	67.6	6.1	26.3
Community Council	77.1	2.9	20.0
Environmental	72.0	4.0	24.0
Forestry	64.0	10.0	26.0
Local Authorities	80.0	4.0	16.0
Recreational	61.9	9.5	28.6
Others	47.8	4.3	47.8

There was a great deal of similarity in response between the organisations and individuals in support of the question. The majority of organisations mentioned the need to deliver against BAP's, SAP's and HAP's, whereas individuals were more explicit in their call for more native woodland, continuous cover forestry and PAWS restoration. A number of respondents were surprised that the question was being asked at all and felt that the FCS should be necessarily delivering such environmental work. For example, "priorities should be to diversify...The lack of engagement in management of broadleaves by FCS is extraordinary – it is as if the Broadleaves Policy of 1985 had never happened. This is a major oversight in policy." (**Individual, Perthshire**). The only environmental organisation that replied "No" already felt that the ambition was already there and hence there was no need for "more" as stated in the question. This was a feature of a number of other "No" responses.

Working in partnership with other agencies was also mentioned by a number of respondents, plus the need for more specialised staff to deliver. For example, "To do this FCS need more staff resources and to develop partnerships with local/national organisations, and to access additional funding to deliver." (**East Ayrshire Woodlands**). The fact that this work would require more funding and specialist staff was picked up by a number of respondents who answered "No". They felt that a specialist agency would be better placed to deliver and that such work would detract from FCS's core business. A number suggested a more gradualist approach working over the timescale of a rotation. As one organisation observed "In theory very desirable...but emphasising this aspect could have serious implications for revenue from timber sales." (**Bailies of Bennachie**).

In general though, FCS were being asked to "develop exceptional woodlands which the nation could be proud of" (**Individual, Dumfries and Galloway**)

Q7. Should Forestry Commission Scotland do more to recognise and conserve the cultural heritage value of the national forest estate? If so how should priorities be set?

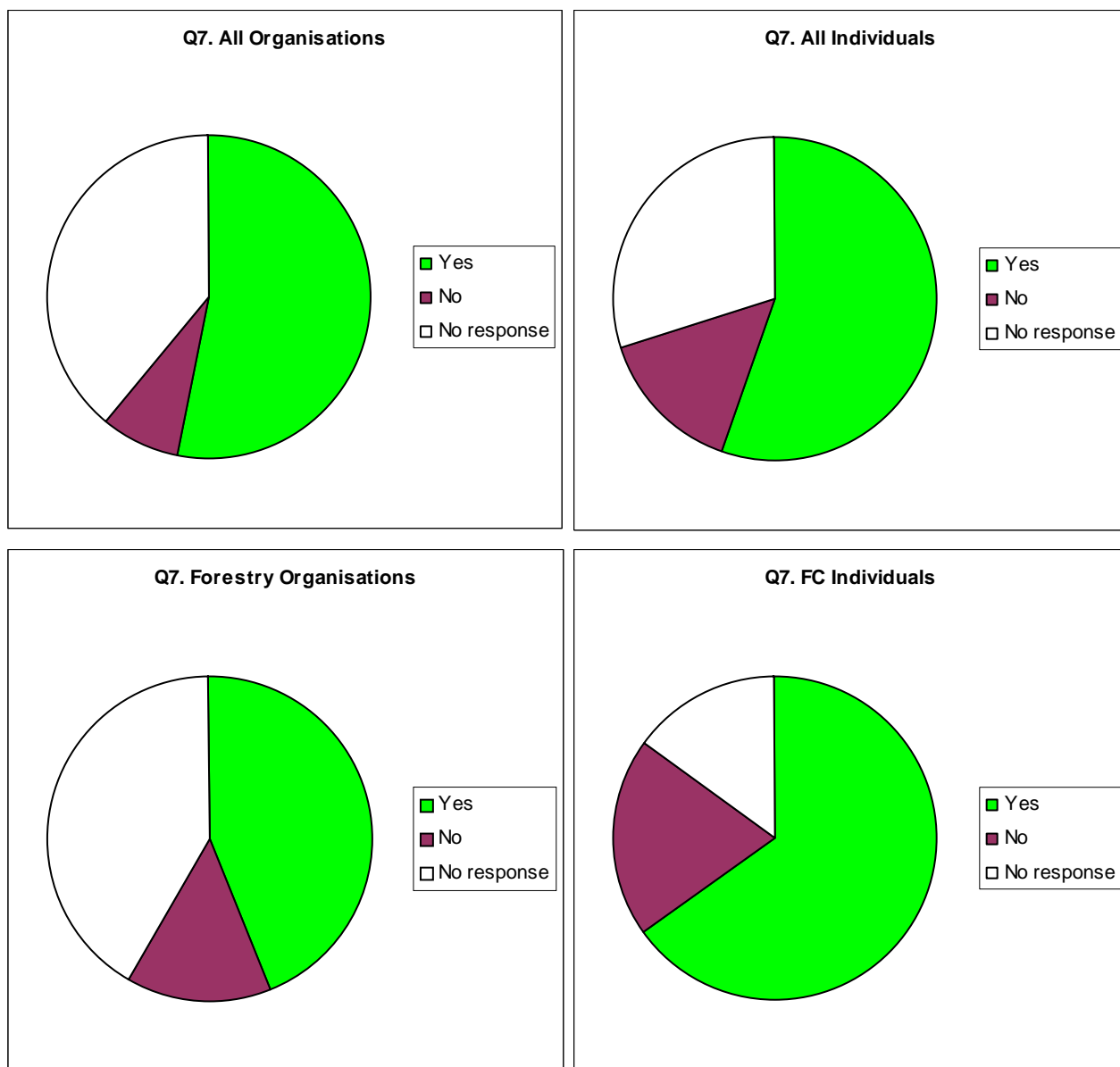


Table 9. Response to Q7 by organisational group (percentages rounded to nearest 0.1%)

Group	Yes (%)	No (%)	No response (%)
All Organisations	52.5	7.8	39.7
Community Council	74.3	5.7	20.0
Environmental	52.0	0.0	48.0
Forestry	44.0	14.0	42.0
Local Authorities	64.0	8.0	28.0
Recreational	28.6	9.5	61.9
Others	47.8	4.3	47.8

This was a question that a large number of organisations and individuals did not respond to. A number of individuals who did respond were unclear what “cultural heritage value” really meant in the context of forestry work and the response “depends on what you mean” was not uncommon. There was a great deal of breadth of interpretation by those who did answer it from “it would be good to arrange suitable planting around ancient monuments” (**Liberton Community Council**) to “the emphasis should be on living culture... Recognition should be given to the spiritual value of forests and their healing potential as sacred groves” (**Scottish Green Party**). **Historic Scotland** pointed out that the consultation document underplayed the cultural heritage “to an extent that could be misleading” and that “scheduled monuments are equivalent to SSSI’s in terms of their designation.”

The Local Authorities saw this as an ideal area for partnership with FCS and their own expertise in the area. They also identified cultural heritage sites as playing an important role in supporting and promoting tourism and every effort should be made to provide interpretation at important sites. This idea of increased interpretation and access was supported by **The Association of Regional and Island Archaeologists** and **Historic Scotland** who pointed to “the Loch Sunart oakwoods project (which) has recently demonstrated the wide-ranging potential in this area and the importance of the cultural heritage to local people”. **Loch Lomond and The Trossachs National Park Authority** similarly supported raising awareness of the cultural significance of forestry and suggested the “involvement of local amateur archaeological societies and local history groups should be encouraged to provide local information, ...research, ...and forge links between FCS and the local community.”

Working with local communities to identify important sites/areas was suggested by a large number of respondents. There was a general feeling that there was potentially a large untapped reserve of interest within many communities that FCS could use to take this area forward.

The majority of Forestry organisations who replied “No” commented that a gradual approach was better and that FCS should do more of the same rather than increasing its commitment to this area. This was also a view shared by the majority of Individuals who responded “No”. There was a suggestion that FCS already does a lot in this area, but that it is badly publicised and FCS’s achievements could be pushed into the public arena more forcefully.

A number of FC individuals thought that more attention should now be given to the FC’s own history in creating and managing the forests, for example, in the setting up of forest villages.

Q8. What emphasis should be given to the strategic role of national forests in the supply of timber to Scotland’s wood processing industries? What are the priorities?

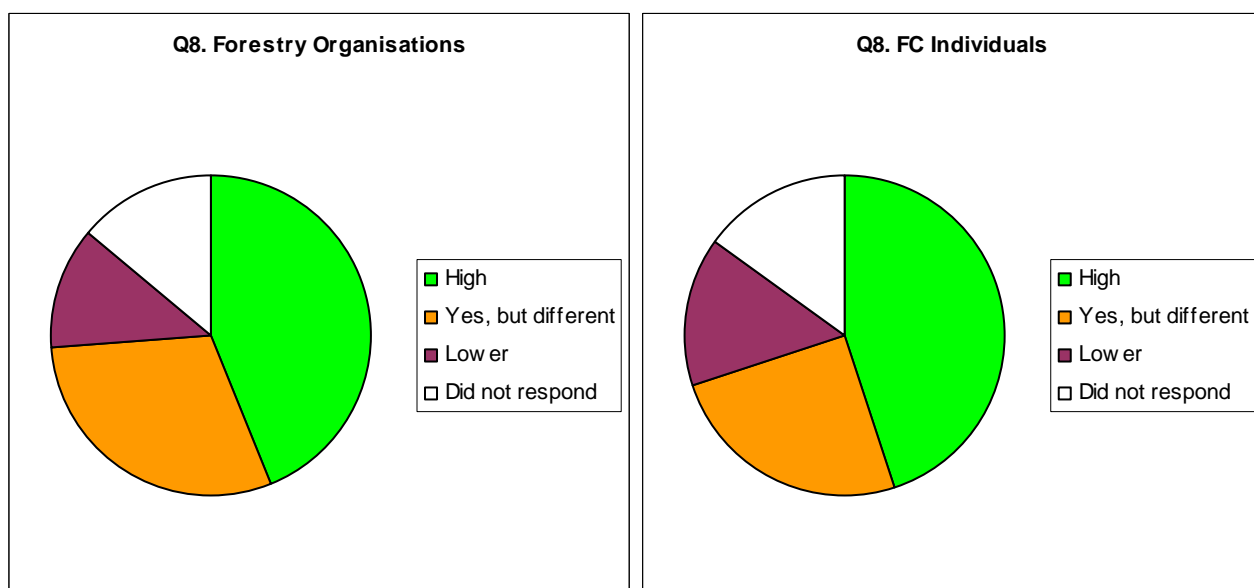
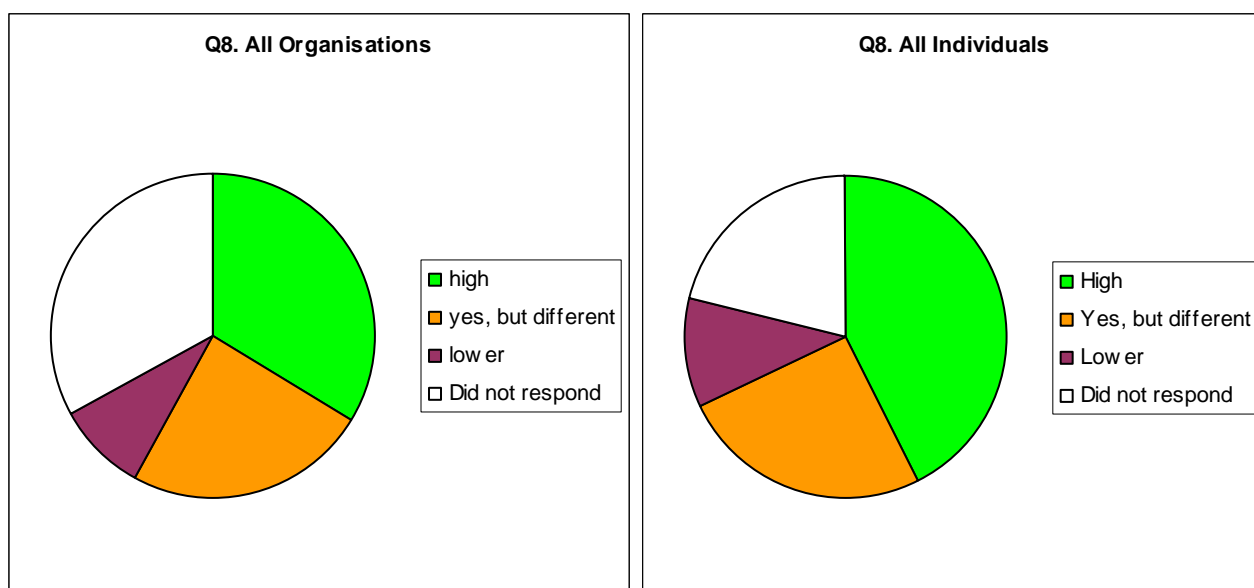


