

# Grants and Regulations National Email Alert

5 June 2014

## Closure of Woodland Improvement Grant—Biodiversity (WIG BIO)

We previously communicated that due to the high levels of demand for the English Woodland Grant Scheme (EWGS) and our requirement to maintain funds for priority grant types, our budget availability is under constant review. In line with this, we have taken the decision not to accept any new WIG-BIO applications received after the 5 June 2014. Those applications already received, and date stamped as such, will continue to be processed in line with [Operations Note 29](#).

We apologise to potential applicants for this decision but maintaining grant support for plant health related work, woodland creation and supporting the production of Management Plans is a key priority. For more detailed information on the current availability of EWGS and our transitional arrangements into the new Rural Development Programme refer to [Operations Note 29](#).

## EU Timber Regulations simplified

Following approaches from both Confor and the National Measurements office, Defra has reviewed with EU colleagues the information that was required when making a felling licence application. It has been agreed that it is no longer necessary to provide a breakdown by percentage of individual tree species in order to meet the requirements of the EU Timber Regulation. Applicants will still need to identify any individual species that make up 20% or more of the timber volume to be felled. For example where mixed broadleaves are being selectively felled and where ash, oak and beech are estimated to each make up more than 20% of the timber being felled, the information can be provided in the following ways:

Felling Site/Cpt	Type of Operation	Species to be felled	Number of trees	Marking of Trees	Estimated Area of felling (ha)	Estimated Volume (m <sup>3</sup> )
5	T	Oak, ash, beech and mixed broadleaves	9000	Orange dot	10	530
or						
5	T	Mixed broadleaves (including ash, oak and beech)	9000	Orange dot	10	530

The level of information being requested will now be similar to that required before the introduction of the EU Timber Regulation in April 2013. For further information please see [Operations note 33](#).