



Budget Categories and Threshold Scores

This Note provides an update on the Forestry Grant Scheme (FGS) budget situation for 2017 and highlights threshold scores for applications coming forward to future clearing rounds.

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

- **The provisional budget for forestry** has increased from £36m to £40.9m in 2017/18. Within this increased budget the amount available for woodland creation is rising from £30m to £34m. This should be sufficient to fund 8,500 hectares. The budget available for woodland management options is £6.9m.
- **WIG Habitats & Species** – due to the availability of additional funds in 2017, we are reducing the threshold score from **6 to 4 for claim year 2017**. However with increasing demand in 2018, we are increasing the threshold score from **4 to 6 points for claim year 2018**.
- **WIG Restructuring Regeneration** – we are reducing the score from **6 to 3 for claim year 2017** and from **4 to 3 for claim year 2018**.

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

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Table 1 Forestry Grant Scheme: Clearing and Budget Categories with Threshold Scores – February 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 (6)
	Planning options		£0.35	2017 & 2018	N+2			2 for 2017 2 for 2018 (6)
	Habitats & species/Liss		£1.40	2017 & 2018	N+2			4 for 2017 6 for 2018 (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			4 for 2017 and 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 for 2017 and 2018 (6)
Total			£ 40.9					

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

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.

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)