Table 10. Response to Q8 by organisational group (percentages rounded to nearest 0.1%)

Group	High (%)	Yes, but different (%)	Lower (%)	No response (%)
All Organisations	33.5	24.6	8.9	33.0
Community Council	37.1	25.7	11.4	25.7
Environmental	20.0	32.0	12.0	36.0
Forestry	44.0	30.0	12.0	14.0
Local Authorities	40.0	28.0	4.0	28.0
Recreational	19.0	9.5	4.8	66.7
Others	26.1	13.0	4.3	56.5

The responses to this question were categorised as “High”, implying that the production of timber should be a key objective for FCS and that the national forest should be managed as it is at present. “Yes, but different” agreed that timber production was a high priority but that the management or the species composition of the estate should be altered. “Lower” implied dropping timber production as a key objective of management for the FCS. It should be understood that some responses overlapped these categories so that in some cases there had to be a degree of interpretation of respondents’ answers.

One common feature of the majority of responses was the desire to see the national forests produce quality timber. This was a striking feature of most of those who replied “High” or “Yes, but different”, what tended to separate these two categories was a greater emphasis on hardwoods and alternative silvicultural systems amongst those who answered “Yes, but different”.

The downstream businesses were all keen to support the strategic role of timber production by FCS. “The strategic role that the forests play in providing timber for the wood processing industry is a vital one. This sector...makes a valuable contribution to Scotland's economy,... there must be economic sustainability” (**UK Forest Products Association**). Similarly **BSW** commented that the key future “areas for timber production should be continuity of supply, improved quality, delivering customer needs, reduced costs.” The idea that timber production was key to maintain economic sustainability was also a common response amongst those who responded “High” and some suggested that more should be done. For example, “more emphasis is needed. For the size of its “commercial” timber resource the FC’s financial performance appears to be an embarrassment...it needs to work closely and openly with the private sector...if timber production and processing in Scotland is to achieve its potential.” (**Individual, Highlands**).

In contrast to this “High” response were those from some of the private forestry sector who advocated a “Lower” role for FCS in timber production. They argued that FCS should allow the private sector to play a bigger role in the market and stop its role as a “monopoly supplier”. Suggestions included “...explore whether the private sector could manage parts of the FC estate more efficiently, maintain an increased programme of sales, manage the estate on the same basis of economic support as the private sector and consider options such as selling timber concessions complete with management and restocking” (**Forestry and Timber Association**). The idea of FCS selling the estate to the private sector was also mentioned as being worthy of “serious consideration” (**GKD Galbraith**) or even an opportunity for “the Scottish Executive...(to) realise FC Scotland’s investments in core forest holdings of productive conifers. This will reduce annual losses.” (**Forestry Investment Management**).

The other side of the “Lower” response was from respondents unhappy with large-scale commercial conifer plantations. They advocated a different view of the role of forestry towards one in which “timber is a by-product of delivering public benefits with public money. The dominant production of low-intensity – but not low environmental *impact* – silviculture minimises forest employment, local benefit and delivery of social and environmental goods.” (**Scottish Environment LINK Woodlands Task Force**).

Representative of the “Yes, but different” responses are:

“...we see the FCS playing a primary role in developing the supply of **quality** timber, guaranteed supplies (from the private sector) (sic) and new markets.” (**Woodland Trust Scotland**) and;

“...priorities for future development are: developing hardwood resources and markets; promoting small-scale wood businesses; woodfuel and supporting innovative markets”
(**Scottish Natural Heritage**).

Q9. Should sustaining and developing local economies be a key objective for the management of national forests? If so, how should this be done?

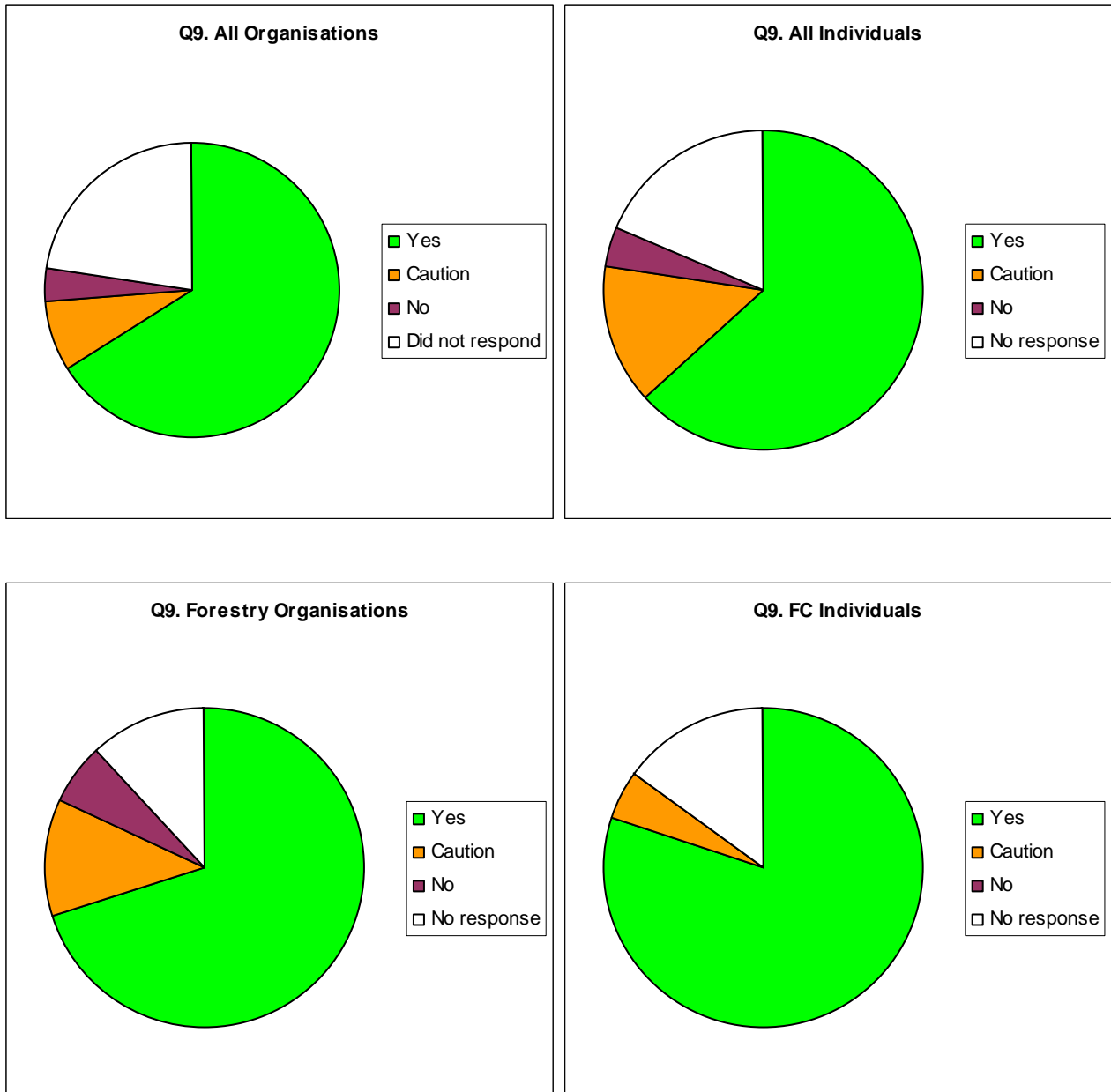


Table 11. Response to Q9 by organisational group (percentages rounded to nearest 0.1%)

Group	Yes (%)	Caution (%)	No (%)	No response (%)
All Organisations	65.9	7.8	3.4	22.9
Community Council	65.7	14.3	2.9	17.1
Environmental	60.0	4.0	4.0	32.0
Forestry	70.0	12.0	6.0	12.0
Local Authorities	76.0	4.0	4.0	16.0
Recreational	61.9	0.0	0.0	38.1
Others	60.9	0.0	0.0	39.1

There was broad support for this question from all sectors and a similar mix of responses can be seen for Organisations and Individuals as well as the different organisational groups.

There was an equal mix of respondents suggesting that local economies could be supported via direct benefits from forestry, i.e. local processing or small scale sales to support local businesses, and indirect benefits such as tourism and recreation businesses that might arise due to the presence of the forest.

