

## RURAL AFFAIRS AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

### SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT DRAFT BUDGET FOR 2011/12 – FORESTRY

#### SUBMISSION FROM CONFOR

ConFor represents forestry and wood-using businesses from nurseries and growers to wood-processing end users.

Forestry Commission Scotland (FCS) funds to be reduced by £8.5 million or 11%, from £80.0m in 2010/11 to £71.5m in 2011/12.

FCS to **increase funding for forestry grants from £27.1m to £36.0m** due to a trebling of EU receipts from £6m to £18m. Welcome, but concern remains over sustainability of future EU receipts and that funds are too little to deliver Government objectives for new planting.

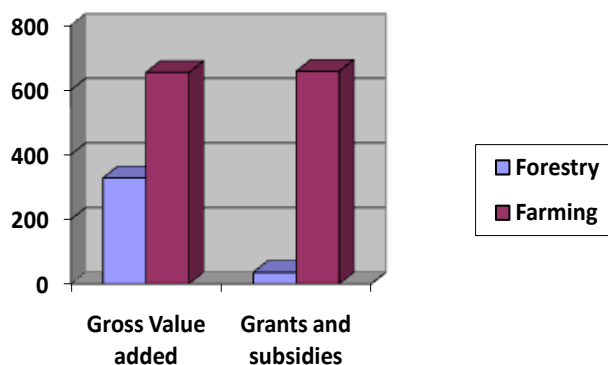
ConFor has produced a report at [www.confor.org.uk](http://www.confor.org.uk) (and reported in newspapers, radio and TV) setting out serious concerns over current decline in productive new planting – estimated at 24,000 hectares in last five years – and the impact that will have on green jobs and carbon reduction.

Uncertainty over future funding will deter new planting applicants from coming forward. It is vital that reassurances are provided.

ConFor has calculated that meeting the modest target of planting 8,000 hectares of new forests, along with modest support for management of existing forest, **will require £46m**.

If forestry is to make its potential contribution to Government's 42% reduction target for 2020 then 13,000 hectares would be required at **a cost of £63m** per annum.

May seem large, but it would stimulate hundreds of new green jobs and remove millions of tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>. It would also still mean that forestry is receiving far less per hectare than agriculture while delivering more for the green economy.



Stuart Goodall  
Chief Executive  
23 November 2010