



## Budget Categories and Threshold Scores

This note updates the budget situation and threshold scores for Forestry Grant Scheme applications as at 3 April 2018.

The forestry grant budget for 2018/19 has now been confirmed as £46 million. This consists of £40m for woodland creation and £6m for woodland management. There continues to be strong demand for forestry grants and we expect to fully commit the 2018/2019 grants budget by May/June 2018.

Table 1 has been updated to show the current budget availability and minimum score thresholds. It is worth being aware of the following key points:

- **Woodland Creation high cost**
  - This option is now closed for 2018.
- **Woodland Improvement Grant Restructuring Regeneration**
  - This option is now closed for 2018.
- **Woodland Improvement Grant Planning Options**
  - These options are now closed for 2018.
- **Woodland Improvement Grant WIAT**
  - The threshold score for the WIAT option has increased from 6 to 10.

### Variation of Contracts

- We expect the strong demand for forestry grants to continue into 2018 and 2019 and that the position on grant commitments to be tight in any one year. This means that it may be difficult to accommodate high volumes of requests to vary contract claim years. Where a request into the preferred claim year is not possible we will seek to offer another future year, as long as there is sufficient budget headroom.
- **We therefore encourage FGS contract holders to make their best efforts to complete projects in the year designated in their contract.**
- We are updating our [`scoring criteria and clearing process guidance`](#) on how we will deal with variations to FGS contracts.

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**Table 1 Forestry Grant Scheme: Clearing and Budget Categories with Threshold Scores – April 2018**

Grant Category	Clearing categories	Frequency of Clearing	Indicative 2018 Budget £m	Claim Years available for first year of contract	Number of Claim Years available	Indicative Headroom 2018	Indicative Headroom 2019	Threshold Score(Max)
Woodland Creation	WC with CSGNC	Monthly	£10.0m	2019	N+2			10 (31)
	WC High Cost(>£6k/ha)		£1.75m	2019				10 (31)
	WC with Nat Regen		£0.25m	2018-2020				2 (6)
	WC Other		£28.0m	2018 & 2019				10 (31)
Woodland Improvement Grants	Restructuring Regeneration	Monthly	£2.0	2019	N+2			3 for 2019(6)
	Planning options		£0.35	2019	N+2			2 for 2019 (6)
	Habitats & species/Liss		£0.72	2019	N+2			6 for 2018 6 for 2019 (6)
	WIAT		£0.85	2019	N+2			10 (16)
Sustainable Management of Forests	Native Woodlands/ LISS/ livestock/Grazing	Monthly	£0.7	2019 only	N+1	N/A		2 (6)
	Squirrels/Predators/Deer		£0.4		N+1	N/A		2 (6)
	WIAT		£0.03		N+1	N/A		6 (16)
	Rural Access		£0.15		N+1	N/A		2 (6)
Tree Health		Monthly	£0.4	2018 & 2019	N+1			2 (6)
Forest Infrastructure**		Monthly	£0.3	2018 & 2019	N+1			3 for 2018 (6) 4 for 2019 (6)
Agroforestry		Monthly	£0.1	2018 & 2019	N+2			2 (6)
Harvesting and Processing**		Annual	£0.3	2018 only	N		N/A	2 (6)
Co-operation		Monthly	£0.1	2018 & 2019	N+1			2 (6)
<b>Total</b>			<b>£ 46.4</b>					

Notes: ■ Projects with average cost is £6,000/ha or higher ■ Projects must be completed and paid in the approved claim year. N= current calendar year Indicative Headroom Colour Key:

There is currently good availability of funds within this FGS clearing category and we will be able to support most good quality application

It is likely the demand for funds within this FGS Clearing Category will exceed the available budget and there will be strong competition for funds

There are no longer any funds available within this FGS clearing category

**Claim Years Available** - Our approach to claim years is set out in Table 1 and depends on the grant type. This has been structured to ensure applications go through the competitive clearing process whilst at the same time manage the grant budget without a long forward booking of projects.

**Please note that for an application proposal with multiple claim years, the application score must meet the higher of the threshold scores for each claim year to obtain full approval.**

**Woodland Creation** - capital such as fencing and initial planting - up to 3 claim years (ie within N+2, where N = the current calendar year at time of application submission) with work having to start in the first 2 years eg one option is to apply in 2018, start work in year 2018 and complete in 2019. Another option is to apply in 2018, start work in 2019 and complete work in claim year 2020.

**Woodland Improvement Grant** - up to 3 year claim years (within N+2, where N = the current calendar year at time of application submission) with work having to start in the first 2 years except for WIG Restructuring Regeneration where a delay until year 3 is acceptable to meet species diversity rules.

**Sustainable Management of Forests** – next claim year is available as the first annual management claim year.

**Agroforestry** –as for woodland creation up to 3 claim years (within N+2, where N = the current calendar year at time of application submission) with work having to start in the first 2 years.

**Tree health** – current & next year claim year (within N+1 where N = the current calendar year at time of application submission)

**Forest Infrastructure** – current and next claim year available (within N +1, where N = the calendar year of the application round)

**Harvesting & Processing** – one claim year available (within N, where N = the calendar year of the application round)

**Co-operation** – current and next claim year available (within N +1, where N = the calendar year of the application round)