

Future of Forestry in Scotland & Devolution

FCTU Briefing March 2018

Members will be aware that Stage 3 of the Forestry and Land Management (Scotland) Bill debate took place on Tuesday in Scottish Parliament.

The Bill was passed unanimously, and with the amendments and statements made in the chamber and subsequently by the Cabinet Secretary mean that the new structure will have two agencies:

- **Scottish Forestry**, delivering the policy, regulation, support and grant functions currently the responsibility of Forestry Commission Scotland.
- **Forestry and Land Scotland**, managing the National Forest Estate and carrying out the functions of Forest Enterprise Scotland. This will retain Public Corporation Status and the essential financial flexibility FES currently has.

There will be significant change in the coming year and our full focus will continue to be on the best outcome for our members across the Forestry Commission: in Scotland, England, Forest Research and Central Services.

FCTU continues to work with decision makers. Our first priority will be to further secure the commitments made by the Scottish Government, and to ensure that the amendments to the Bill do not lead to unnecessary delays and continued uncertainty for members.

Alongside the vital work involved in the upcoming negotiations on the staff transfer, we are working with Scottish Government to establish a Partnership Forum for open and constructive dialogue on the Forestry Devolution Programme and associated projects, which will include taking forward new agency arrangements.

The Minister has reiterated that staff are absolutely key to the future of forestry and their aims will not be delivered without the skills and expertise of the staff, and you as our members. With this firmly in mind, we look forward to further positive engagement with the Minister and Scottish Government over this crucial year.

FCTU will provide further information as the discussions and Forestry Devolution Programme develops.



Sam Telford
FCTU Secretary