A typical “Yes” response was “(it is) a key objective of the management...the primary aim should be...development of local industries and markets, local companies, recreational opportunities “green tourism” and other business opportunities...Training and guidance will be required and FCS should be a key facilitator” (**Loch Lomond and Trossachs National Park Authority**). Other respondents concentrated on the direct benefits and suggested that “contracts should be broken down to smaller sizes compatible with small local businesses. Higher quality timber will be a useful raw material for local processing” (**Reforestation Scotland**). Another common direct benefit mentioned was the provision of support for woodfuel.

Others stressed the value of the indirect benefits of forestry, of which biodiversity played a major part. For example, “well managed woodlands for biodiversity can generate economic opportunities...RSPB reserves generate employment of 7.1 full-time jobs per hectare” (**Royal Society for the Protection of Birds**). The lack of opportunities in commercial conifer forests was commented on by an Individual from Galloway, “compare Galloway to Cumbria it can be seen how commercial forestry has possibly even been a hindrance to economic growth in this region”.

A number of respondents who urged caution were concerned that the FCS was about to embark on becoming a welfare/social service agency concerned with job creation. There was also concern that this initiative would give rise to unsustainable subsidies to rural businesses which could potentially stifle private initiatives and would ultimately waste taxpayers money. The **Forestry and Timber Association** suggested that FCS should be a catalyst rather than a direct provider and should be sure to analyse whether private sector provision would not provide better value for money delivery.

Some other responses typical of the “Caution” response are:

“Maintenance of rural economies by state subsidy is not truly sustainable. If...deemed worthwhile, it should be equally available to the private sector” (**GKD Galbraith**);

“Yes, but not as a social service without special funding” (**Individual, East Lothian**);

“...the national forest is a business not welfare/social service agency” (**Individual, Morayshire**) and;

“FC must not be put in a position where it is seen by local economies as an unofficial source of taxpayers money.” (**Individual, Inverness-shire**).

Q10 (a). Should there be a more dynamic approach to the size and distribution of the national forest estate?

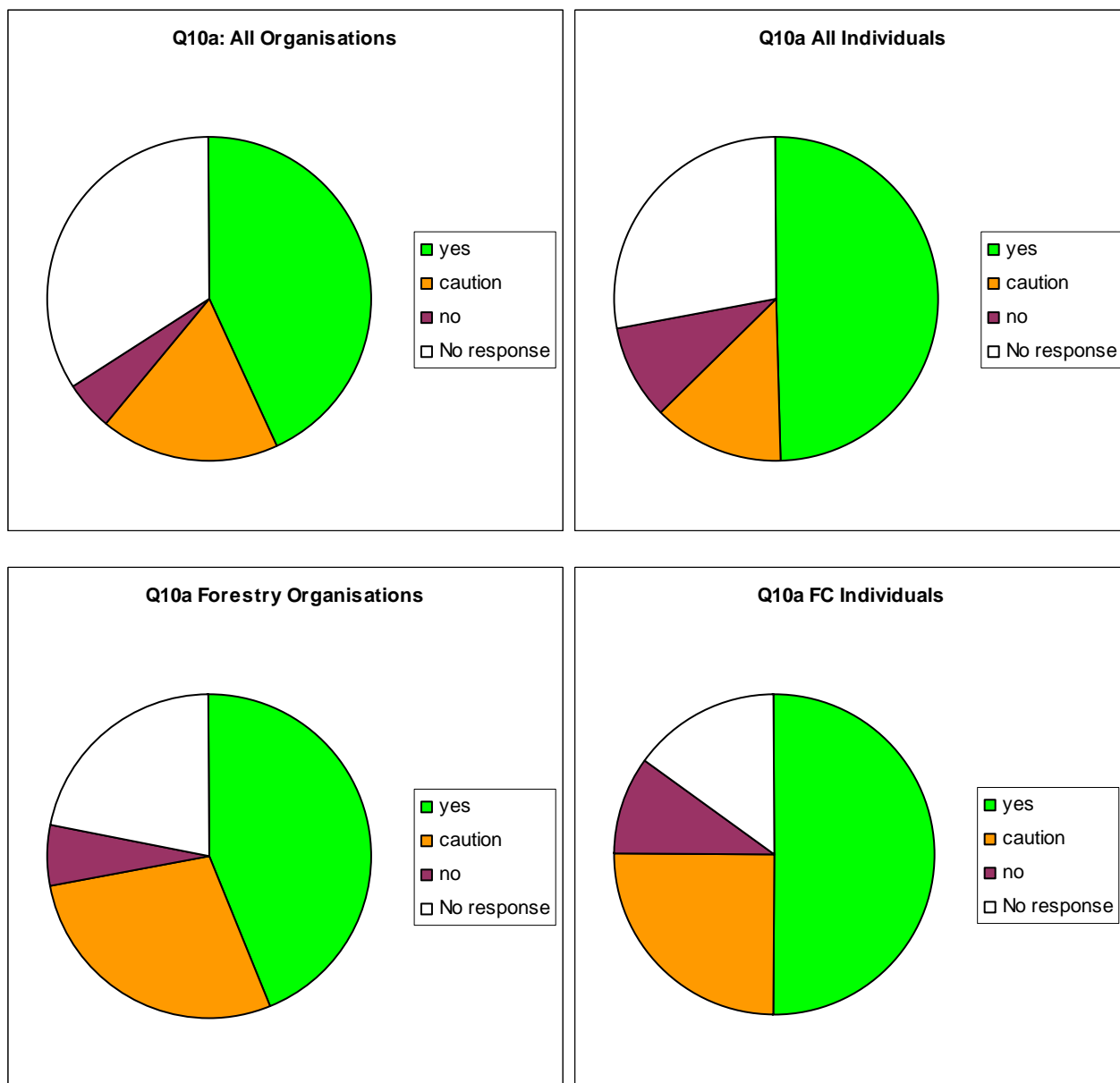


Table 12. Response to Q10a by organisational group (percentages rounded to nearest 0.1%)

Group	Yes (%)	Caution (%)	No (%)	No response (%)
All Organisations	43.0	17.9	5.0	34.1
Community Council	45.7	11.4	5.7	37.1
Environmental	48.0	8.0	4.0	40.0
Forestry	44.0	28.0	6.0	22.0
Local Authorities	56.0	24.0	4.0	16.0
Recreational	28.6	9.5	0.0	61.9
Others	30.4	17.4	8.7	43.5

The level of response was lower in this question compared to others and some respondents struggled with what a “dynamic approach” might mean. Amongst individuals who answered the question, however, the overwhelming consensus was that the forest estate should be expanded and that acquisitions should not be funded by sales. Organisations tended to consider that a more dynamic approach was needed if it would help to develop a more sustainable forest estate and the desire to see the national forest expand was not so clearly stated. There was a concern to see an increase in forest cover near urban areas.

One response in support of a more dynamic approach pointed out that “we must get away from the notion that the current estate is perfect. It owes its existence to a quirky, uncoordinated collection of government policies over 80 years.” (**Individual, Falkirk**). Another suggested that the expansion should be carried out so that Scotland should reach the average EU level of 30% forest cover (**University of Aberdeen**).

Those who responded “No” tended to think that either a more gradual approach would be sensible or that management should better focus on the current estate rather than taking on larger areas. Those considering the possibilities of selling the land commented that “it is doubtful if the sale of unproductive FC land at any scale would result in appreciable local social/economic benefits” (**East Ayrshire Council**). Another considered that the question “suggests short term thinking and lack of commitment to long term strategic objectives” (**The Association of Regional and Island Archaeologists**).

**Q10(b). In what circumstances should land be added to the national forest estate?
What criteria might be applied?**

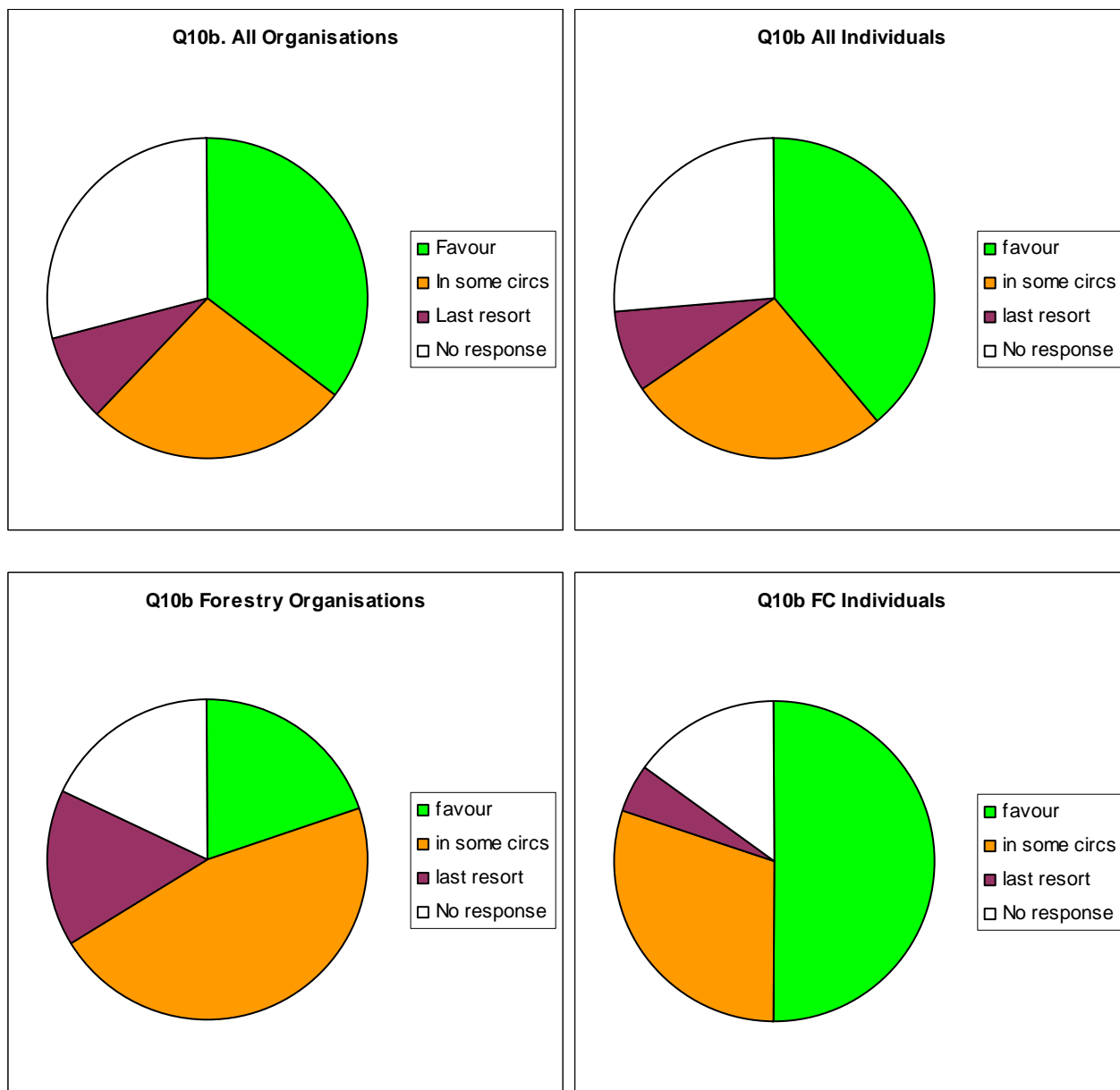


Table 13. Response to Q10b by organisational group (percentages rounded to nearest 0.1%)

Group	Favour (%)	In some circumstances (%)	Last resort (%)	No response (%)
All Organisations	35.2	26.8	8.9	29.1
Community Council	54.3	17.1	5.7	22.9
Environmental	44.0	16.0	4.0	36.0
Forestry	20.0	46.0	16.0	18.0
Local Authorities	48.0	32.0	4.0	16.0
Recreational	23.8	14.3	4.8	57.1
Others	26.1	17.4	13.0	43.5

The responses to this question were broken down into three categories. Those in “Favour”, expressed support for the question with few if any conditions, those who were in favour but tended to put conditions on the purchasing of land were classed as “In some circumstances” and those who felt that purchasing land was something that FCS should only rarely, if ever do, were classed as “Last resort”.

