



Scottish
Forestry / Coilltearachd
na h-Alba

Scottish Forestry

South Scotland Conservancy

Doug Howieson

Conservator

Scottish Forestry is the Scottish Government agency responsible for forestry policy, support and regulation

forestry.gov.scot



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South Scotland Timber Technologies Group

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There is a lot going on at the moment.

(However, for the Forestry Sector we have a bright future)

Covid 19 and impacts upon the Conservancy team – like everyone else!

To help out we've developed options for electronic processing of claims, variations and contracts using paper, scanning, electronic forms and photographs. We've also deferred claim inspections for up to 1 year to ensure that claims can get paid speedily during lockdown and have introduced an additional H&P option.

Programme for Government.

Very good for Forestry in Scotland. Extra £100M over 5 years for woodland creation and an extra £50M to FLS for increasing woodland creation on the National Forest Estate and to help with Nursery production of transplants. Woodland Creation Target increased and accelerated to 18000 ha per year by 2024/25.

Convention of South Scotland, 28th September.

Established to support the South of Scotland Enterprise Agency (SoSEA) and aims to ensure that public bodies in South Scotland pool their collective resources collaboratively to support SoSEA. COSS is chaired by John Swinney and from the outset at last weeks meeting, both Fiona Hyslop and Fergus Ewing highlighted the importance of Forestry to the economy of South Scotland. 85 participants and so it was good for everyone to hear this message from two Cabinet Secretaries.



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Climate Change Action Plan Update.

Update due to be published in December and woodland creation being used as a way to offset carbon emissions in other industries that may/will struggle to reduce emissions by 75% by 2030, including the aviation, transport and engineering sectors. There is some talk in cabinet as to whether the WC target can be increased further apparently.

Brexit Withdrawal Bill.

Still uncertain as to whether we will leave with a deal or not. We are very busy working on EU Exit legislation, particularly in relation to things like tree / plant health . Post December 31st, FGS activity will not be partly funded by the EU and contracts will be further updated on behalf of the Scottish Ministers.

Stakeholder Consultation and D&G Community Councils in particular.

Quite a bit of noise and activity by some community council groups who oppose the current level and type of woodland creation in D&G. I am working with them to help them understand how and where their views should be channelled as they do not have the ability to set limits upon size and species range at a community or regional level as some of them incorrectly believe. We will no doubt return to this when Regional Land Use Partnerships develop and so it is important that the sector represents itself through a good cross section of the sector / supply chain involvement when RLUP's are formed.



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Plant Health

Likely to be a further 100+ SPHN's this year in relation to *Phytophthora ramorum*.

Much of the spread has been associated with last years sites, particularly when these sites have not yet been felled.