

The Deer Initiative Support Services to Land Managers

1. Introduction

The Deer Initiative provides the framework and toolkit for effective and sustainable management of wild deer in England and Wales. It helps landowners and others to work together at a landscape scale and to Best Practice standards, so that deer management is effective, safe and humane.

It raises awareness, provides advice, training and support to landowners and deer managers. It also advises the government, private and voluntary sector Partners on all aspects of wild deer management. This includes, for example, tackling deer-vehicle collisions and reducing deer impacts on vulnerable habitats.

2. Aim of the Service

The aim of the proposed service is to enable the deer initiative to develop partnership working and collaboration among national organisations and local groups engaged in deer management. It will provide opportunities for land owners and deer managers to share best practice in establishing and continuing the control of wild deer, to develop relevant skills and address matters such as animal welfare, human safety and protecting and monitoring woodland biodiversity to agreed standards.

3. Form of Aid

To facilitate delivery of the aims outlined above a grant will be provided to the Deer Initiative in accordance with Article 38 of Commission Regulation (EU) No 702/2014; Aid for knowledge transfer and information actions in the forestry sector.

3.1. Scope of Aid

The aid shall cover vocational training and skills acquisition actions, including training courses, workshops and coaching, demonstration activities and information actions. Demonstration activities may include investment costs.

3.2. Beneficiaries

In accordance with Article 38.1 the beneficiaries of the knowledge transfer and information actions will be undertakings or individuals active in the forestry sector.

In accordance with Article 38.4 the aid will be paid to the Deer Initiative as the provider of the knowledge transfer and information actions and shall not involve direct payments to the beneficiaries.

3.3. Eligible Costs

The eligible costs are:

- i. The costs of organising and delivering the knowledge transfer and information actions;
- ii. For demonstration projects, the purchase or lease purchase of machinery and equipment up to the market value of the asset.

3.4. Capacity to Provide Knowledge Transfer and Information Actions

The Deer Initiative employs recognised experts in deer management and all have knowledge transfer skills. Staff are regularly trained in all aspects of deer management to ensure they are fully cognisant of latest developments in research or legislation.

3.5. Maximum Aid Intensity

In accordance with Article 38.6 the maximum aid intensity shall be 100% of eligible costs.

3.6. Duration

The service will commence on 20th July 2015 and will cease on 31st March 2016.

3.7. Amount of Aid

The amount of aid shall be £450,000.