A common theme of both the organisational and individual responses was that adding land to the forest estate should demonstrate clear public benefits. This would include social and recreational benefits, such as buying land near urban areas or brownfield sites, environmental benefits, such as defragmenting landscapes and expanding native woodlands, and economic benefits, such as buying to enhance economies of scale, or land that will support a high quality timber crop. Potentially more controversial is the suggestion by some that FCS should buy where the private sector has failed to deliver such benefits. A number of respondents suggested that any purchases should be looked at on a national level so as not to favour one region over another.

Those who responded “Last Resort” tended to question the economic case for buying more land and suggested that FCS should concentrate on the land it already manages and reduce the losses incurred before buying more. It was suggested that increased public benefits could be best obtained using grants to the private sector rather than buying.

Q10(c). In what circumstances should national forest estate land be sold? What criteria might be applied?

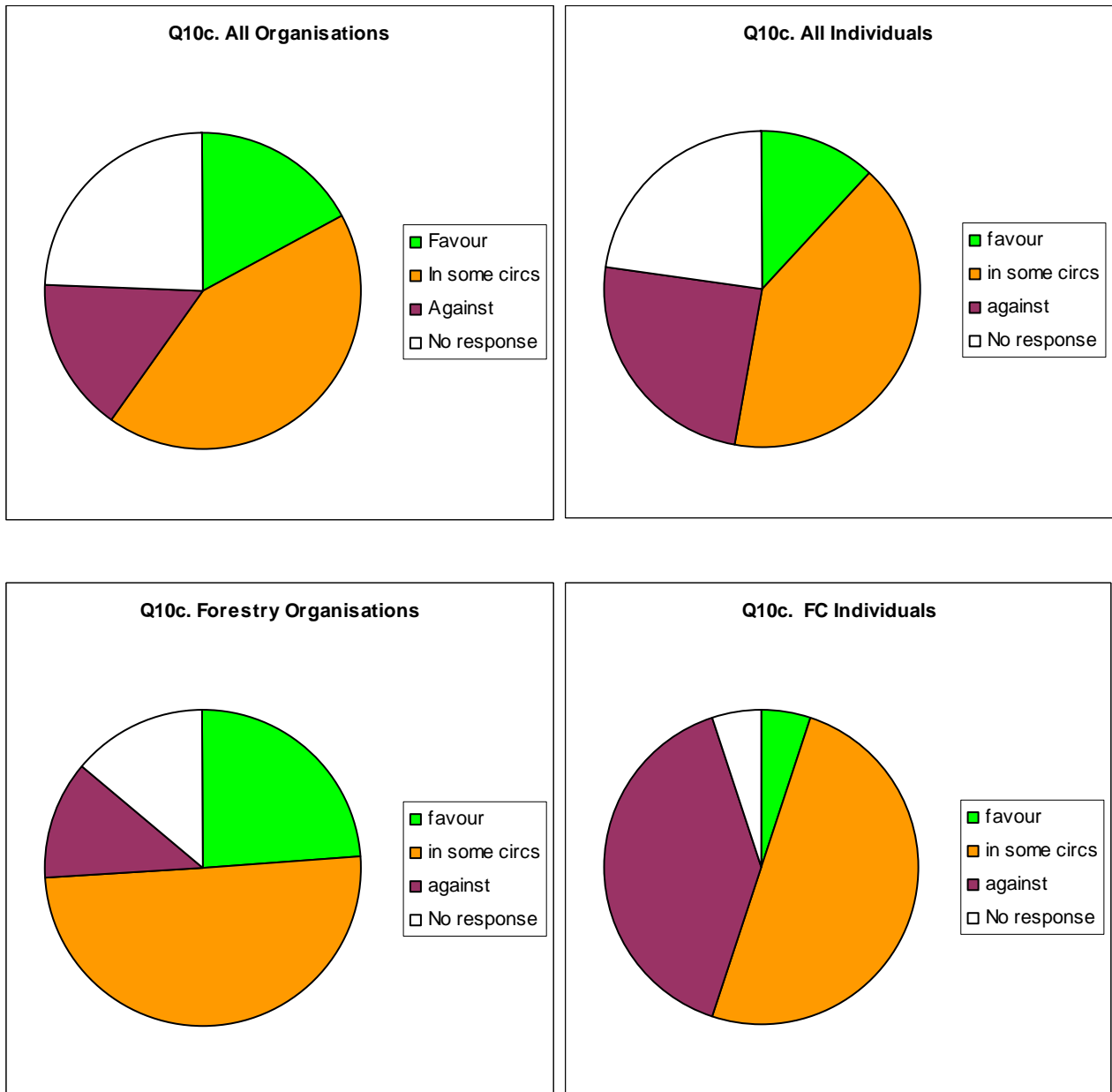


Table 14. Response to Q10c by organisational group (percentages rounded to nearest 0.1%)

Group	Favour (%)	In some circumstances (%)	Against (%)	No response (%)
All Organisations	17.3	42.5	15.6	24.6
Community Council	20.0	40.0	22.9	17.1
Environmental	16.0	32.0	12.0	40.0
Forestry	24.0	50.0	12.0	14.0
Local Authorities	12.0	68.0	8.0	12.0
Recreational	0.0	28.6	19.0	52.4
Others	21.7	26.1	21.7	30.4

The responses to this question were broken down into three categories. Those in “Favour”, expressed support for the question with few if any conditions, those who were in favour but tended to put conditions on the selling of land were classed as “In some circumstances”. Since opinion against selling land tended to be stronger than that against buying the “Last resort” category has been changed to “Against” to reflect this generally stronger feeling.

Again the case for any sale, like any purchase, would need to demonstrate clear public benefits, and many of the conditions mentioned in Q10b apply here. However, the general tenor of respondents was against any widespread selling of land. Many organisations and individuals felt that any sale would require some conditions or restrictions. Commonly sales to local communities, or with local community agreement, were supported. Similarly sales to other government bodies such as Local Authorities or agencies such as Scottish Natural Heritage were also permitted. However, a number of respondents pointed out that public money should not be used to buy public land.

Individuals appeared to be happier to sell small uneconomic blocks so long as there were guarantees of access. Small plots for affordable housing was also mentioned by a number of individuals. In general the individual respondents were much more strongly against any sales than the Organisations.

One group who bucked the general trend comprised a few private sector forestry organisations that were keen to encourage the sale of FCS land. Some favoured selling as much as possible into the private sector where they believe that more profitable management can be undertaken.

Q11. In what circumstances should there be a radical re appraisal of management options in national forests, for example in relation to wood production objectives?

It was not possible to analyse this question on a straightforward yes/no basis and hence a qualitative rather than quantitative analysis was undertaken. The level of response to this question was 60.9% by organisations and 65.2% by individuals.

A common response to this question was that any approach would need to be undertaken on a case by case basis depending on local circumstances. One respondent suggested that the type of review of forestry undertaken for Arran was needed across the forest estate. Another suggested that such a review would need to include the private forestry sector as well and take into account the cost of running the national forest versus the benefits that it delivered, plus the commitment that FCS has to supply the downstream industry.

Minimal intervention was by far the least popular of the four alternatives suggested in the Consultation Document, followed by deferring harvesting. Responses such as:

“the notion of deferring harvests is unacceptable...minimal intervention is at odds with the principles of woodland management.” (**Individual, Aberdeenshire**), and;

“Such difficulties as described should not be allowed to become generalised ‘opt out’.” (**North of Scotland Research Advisory Committee**), are typical.

Instead one respondent suggested that “converting first generation spruce plantation to native woodlands...could be more efficient...than creating new native woodlands from scratch” (**FC, Individual**)

Many respondents considered that if a forest or wood was uneconomic then other options of management should be considered. A number implied or suggested that the national forest should be split into zones based on the primary objective of management suitable for the area. For example, “future timber production should be concentrated on sites capable of production of high quality softwood and hardwood sawlogs. This will require...intensive silvicultural methods. ...options for unsuitable areas...include conversion to native broadleaves,...allowing natural processes,...restoration to natural non-forest habitat.” (**Community Woodlands Association**). Similarly, “consolidate timber production on an economic core. The remaining ...converted to native type woodland or to other habitat types... We should not leave behind wastelands...but ask for the resources to restore habitats” (**FC Individual**).

A significant number suggested that since the national forest was non-economic at present then radical changes across the estate should be considered. For example, basing “investment, social and environmental objectives...on the highest possible log value per cubic metre/tonne, not as it currently is on the highest possible volume per hectare.” (**Individual, Inverness-shire**). The most common suggestion was the move to broadleaved and native species for timber production and the adoption of continuous cover silvicultural systems. This would then allow for the provision of higher levels of other environmental and recreational benefits. The **Forestry and People Advisory Panel** highlighted the fact that the silviculturally lead approach of species-site matching, frequent thinning and continuous cover systems where possible, practised in Europe produced forests which are held up as examples of best practice sustainable forestry. Others took this a step further and suggested that FCS “should produce timber as a by-product of sustainable forestry not as a primary objective.” (**Woodland Trust Scotland**) since the economic value of biodiversity and tourism was greater than that of timber.

