



Budget Categories and Threshold Scores

This Note provides an update on threshold scores for Forestry Grant Scheme applications coming forward to clearing rounds from July 2017.

The budgets and threshold scores are shown in Table 1 and the key points are:

- **WIG Restructuring Regeneration** – the threshold score remains **3 for claim years 2017, 2018 and 2019**.
- **WIG Planning Options** – the threshold score has increased from **2 to 6 for claim year 2017 and is 2 for claim years 2018 and 2019**.
- **WIG Habitats & Species** – the threshold score remains **4 for claim year 2017 and 6 for 2018**. We have indicated that the threshold score will be **6 points for claim year 2019** due to the budget pressure already on this claim year.
- **Forest Infrastructure** - the threshold score has been reduced from **4 to 2 for claim year 2017 and to 3 for claim year 2018**.
- **Harvesting & Processing and Forest Infrastructure projects** must be completed and paid in the approved claim year.

For application proposals with multiple claim years, the application score must meet the higher of the threshold scores for each claim year to obtain full approval (eg a WIG Habitats & Species application with work activity in 2017 and 2018 must have a threshold score of 6).

Details on the Forestry Grant Scheme are available on the [Rural Payments and Services](#) web site.

Douglas Wright
Grants and Regulations
National Office
Forestry Commission Scotland
douglas.wright@forestry.gsi.gov.uk
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Table 1 Forestry Grant Scheme: Clearing and Budget Categories with Threshold Scores – July 2017

Grant Category	Clearing categories	Frequency of Clearing	Indicative Budget £m	Claim Years available for first year of contract	Number of Claim Years available	Indicative Headroom 2017	Indicative Headroom 2018	Threshold Score(Max)
Woodland Creation	Productive options incl. small farm	Monthly	£ 20.40	2017 & 2018	N+2			10 (31)
	Biodiversity and Amenity options		£ 13.35		N+2			10 (31)
Woodland Improvement Grants	Restructuring Regeneration	Monthly	£2.05	2017 & 2018	N+2			3 for 2017 3 for 2018 3 for 2019(6)
	Planning options		£0.35	2017 & 2018	N+2			6 for 2017 2 for 2018 2 for 2019 (6)
	Habitats & species/Liss		£1.40	2017 & 2018	N+2			4 for 2017 6 for 2018 6 for 2019 (6)
	WIAT		£0.7	2017 & 2018	N+2			6 (16)
Sustainable Management of Forests	Native Woodlands/ LISS/ livestock/Grazing	Monthly	£0.7	2018 only	N+1	N/A		2 (6)
	Squirrels/Predators/Deer		£0.2		N+1	N/A		2 (6)
	WIAT		£0.1		N+1	N/A		6 (16)
	Rural Access		£0.2		N+1	N/A		2 (6)
Tree Health		Monthly	£0.4	2017 & 2018	N+1			2 (6)
Forest Infrastructure*		Monthly	£0.3	2017 & 2018	N+1			2 for 2017 (6) 3 for 2018 (6)
Agroforestry		Monthly	£0.25	2017 & 2018	N+2			2 (6)
Harvesting and Processing*		Annual	£0.25	2017 only	N		N/A	2 (6)
Co-operation		Monthly	£0.25	2017 & 2018	N+1			2 (6)
Total			£ 40.9					

Notes: N= current calendar year. Indicative Headroom Colour Key:

*Projects must be completed and paid in the approved claim year

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 2017, start work in year 2017 and complete in 2018. Another option is to apply in 2017, start work in 2018 and complete work in claim year 2019.

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)