A close linkage between the two arms of a State forestry service is necessary – that is between the policy and regulatory arm (currently the FC Forestry Authority) and the State forest management arm (currently the FC Forest Enterprise) – to facilitate exchange of expertise in professional forestry staff and transmission of practical field experience to the policy and regulatory arm. Such a beneficial linkage currently exists and should not, as the Bill proposes, be changed. Also, Forestry Commission (Scotland) has a valuable, respected identity, established over the last 100 years, which would be weakened, if not destroyed, by the changes proposed in the Bill. The consequences of that should not be underestimated. Forestry Commission Scotland, with its current dual role, is a proven, effective and valued organisation. It should be retained.

J.B Teasdale
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