This view was countered by other Forestry Organisations who pointed to the fact that some revenue was required to provide other non-timber benefits and hence wood production should be considered the key building block of Scotland's forest industries. Any reduction of productive capacity due to zonation of management would result in "an inability to attract downstream investment, further loss of confidence within the sector, and ultimately...fewer resources available to non-timber producing activities." (**Scottish Forest Industries Cluster**). Another respondent pointed out that the "productive forests...are a national asset, as is the employment they provide." (**Individual, Argyll**).

Another group of respondents, mainly individuals, rejected the need for radical changes in management on the grounds that evolutionary change was more sustainable. They pointed out the dangers of adopting a short-term attitude, potentially politically driven, in a long-term activity such as forestry.

Other respondents suggested that instead of considering changing management there should be a change of ownership and non-economic land should be considered "surplus" and sold on the open market. One respondent suggested an alternative method of changing ownership by transferring land to another public body, based on the main objective for the woodland, for example "if a woodland around a town has no environment or commercial element, should it not be a Local Authority lead? ...should there not be willingness to transfer ownership between public bodies where appropriate?" (**South Scotland Regional Advisory Committee**).

Q12 (a). Do you have any views on the creation of a challenge fund for special projects aimed at significantly increasing public benefits from the national forest estate?

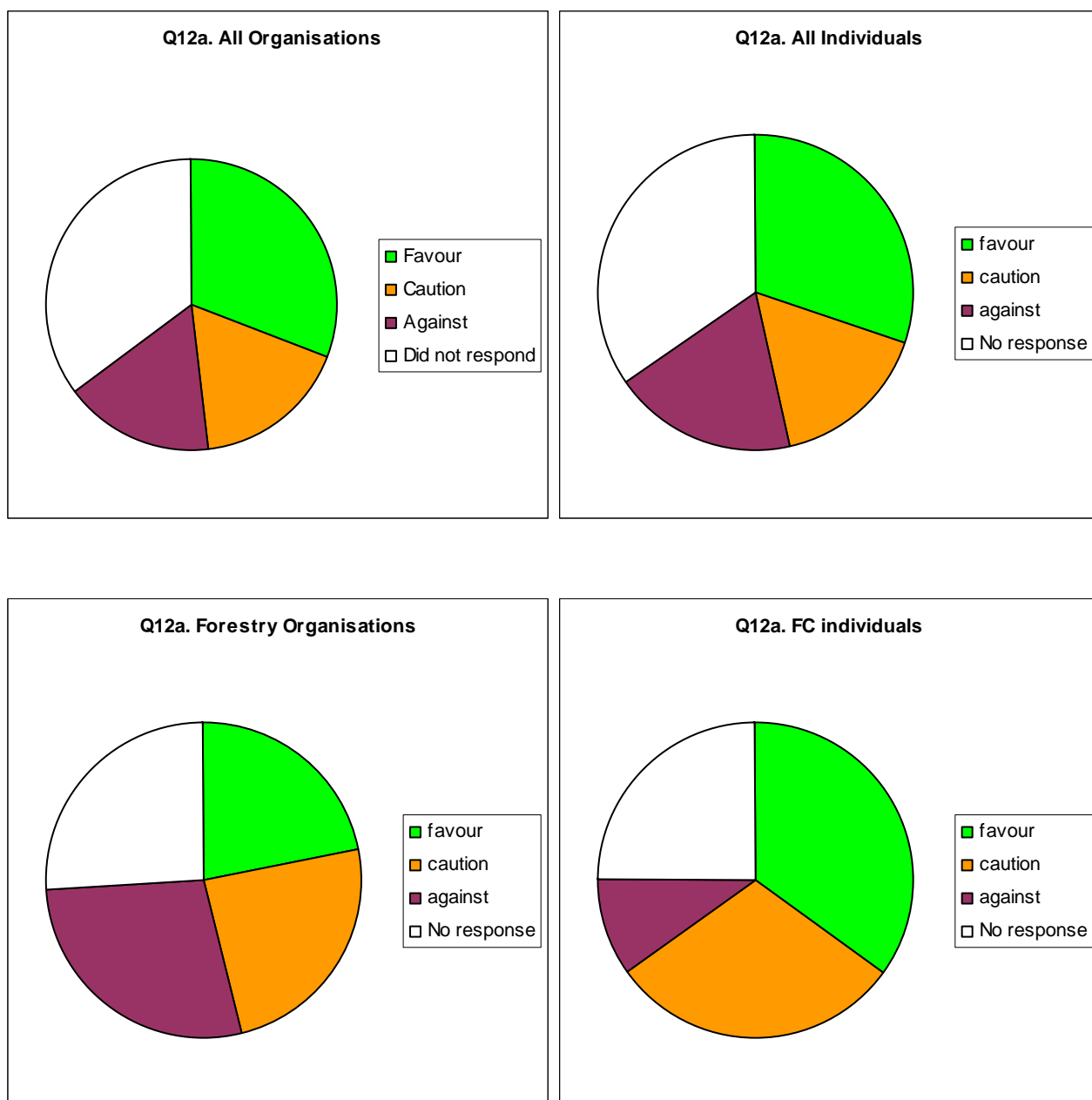


Table 15. Response to Q12a by organisational group (percentages rounded to nearest 0.1%)

Group	Favour (%)	Caution (%)	Against (%)	No response (%)
All Organisations	30.7	17.3	16.8	35.2
Community Council	51.4	5.7	14.3	28.6
Environmental	12.0	16.0	20.0	52.0
Forestry	22.0	24.0	28.0	26.0
Local Authorities	44.0	32.0	12.0	12.0
Recreational	14.3	9.5	9.5	66.7
Others	39.1	13.0	4.3	43.5

A number of respondents found this question difficult to answer, not being familiar with challenge funding, whereas others missed the fact that the funding proposed in the question would be directed towards FCS projects. Most respondents who have come across challenge funds understood them as part of the grant system directed towards the private sector. Hence some of the detail in the responses was actually answering a slightly different question from the one proposed. Interestingly, the Forestry Organisations, who would be expected to have the most experience of challenge funding, were the most negative group.

The general tenor of the response is very similar between Individuals and Organisations, although many individuals suggested that the funding should assist local communities. The most common note of caution or warning against challenge funds was that it is potentially a waste of time and effort for those who are unsuccessful and hence potentially not cost effective. As one respondent noted “challenge funds are not an efficient means of increasing public benefit...Putting projects into a time limited competition with only a few being chosen could result in worthwhile projects being missed.” (**Individual, Argyll**). Similarly, another noted that “if policy direction is to deliver increased public benefits then it seems inappropriate to pit one district against another...Additional resources should be released” (**Individual, East Ayrshire**). Moreover, a number of respondents suggested that the use of challenge funds implied that the work being carried out is in some way unusual and does not demonstrate a commitment to those areas targeted. It also highlighted a significant problem in funding. Instead, projects, such as biodiversity projects “require a strategic corporate commitment backed up by a funded action plan, rather than competitive funding of *ad-hoc* projects.” (**Royal Society for the Protection of Birds**). This view was supported by **Highlands and Islands Enterprise** who stated that “the implication of this question is that maximising public benefits from state forests is not “standard practice” for FCS”.

Those who were in favour saw them as a method of encouraging new ideas and energy to tackle different problems. As one respondent noted “The Grampian Challenge Fund was a successful venture...The competition element of the fund was key to ensuring high quality schemes.” (**Aberdeenshire Council**). However, many in favour suggested that the fund should have its own independent source of funding and not be taken from core funding.

Some respondents noted that any fund should have some form of area allocation element to ensure that there was a spread of funding and to avoid a small number of high profile projects in a few areas winning all the cash.

Q12 (b). Should this be funded in part by any ring-fenced income derived from the sale of national forest estate assets?

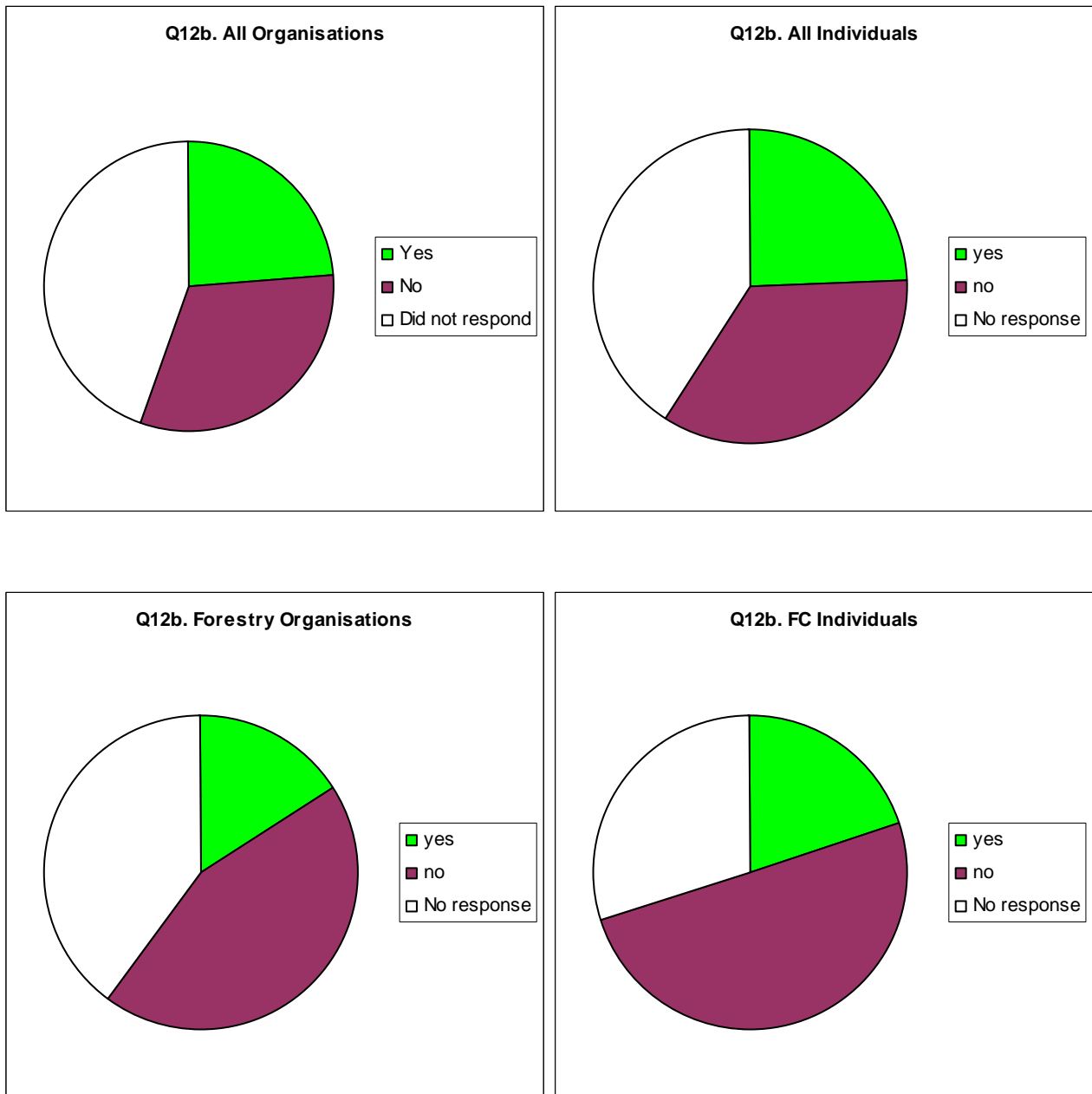


Table 16. Response to Q12b by organisational group (percentages rounded to nearest 0.1%)

