

UKFS review stakeholder information note

UK Forestry Standard review – stakeholder input sought

The four administrations of the UK are undertaking a review of the current [UK Forestry Standard \(UKFS\)](#). We are now seeking initial stakeholder feedback on potential changes to the technical content of the next version, due to be published at the end of 2022.

This first consultation is part of a two stage approach and seeks views on significant cross cutting themes that could be further developed in the next edition. A second consultation seeking opinion on updated detailed content is planned for spring 2022.

The UKFS is the technical standard for sustainable forestry practice, which underpins the delivery of the forestry policies of England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales. It supports action to help address the climate emergency, protect and enhance biodiversity, promote people's health and well-being, and produce sustainable wood products.

It has been developed specifically for forestry in the UK and is based on applying criteria agreed internationally that support the delivery of the environmental, economic and social aspects of sustainable forest management. The review will ensure the Standard is up-to-date and continues to support sustainable forestry practices.

The UKFS review is overseen by a Project Board made up of representatives from the four countries, and is co-ordinated by Scottish Forestry. The final content of the new edition of the UKFS will be approved by the four administrations.

To inform this review, an initial assessment of the Standard's current technical content has been undertaken by specialists from the country forestry authorities and administrations, Forest Research and external reviewers. The assessment found that once updated to reflect improvements in scientific knowledge, developments in international approaches, and new or amended legislation, the majority of the content would remain relevant.

The assessment also identified a series of significant cross-cutting themes that are relevant across the Standard and where further developments could be considered. They form the basis of this consultation.

As it is a technical consultation it is targeted at organisations that are familiar with the content and purpose of the UKFS, and not the general public. The consultation responses will help inform the drafting of the next edition of a Standard that is balanced and relevant and applicable across the UK.

The online consultation opened on 29 June and closes on 10 August 2021. The consultation can be accessed at: <https://consult.gov.scot/scottish-forestry/5875ee93>

For further information go to: <https://forestry.gov.scot/sustainable-forestry/ukfs-scotland>

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