

Mackinnon report recommendations

Ref	Recommendation	Work-stream
1	The design of the planting scheme should be separate from the grant application	1, 2, 3
2	Accredited agents should be appointed to certify all woodland creation schemes which are below the threshold for EIA screening and the majority of schemes where it is determined that an EIA is not required	3
3	Forestry Commission Scotland (FCS) should set up a central team to deal with particularly sensitive/complex proposals and all projects where an EIA is required	3, 2
4	With the exception of grant applications above a certain value, or where there are concerns over a potential overspend, grant applications up to £250,000 should be determined by conservancies on an ongoing basis	3
5	Conservancies should make EIA Screening determinations without the need for consultation	2
6	A more rigorous and focused approach is required on scoping with the EIA focused solely on issues which raise potentially significant environmental effects	2
7	Informing and engaging communities should happen much earlier and should be proportionate to the scale and impact of a planting scheme	1
8	Pre-application discussions are vital and the issues/actions should be recorded by agents and subsequently agreed by attendees	1
9	FCS and consultees, where they are involved, must have the confidence to give a clear and consistent advice on issues to be addressed	1
10	Revised protocols setting out the involvement and approach of SNH, SEPA and HES should be agreed and implemented within 3 months of the SG decision on this review	1
11	Requests for information must be clearly justified and there should be an understanding by FCS and consultees of the cost/time implications of additional studies	1, 2
12	Performance targets should be introduced for EIA screening determinations and grant applications	2, 4
13	Planting targets for conservancies should be considered	4
14	Focused and post related programmes of training and development should be introduced	1, 2, 3, 5
15	Better publicity for the scheme – both online and in hard copy - should be introduced	5
16	Better management information should be available	4
17	Conservancies should hold stakeholder seminars	5
18	An annual report should be produced looking at performance and prospects	4
19	A pilot scheme with a willing local authority to identify areas for large scale planting schemes should be considered	6
20	SG should discuss with FE the current approach to restocking on the National Forest Estate.	*
21	There is a strong case for increasing the thresholds or reviewing the criteria where an EIA determination is required	2

* Recommendation 20 has no work-stream, it will be managed directly between Scottish Government and Forest Enterprise Scotland.