Group	Yes (%)	No (%)	No response (%)
All Organisations	24.0	31.3	44.7
Community Council	25.7	42.9	31.4
Environmental	20.0	32.0	48.0
Forestry	16.0	44.0	40.0
Local Authorities	52.0	20.0	28.0
Recreational	4.8	14.3	81.0
Others	30.4	13.0	56.5

There was a relatively low response rate to this question since not everybody who replied to Q12a replied to Q12b. However there was a very similar majority “No” response from both the Organisations and Individuals. This question was generally interpreted as asking whether the challenge funds mentioned in Q12a should be funded, wholly or in part, by selling land. The Individual response to this tended to be a much firmer “no, do not sell”, response than that from Organisations.

Other common themes that arose were that this might create an incentive to sell more land and could be used as a method of asset stripping the estate, since without sales there would be no money to fund projects. A number of respondents also saw this as a potential method of moving funds to the Central Belt by selling in rural areas and questioned the popularity of such a policy. The policy of ring fencing funds could also restrict flexibility and might not be the most efficient way of allocating resources between priorities.

Those that supported ring fencing supported the idea that any money derived from the forest estate should be reinvested within the forest. There were suggestions that any ring fencing should work at a regional level to ensure that funding was not draining out of an area. Many also suggested that the ring-fenced funds should represent a small proportion of the funding available and that additional funding should be made available by the Scottish Executive.

Some typical responses are given below:

“...it should not create undue incentives to sell off the forest estate inappropriately.”
(**Argyll and Bute Council**)

“...this could be a driver for asset stripping the estate. Funding should come from the Scottish executive” (**Scottish Council for Voluntary Organisations**)

“Government has to recognise that it is getting an awful lot from very little...if it wants more it needs to increase central funding.” (**Individual, East Ayrshire**)

“...could result in an inefficient allocation of resources between priorities and should be approached with caution” (**Scottish Environment Protection Agency**)

“Sale of forest land in fragile rural areas to support higher populated areas would be unacceptable” (**Argyll and Bute Local Biodiversity Partnership**)

“...would be very unpopular if rural forest were sold off and money used to fund amenity woods in the Central Belt.” (**FC Individual**)

“...it is understood that the Treasury have first claim on the proceeds from sales of assets and therefore it is difficult to understand how ring fencing would apply.” (**Callendar Estate**)

Q13. How should Forestry Commission Scotland take forward its approaches to working in partnership in order further to develop the national forest estate?

The level of response for this question was 64.8% from Organisations and 59.8% from Individuals. Since this question is not amenable to a yes/no type analysis a qualitative rather than quantitative approach was used.

There was very strong support for the idea of partnerships amongst the respondents. Indeed one respondent suggested that “FCS should aim to secure say 10% of its working capital from private sources” (**FC Individual**). Some individuals sounded a note of caution, however, and warned that the partner organisation could attempt to hijack the forest for unsuitable uses, but there were extremely few negative responses.

Since the concept of partnerships was so widely accepted many commented that constraints to such working should be reduced. The most common constraint mentioned was the legal framework within which FCS operates and there was a feeling that FCS “should be able to enter into normal business partnerships for non-forestry activities” (**Individual, Aberdeenshire**). **RICS** suggested that “a thorough review and revision of the constraints on joint ventures should be undertaken. The FC should embrace the private sector as partners.”

Many respondents suggested partnerships with organisations such as Local Authorities, the Scottish Executive, RSPB or SNH. Local communities were the other group most commonly mentioned as being important for partnerships. However, some suggested that FCS should seek to form partnerships on a European level, with, for example, other European forest services. Local Authorities, as a group, were very supportive of partnership working, suggesting, for example “Regional Forums...could be the key body in preparing and pushing forward local forestry strategies.” (**Moray Council**) and that partnership was “a key area ...in relation to Land Reform...Core Path Planning, Local Access Forums, access steering groups...” (**Argyll and Bute Council**).

The Scottish Forest Industries Cluster was cited as a good example of partnership working by a number of respondents and a potential model to use in the future. Other commonly mentioned methods of developing partnerships were Forest Environment Panels, and setting up charitable trusts with partners.

Another area, mentioned as key to successful partnership working, was the role of FCS staff. Respondents felt that training staff and allowing them to initiate partnerships was important. For example, one respondent felt that partnerships would require greater dialogue with other agencies and “more recruitment of fresh blood...who bring new ideas and real world experience” (**Individual, Argyll**). Another felt that it was important “not to allow staff to become too compartmentalised – keep their head multi-objective focussed and open to ideas from partners.” (**Anagach Woods**). One suggestion to encouraging this was to “capacity build staff...through secondments. Recognise as key FC function with strong career development.” (**FC Highland Conservancy**). Another suggestion was to appoint facilitators in each District (**Individual, Isle of Skye**).

There was also strong support for FCS’s current work in this area and a number of respondents suggested that a review of current practise would identify the successes and allow more partnerships to be taken forward successfully.

An alternative view of partnership working was put forward by **I.M Forestry** who suggested that FCS “allow private individuals and industry to manage its forests”.

Q14. How should the national forest estate be used to take forward wider Executive priorities, for example in relation to renewable energy, rural housing, health and tourism?

The level of response for this question was 74.3% of Organisations and 71.4% of Individuals. Since this question is not amenable to a yes/no type analysis a qualitative rather than quantitative approach was used.

There was board support for the idea of using the forest to meet other Executive priorities, but many respondents tended to reiterate the list of priorities in various forms rather than tackle the “how” side of the question. As one respondent noted, “This is a HUGE subject. ...Why should the FC expect individuals to come up with solutions which should be predicated on prior research and enquiry.” (**Individual, Inverness-shire**). Of the items listed the most commonly accepted and least contentious area for FCS to take forward was woodfuel, followed by tourism and health issues.

Wind power was the most contentious area mentioned and responses against wind power were more strongly stated than any support given, in fact the over all tone of the responses was against windpower. The strength of feeling can be seen, for example, from responses such as, “certainly not with industrial development (i.e. winds turbines) on rural hilltops. Whatever happened to your policy that trees should not break the skyline? What of turbines?” (**Avich and Kilchrenan Community Council**) and “some large areas...are being felled to waste ...for windfarms. Is this sustainable forest management? Are trees being planted elsewhere in lieu? Are the same rules being applied to public and private sectors?” (**Forestry and Timber Association**).

Housing was another area that promoted a range of responses with many respondents supporting affordable, social or eco-housing. There was also a call to investigate the concept of forest crofts within the national forest by, for example, the **Highland Council**. However, others felt that there was a danger of creating more holiday homes in the forest and also pointed out that since the forest was a relatively small percent of the land use in Scotland that it would be better to avoid losing any to housing.

A number of respondents were cautious, and some quite hostile, to the perception that the forests were to be used to fulfil political objectives, which were considered to be short term and liable to change with the political environment. Some typical responses are:

“Forests should never be used politically, as for example, as wind farm sites.” (**Rogart Community Council**)

“I'm not sure forestry should be used as a political football. A politician's time frame is too short for forestry.” (**Individual, Dumfries and Galloway**)

“...there is a danger that publicly owned land will be used for unpopular...schemes in order to fulfil government objectives.” (**National Trust for Scotland**)

“FC is not and should not try to be things to all men” (**Individual, Perthshire**)

The planning process was most commonly cited as the best mechanism for FCS to connect with other government bodies responsible for the delivery of Scottish Executive policies, particularly when working with Local Authorities. The need for collaboration between government bodies was highlighted as being a greater responsibility for Scottish Executive rather than FCS, but was seen as vital. As one respondent pointed out “better co-ordination between the departments of central government (was required)...much of the funding which could be deployed is held within sectoral "silos".” (**The Highland Council**)

Working at a local level, taking a case by case approach, was also advised and some felt that in fact “communities are likely to pursue these enterprises because the benefits will directly profit them.” (**Kirkhill and Bunchrew Community Trust**)

It was also suggested that in fact the FCS should act as demonstrators of best practice and, in addition, support and develop pilot projects but realise that it was important not to crowd out the private sector. It was considered important by some in the forestry industry that FCS should realise that the use of grants to the private sector might be a more cost-effective method of realising similar public benefits to those proposed.

Q15. How should we ensure that everyone is aware of what Scotland's national forests have to offer?

The level of response to this question was 72.1% from Organisations and 71.9% from Individuals. Being a "how" question not suitable to yes/no analysis a more qualitative approach to analysis has been used.

The response from Organisations and Individuals is very similar with themes common to both. The most common suggestion was to use some form of media or public relations to promote the forests. This included ideas such as using the internet, adverts in the press or on TV, e.g. the wood.forgood campaign, articles in the local and national press, publications such as Forest Life and even greater exposure on TV using documentaries or other types of programmes.

The next most common suggestion was education. A large number of people suggested working more closely with schools to promote forestry and to get schools into the forest, i.e. the idea of a forest classroom. It was suggested that forestry should be included on the national curriculum and that this would be the best way to develop a forestry culture in Scotland.

Another popular idea was to work more closely with tourist boards to assist in the dissemination of information about the opportunities the forests have to offer. Better interpretative material and access to and within the forest was also suggested plus links to the general idea of promoting access and recreation.

Events such as Treefest and increased community/stakeholder involvement were mentioned equally frequently. The use of communities as wardens or volunteers would help to build a sense of ownership and increase the use and profile of the forests. Stakeholder involvement was also suggested as being very powerful for similar reasons, for example "the profile of FCS within the mountain biking community is very high, a similar relationship with other stakeholders would produce an equally high level of interest" (**International Mountain Bicycling Association**).

One area where the Individuals response differed from that of the Organisations response was the fact that Individuals more frequently mentioned the importance of increased staff on the ground more often. Rangers and specialist staff who could provide guided walks and interpretative services were considered important by a significant number of individual respondents.

