



Budget Categories and Threshold Scores

This Note provides an update on changes to threshold scores for Forestry Grant Scheme (FGS) applications and provides the current availability for FGS grant funding (see Table 1 attached).

From 3 October 2016

The threshold score for Forest Infrastructure increased from 2 points to 4 points for 2017.

From 24 October 2016

The threshold scores for:

- **WIG Restructuring Regeneration option (WIG RR)** increased from 2 points to 4 points for 2017. The threshold score remains at 2 for applications with a 2016 claim year.
- **WIG habitats & species option** increased from 4 to 5 points for applications with a 2017 claim year. The threshold score remains 2 for applications with a 2016 claim year.

Please note that the demand for grants for WIG RR and WIG Habitats & Species for the 2017 claim year is likely to exceed the available budget and there will be strong competition for funds.

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

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Table1 Forestry Grant Scheme: Clearing and Budget Categories with Threshold Scores – October 2016

Grant Category	Clearing categories	Frequency of Clearing	Est. Annual Budget £m	Claim Years available for first year of contract	Number of Claim Years available	Indicative Headroom 2016	Indicative Headroom 2017	Threshold Score(Max)
Woodland Creation	Productive options incl. small farm	Monthly	£18.0	2016 & 2017	N+2			10 (31)
	Biodiversity and Amenity options		£12.0		N+2			10 (31)
Woodland Improvement Grants	Restructuring Regeneration	Monthly	£2.5	2016 & 2017	N+2			2 for 2016 & 4 for 2017 (6)
	Planning options		£0.8	2016 & 2017	N+2			2 (6)
	Habitats & species/Liss		£0.5	2016 & 2017	N+2			2 for 2016 & 5 for 2017 (6)
	WIAT		£0.7	2016 & 2017	N+2			6 (16)
Sustainable Management of Forests	Native Woodlands/ LISS/ livestock/Grazing	Monthly	£0.6	2017 only	N+1	N/A		2 (6)
	Squirrels/Predators/Deer		£1.1		N+1	N/A		2 (6)
	WIAT		£0.3		N+1	N/A		6 (16)
	Rural Access		£0.2		N+1	N/A		2 (6)
Tree Health		Monthly	£0.4	2016 & 2017	N+1			2 (6)
Forest Infrastructure		Monthly	£0.3	2016 & 2017	N+1			1 for 2016 4 for 2017 (6)
Agroforestry		Annual	£0.25	2016 & 2017	N+2			2 (6)
Harvesting and Processing		Annual	£0.25	2016 only	N		N/A	2 (6)
Co-operation		Monthly	£0.25	2016 & 2017	N+1			1 for 2016 2 for 2017(6)
Total			£38.6					

Notes: 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

Threshold Score changes from October 2016

From 3 October 2016

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From 24 October 2016

The threshold scores for:

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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 and at the same time manage the grant budget without a long forward booking of projects.

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 apply in 2016, start work in 2016 with further work in claim years 2017 & 2018. Alternatively, apply in 2016, start work in year 2017 and complete in 2018.

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 MF – next claim year (N+1 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)