



28 September 2017

FORESTRY COMMISSION SCOTLAND REPORT

Forestry and Land Management (Scotland) Bill

The Scottish Parliament is continuing its scrutiny of the Forestry and Land Management (Scotland) Bill at stage 1.

The Rural Economy and Connectivity Committee took evidence from stakeholders on 21st June and 6th September and the Cabinet Secretary gave evidence on 13th September.

It is anticipated that the Committee will publish its stage 1 report mid-October and that the stage 1 debate will be held in early November.

Tree Health

Plant Health and EU exit

FCS and SG Plant Health colleagues continue to engage with the Animal and Plant Health UK Administrations Working Group in support of the Senior Officials Devolution Group. The aim of this group is to strengthen collaborative working across the UK on animal and plant health and animal welfare (APHW) as we prepare to leave the EU.

Aerial application of fungicides

A trial was successfully undertaken in August, focusing on the technical aspects of precision aerial application as part of capacity building within the wider field of contingency planning. This did not involve the application of a pesticide but instead used just water, a food dye and an adjuvant.

Increasing the economic contribution of forestry in Scotland

Timber Development

'Modern Timber House' – This publication highlights the various methods of using timber in construction. Its main aim is to inspire developers and architects to use more timber products in construction with a particular focus on the custom build segment of the market. The book will be launched in London on the 28th September to an audience of 400. The publication is a result of a partnership between FCS and Wood for Good.

Construction Scotland Innovation Centre (CSIC) "Innovation Factory" – This facility offers the opportunity for timber construction companies to use cutting edge machinery to prototype new timber products. In partnership with CSIC, FCS will offer support to companies who wish to prototype new products using home grown timber. The support scheme will be launched by Mr Ewing on the 27th September at the Confor Conference. The conference will be focussing on timber in construction and has been part funded by FCS through Wood for Good.

Support for tree nurseries and afforestation equipment

FC Scotland Report

To help scale up and increase the resource capacity to deliver the woodland creation target, we have introduced a new capital grants to support tree nurseries and forestry businesses involved in afforestation. We aim to support projects from the 2017/18 grant budget with grants providing 40% of the investment cost.

Increasing Community Engagement

Public Opinion of Forestry Survey

Since 1995, FC/Forest Research has conducted biennial surveys of public attitudes to forestry and forestry-related issues in order to inform and monitor policy development. Commissioned by FCS, the publication presents results from the Scotland 2017 public opinion of forestry survey on: Forestry in the media; Benefits of forestry; Climate change; Wood as a fuel; Woodland recreation; Health and wellbeing; Physical activity; Changes to woodland; Woodland learning activities; Tree health; and Urban trees.

The 2017 woodland visitors' survey found that:

- Over 50% have seen Scottish forests in the media in the past year.
- Over 90% think spending public money on forestry delivers one or more benefits.
- 84% know 'trees are good because they remove carbon dioxide from the atmosphere and store it in wood'.
- 88% agree that 'a lot more trees should be planted'
- 65% would like to see more woodland in their part of Scotland.
- Over 80% have visited forests or woodlands in the last 12 months.
- Over 30% had visited woodlands for exercise at least once a week in the previous 4 weeks.
- 70% agree that 'everyone should help prevent the spread of damaging tree pests and diseases'

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Head of FCS
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