A smaller number of respondents suggested that more people would be keen to visit the forests if they were offered a better quality product and that money should be invested in this area. Alternatively provide subsidised or even free transport to the forest would increase forest use and awareness.

Some respondents pointed out that the premise of the question, "to ensure that everyone was aware", was impossible and that in fact not everyone would even care. They raised the issue of the potential cost of undertaking work to promote the forest against any real value and were concerned that it would reduce funding in other areas.

Some of the more innovative responses are given below.

"...develop a greater sense of national pride in our forests...increase the overall quality of the national forest estate... work with politicians to help them understand the potential of the national forest" (**Lauder Community Council**)

“...adapt SFGS to pay for web-site design...to enable smaller organisations to develop web-sites to link to the FC websites. ...FCS recreation (web)sites has insufficient detail - it needs a printable map” (**Individual, Ayrshire**)

“Suggest a new tax to pay for the suggestions above (in the consultation) and everyone will give you their opinion” (**Individual, Isle of Skye**)

“Develop partnerships or twinning arrangements between forest districts and deprived urban areas. ...hold open days or activity sessions for leaders and teachers” (**Individual, Ayrshire**)

“FCS profile is rather too low-key. ...offer improved facilities, promote itself more and in return charge more for what it can offer” (**Individual, N England**)

Q16. Given the long-term nature of forestry, the proposed vision will largely be delivered through gradual, evolutionary change. Is there a need for a more rapid approach to bring about some elements of the vision and, if so, what are they?

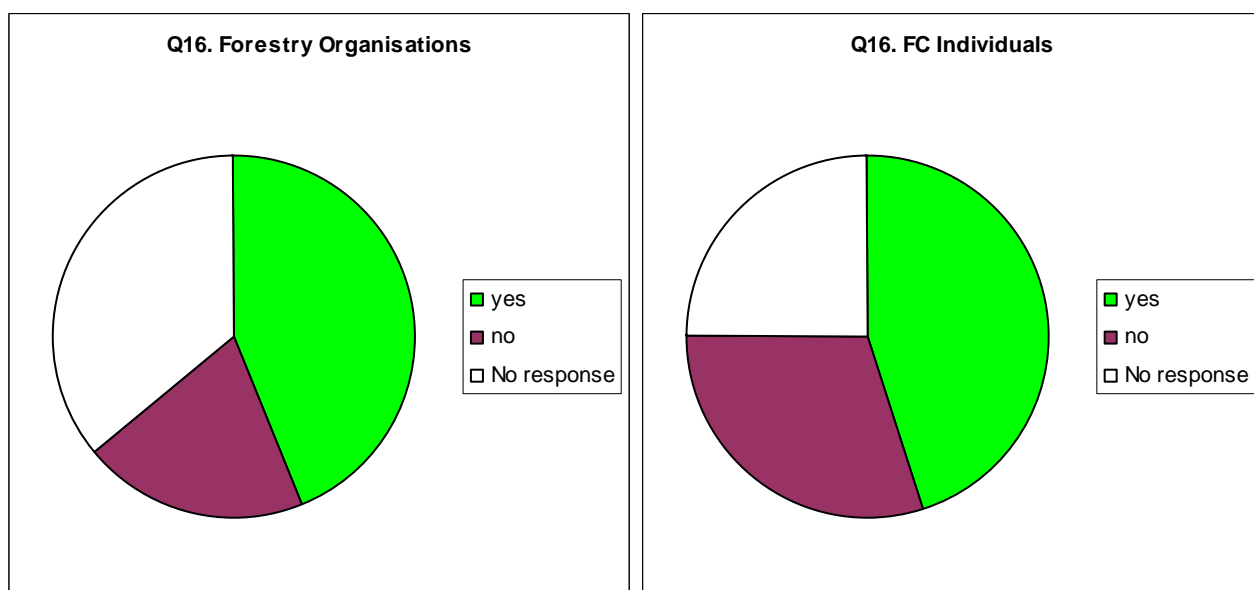
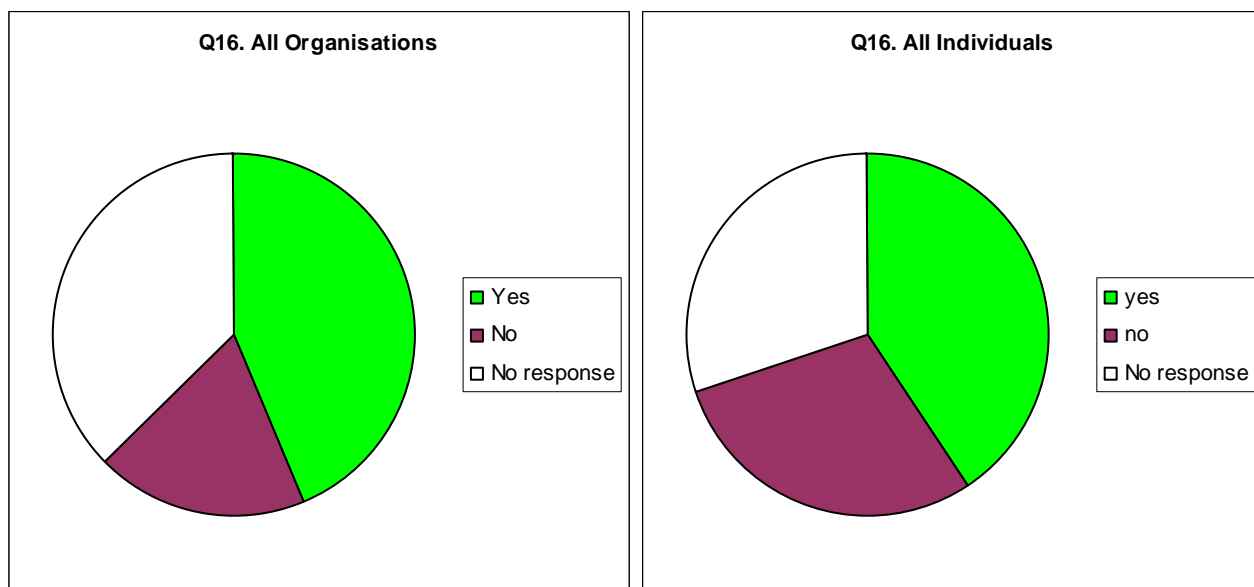


Table 17. Response to Q16 by organisational group (percentages rounded to nearest 0.1%)

Group	Yes (%)	No (%)	No response (%)
All Organisations	43.6	19.0	37.4
Community Council	40.0	28.6	31.4
Environmental	48.0	8.0	44.0
Forestry	44.0	20.0	36.0
Local Authorities	48.0	16.0	36.0
Recreational	47.6	19.0	33.3
Others	34.8	17.4	47.8

There was a very similar response from both Organisations and Individuals, although the Individuals were slightly more cautious than the Organisations. Although many respondents did accept the need for evolutionary change, in the main there were areas that they felt could move more rapidly.

The main area mentioned was a change of attitude and many respondents urged a more flexible and open approach by FCS management, particularly in the area of working with communities and other partners. This was linked to proposals from some respondents to devolve the FCS to a more local level to encourage “forest-based economic development ...it is important that the local forest managers are given the financial and administrative powers to do this.” (**University of Aberdeen**). Local Authorities were keen to work more closely with FCS for example “FSC’s response to the Land Reform (Scotland) Act, where the key role that forests can play as part of the Core Path Network needs to be recognised” (**Fife Council**). Working to create forests near urban areas was also a common suggestion.

An increasing commitment to a more environmental approach was also called for with rapid action suggested for delivery of BAPs, ancient semi-natural woodland restoration, increased planting of native species and a move to continuous cover methods of silviculture. More rapid action was also suggested in the area of riparian forestry in order to tackle the problem of water acidification. Landscaping, in particular the opening up of views within the forest and along forest walks, was mentioned by some individual respondents as having the potential for quick change and obvious improvement for visitors.

Woodfuel was also felt to be an area that FCS could develop more rapidly. Similarly more action was suggested to develop new markets for timber products and one respondent suggested “equitable support for timber supply between the FC(S) Enterprise and the Private Sector” and “acting as a catalyst to develop co-operative marketing” (**The Buccleuch Estates Ltd**). The need to maintain the supply of timber over the long term was also mentioned with a call to address “the question of expanding the national forest if timber supplies are to be maintained” (**Individual, Fife**).

Housing, particularly affordable or social housing, was considered important by some organisations but was not mentioned by individuals.

Those who were against rapid change advocated evolutionary, gradual change and urged caution. Many were concerned that any changes would be following “fads” and could be potentially detrimental in the long term. As one respondent pointed out “Act in haste, repent at leisure, remember the Flow Country” (**Fortrose and Rosemarkie Community Council**). The threat that any change would be driven by political pressure was also a concern. It was felt by some that the vision should be “lock(ed) in and out of the hands of party politicians to use forestry as a political football” (**Banchory Paths Association**), and “it remains necessary to remind the Executive that mature forest can not develop overnight” (**Individual, Peebles-shire**).

Some typical responses are given below:

“...encouraging more woodland around towns...Providing new access and improved existing access...Seeking out new specialised timber markets for softwood and hardwoods” (**East Dunbartonshire Council**)

“ A more flexible and open approach to management...Also non-timber benefits ...can be achieved more quickly” (**Lauder Community Council**)

“Take forward initiative on rural housing and woodfuel initiatives; forest crofts; local and regional fora; promote tourism and health” (**Highlands and Islands Enterprise**)

“...need is for firm commitments to programmes and approaches that will deliver the desired long-term benefits; PAWS; CCF; local community involvement; wood fuel; sustainable housing” (**Scottish Natural Heritage**)

“improving silvicultural standards...this will require more funding, recruitment....and more training. Promotion of community forestry ...through extension support services. Diversion of land under non-productive conifers to ... new native woodlands and...natural forest ecosystems” (**Individual, Aberdeenshire**)

Q17. Is it useful to try to express the proposed vision in more detail, perhaps quantifying the size, mapping the geographical distribution and describing the nature of Scotland’s national forests at some date in the future (say 2025, or 2050)? If so, how should this be done?

