

Cabinet Secretary for the Rural Economy and
Connectivity
Fergus Ewing MSP



F/T: 0300 244 4000
E: scottish.ministers@gov.scot

Edward Mountain MSP
Convener, Rural Economy and Connectivity
Committee

rec.committee@parliament.scot

11 May 2017

Dear Ed

FORESTRY AND LAND MANAGEMENT (SCOTLAND) BILL

As you will know, the Forestry and Land Management (Scotland) Bill has been introduced.

I am also announcing today the new organisational structures for forestry in Scotland: as proposed in the consultation carried out last autumn, these will be a new executive agency based on the existing Forest Enterprise Scotland; and a dedicated Forestry Division to take on FCS's role in forestry policy, advice, regulation and grants. Existing staff will transfer to the Scottish Government and will remain civil servants. Further information on the new organisational arrangements is included in the Policy Memorandum to the Bill.

My officials have placed information on the Scottish Government website, including impact assessments relevant to the Bill, at www.gov.scot/forestry/devolution

I look forward to working constructively across the chamber on this important piece of legislation.

Yours sincerely

FERGUS EWING