

Forestry and woodland management

Dear Members,

Thank you very much for the opportunity to give evidence to the Rural Affairs and Islands committee on Wednesday.

I realised there was one mistake in something I said. When talking about the need to ensure that UKFS guidelines are followed. I think I said that a SEPA report on sites in Argyll found that 53 % were not compliant with UKFS and water environment controlled activities regulations – in fact it should have been that ONLY 53 % were compliant with UKFS and water environment controlled activities regulations. My apologies. I wonder if it is possible to add a foot note to correct this? The full report is available here [240221-SEPA-Template-Argyll-Initiative-Summary-Report-.pdf](#).

I was also concerned that CONFOR said there wasn't evidence available on the carbon losses from soils when trees are planted. This is not true. There is a growing body of evidence on this topic for example see links below, including some work published by FR. [Tree planting is no climate solution at northern high latitudes | Nature Geoscience Global Change Biology | Environmental Change Journal | Wiley Online Library](#)
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.foreco.2020.118127>
[Not seeing the carbon for the trees? Mapping net change in carbon from afforestation in Scotland - Forest Research](#)
[Not seeing the carbon for the trees? Why area-based targets for establishing new woodlands can limit or underplay their climate change mitigation benefits - ScienceDirect](#)

The Hutton also published a general blog about trees and their pros and cons [Trees: the solution to all our problems or not that simple? - James Hutton Institute](#) which might be useful.

Don't wish to overload you with information but can provide more details if helpful.

One other comment if I may – I was surprised that other environmental/conservation organisations were not present to give evidence, for example the ScotLink group as they are the umbrella organisation representing all environmental charities and have a Woodland group specifically those working on forestry and woodland policy and practice.

Do let me know if I can be of further help
Best wishes
Ruth