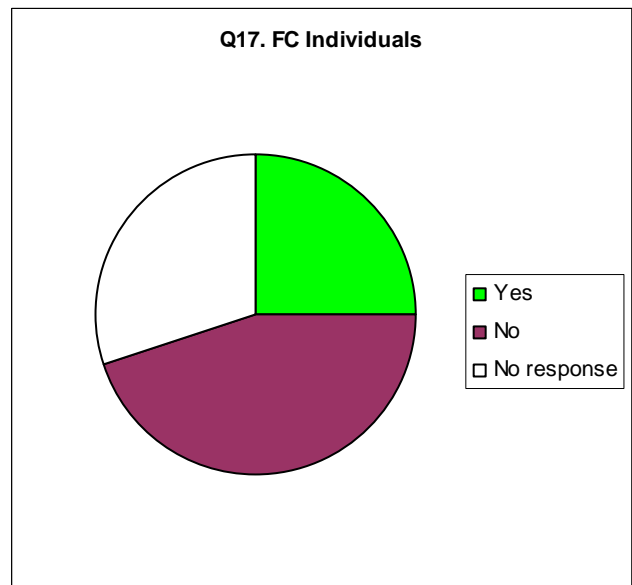
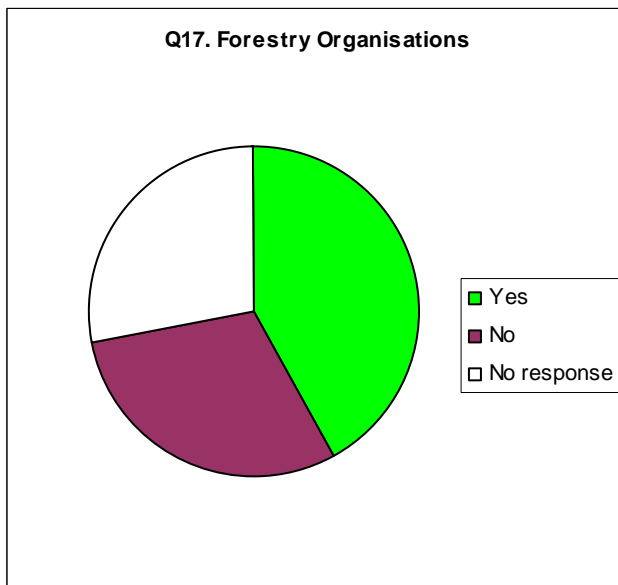
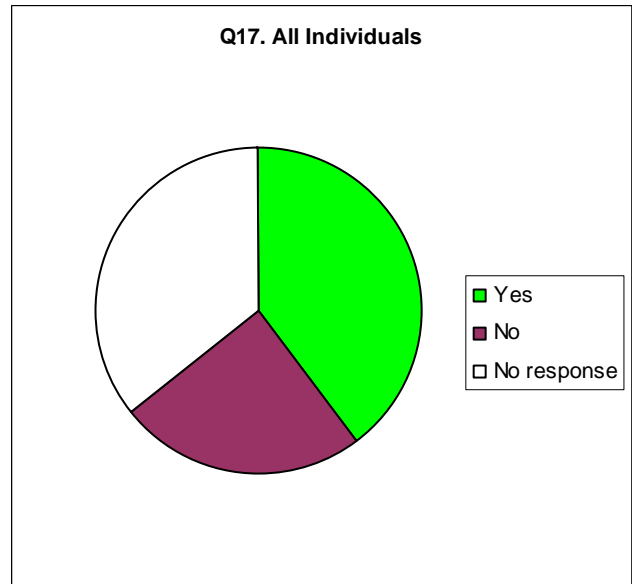
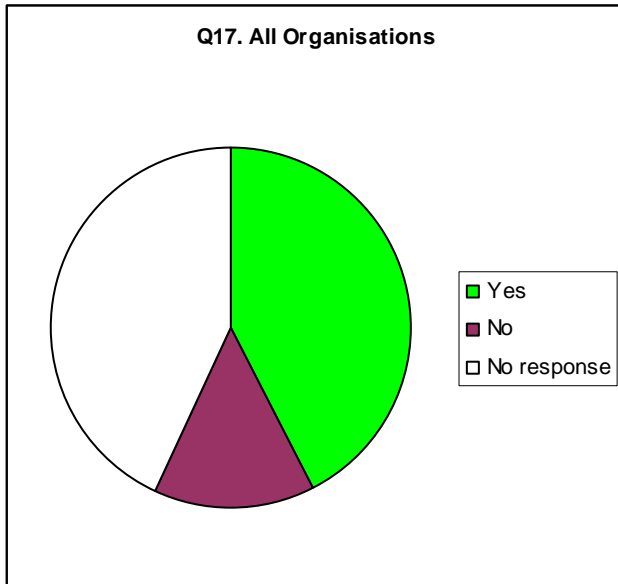


Table 18. Response to Q17 by organisational group (percentages rounded to nearest 0.1%)

Group	Yes (%)	No (%)	No response (%)
All Organisations	42.5	14.5	43.0
Community Council	51.4	8.6	40.0
Environmental	40.0	4.0	56.0
Forestry	42.0	30.0	28.0
Local Authorities	56.0	8.0	36.0
Recreational	33.3	9.5	57.1
Others	26.1	13.0	60.9

Although there was a majority “Yes” response to this question from all sectors, except FC Individuals, opinion was more split than it might seem due to the fact that many of the “Yes”s also pointed out potential problems and pitfalls. One respondent noted that this was not an easy task and that “the key to this is not being so specific as to tie FCS to targets which might lead to undesirable inflexibility or make unattainable commitments, or being so general as to be meaningless” (**Loch Lomond and Trossachs National Park Authority**)

Those who replied “Yes” saw the idea of visualising the vision as a way of creating debate and energising the vision. Some saw it as a way of ensuring that the vision would be delivered. It was a powerful tool for communicating and capturing the imagination of the public. This was countered by those who counselled caution or replied “No” who pointed out that by quantifying the vision it would impose rigidity and could lead to the possibility of missing opportunities in the future. The potential effects of CAP reform were mentioned as an example of the fast changing world within which forestry must operate. There was also a concern that the exercise would create a climate of target setting. It was seen by some as a top down exercise and there were suggestions that such a exercise should be carried out at a local level. Cost was also mentioned by many and the concern was that it would divert scarce resources and become an increasingly bureaucratic exercise. One respondent thought that the project would have the unintended consequence of “hav(ing) a distorting effect on land or property values” and should be avoided (**Individual, Inverness-shire**).

The timescale over which the project should look was also mentioned, with opinion varying from looking forward on a rolling 5 yearly basis to working at the 100 year timescale, in keeping with the rotation lengths of hardwoods.

Using the web or some type of computer simulation was the most commonly mentioned method of delivering the information to the public, using for instance computer graphic flyovers or satellite photos. Public meetings were also mentioned as being important allowing the public to have the opportunity to meet those who had developed the information or who were going to act on it. One interesting suggestion was to “write an imaginary review from the FC Director General in 2050 looking back. A few versions could be modelled looking at how different visions panned out” (**FC, Individual**).

An idea of the general tenor of the responses can be gained from the following responses.

“...it may simply lead to controversy over a hypothetical situation. However, there is a wider need to encourage public debate” (**North of Scotland Regional Advisory Committee**)

“No, this would no longer be a vision but a plan. Targets ...are meaningless without the commitment to resources” (**FC Trade Union Side**)

“..need to capture the imagination of the public. Computer generated visual displays...would be an excellent way” (**Friends of Durris Forest**)

“... a waste of time and money. A top-down, strategic mapping exercise would inevitably act to homogenise regional diversity. ...not confined to the land managed by FCS.” (**Community Woodlands Association**)

“...only of value if they aid in the process of promoting greater interest, and clarifying the vision” (**Woods of Resolis**)

“...guard against being too prescriptive. ...communities requesting to take ownership...cannot be predicted. ...look more widely at the forest resource in Scotland and plan strategically at that level. (**FC, Individual**)

“Without long-term specific targets to aim for any plans are just vague objectives”
(**Individual, Dumfries and Galloway**)

Q18. What approaches might be adopted to strike a balance between local and national interests?

The response level to this question was low with only 52% of Organisations and 45.1% of Individuals providing any form of response. The majority found it a difficult question to deal with and there was no real answer. It is after all a question that underpins all attempts to set up free and fair societies. Its importance was underlined by one respondent who commented that “from personal experience the Commission’s disregard for what was locally important is still having repercussions today” (**FC Individual**).

Communication was seen as the key by many respondents who urged dialogue and consultation at all levels from Regional Fora, advisory groups to Ministers, to meetings with community councils and local organisations. The planning process was also seen as a mechanism for dealing with issues that cut across local and national interests.

There were also suggestions to increase devolution of power within FCS to allow better local responsiveness, more bottom up planning and more effective relationships with local communities. Working with local communities was also recognised as an area that would require FCS staff to learn new skills to deal with a more participatory approach. Respondents hoped that the FCS foresters would become part of the community again and might work with schools for instance.

Some respondents stressed that local priorities should take precedence, whereas other suggested that national priorities were key. International agreements were also mentioned as being important and should not be disregarded. The challenging issue for some was how to define “local” and “national” in this context, making forming any answer challenging.

Some of the breadth of response can be seen from the responses below:

“Regional IFS's will be key...Devolve as much responsibility for management ...to the territorial units as is possible. ...Local ownership/benefits do not undermine national interests” (**The Highland Council**)

“...by using established mechanisms for example, development planning, community planning, local biodiversity action planning” (**Renfrewshire Council**)

“Genuine stakeholder participation across the forestry planning system. The systems for doing this are in place but need to be strengthened” (**Individual, Edinburgh**)

“Local and national consultation groups...; FCS/FE staff need to be encouraged to listen and engage with communities. ...further training in people skills/life coaching style skills and new staff” (**Individual, East Ayrshire**)

“Possibly the main need is for the nation to become forestry minded as it is in Scandinavia...The national interest would become more widely understood at a local level.” (**Callendar Estate**)

“Need to know what the “interest” is...(sic) different approach depending on this answer.” (**Scottish Borders Forest District**)

“National and international priorities must take precedence.”(**Freuchie Community Council**)

“...local interests usually reflect true interests, whereas supposed national interest may reflect powerful vested interests” (**Liberton Community Council**)

“Local is national and national is local to a mobile population such as we have now” (**Torphicen Community Council**)

“Indeed! And what is national in this context? Scotland or UK?” (**Individual, Aberdeenshire**)

Additional Comments/General Comments

- Some respondents felt that the questions in the consultation and the literature provided were leading and that the outcome was already know.
- Some of the questions were considered “vague”. Whereas some respondents said that they did not possess the technical knowledge to understand some questions or comment upon them.
- Some questions were commonly misinterpreted.
- The Private Sector felt that its role to deliver public benefits was ignored in the consultation.
- There was a strong feeling of support for the process of consultation and many respondents thanked FCS for the opportunity to comment on future plans. Many hoped that this would be the first step towards a more open consultative approach from FCS. One individual respondent felt moved to offer FCS “bright blessings”.