

FGS OPTION CHANGES SUMMARY

This Briefing Note provides a summary of some recent changes to Forestry Grant Scheme (FGS) options:

- Long-term Forest Plans
- Woodland Creation - Small or Farm Woodlands
- Restructuring Regeneration

Long-term Forest Plans

Within the Woodland Improvement Grant (WIG) – Planning – [Long-term Forest Plan](#), the guidance has been amended to clarify when the rate for new plans, and the rate for renewed plans, applies:

The new Long-term Forest Plan rate is available where at least 75% of the forest plan area has not been funded under a previous forest plan otherwise the Forest Plan renewal rate applies.

Woodland Creation - Small or Farm Woodlands

Where previously an application for [Small or Farm Woodlands](#) had to be in a standalone application, this has now been amended to state:

This option can be applied for in association with other woodland creation options so long as they are not adjoining.

Restructuring Regeneration

Previous advice regarding paying different grant rates on existing contracts is not possible due to limitations in the Rural Payments & Services System and so this has been clarified in the [Restructuring Regeneration](#) guidance. If an applicant is eligible and successfully applies for the higher rate, but the applicant makes a claim that does not meet the diversity required for the higher rate, the claim cannot be paid as this breaches eligibility. If an applicant suspects that this will occur, they must vary their contract to the lower rate **before** they submit a claim.

Also, the Restructuring Regeneration Operational Plan has been edited so that details can be provided when applying for vegetatively propagated Sitka spruce.

For more information on any of these changes contact your [local Conservancy office](#).

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