



Rural Economy and Connectivity Committee

Call for Views - Forestry and Land Management (Scotland) Bill

The Rural Economy and Connectivity Committee invites all interested individuals and organisations to submit written evidence on the Forestry and Land Management (Scotland) Bill and its likely impact. The Committee welcomes views on all of the Bill's proposals. In particular, the Committee would like submissions to hear your views on the following questions:

1. Does the Bill achieve its aims and are you in favour overall? Is there anything else that you feel should be included or excluded from the Bill?
2. What are your views on the Bill's statutory requirement to produce a Scottish Government Forestry Strategy based on sustainable forest management?
3. The Bill will provide new powers to Scottish Ministers over subjects such as tree health and the ability to conduct research. What are your views on these powers?
4. The Scottish Government's intention is that the Bill should provide greater flexibility and wider powers in relation to land management, with a focus on sustainable development. The Bill also contains provisions regarding compulsory purchase. How do you feel this will work in practice?
5. The Bill will update the regulatory regime and enforcement powers for felling and restocking trees. Do you feel it is fit for purpose?
6. Do you have any comments on the bill in relation to human rights or equalities?

Purpose of the Bill

The Bill has three policy aims. Firstly it will enable forestry to become fully accountable to Scottish Ministers. Secondly, it will create a modernised legislative framework to support, develop and regulate forestry. Thirdly, it allows Scottish Ministers to manage forestry and other land with greater flexibility. Further information and documentation on the Bill is available at <http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/Bills/104491.aspx>

How to submit your evidence

Before making a submission, please read our [Policy on Treatment of Written Evidence by Subject and Mandatory Committees](#).

Please send your views **no later than Wed 16 August 2017**.

Responses should be sent, wherever possible, electronically and in MS Word format to: rec.committee@parliament.scot

Hard copy responses may be sent to: *Rural Economy and Connectivity Committee, T3.60, Scottish Parliament, Edinburgh EH99 1SP*

Ideally, responses should be **no more than four sides of A4 in length**.

All written evidence received may be published by the Parliament and will be treated as a public document. If you wish to submit evidence in confidence or anonymously please read the policy at the link above or contact Heather Lyall, details below.

Contact

Should you require alternative formats of this information or further assistance in making a written submission to the Committee, please do not hesitate to contact the clerking team of the Committee.

For Committee information, contact: Heather Lyall, tel 0131 348 5229,
email: rec.committee@parliament.scot

For further information, the media contact is: Cat Synnot, tel 0131 348 5605,
email: cat.synnot@parliament.scot

For general enquiries, contact: 0845 278 1999 (local call rate),
email: sp.info@scottish.parliament.uk

Further information on how laws are passed: <http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/visitandlearn/100529.aspx>