



Forestry and
Land Scotland
Coilltearachd agus
Fearann Alba

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Lisa Marie Bruce

Via email: lm@bruce.scot

Our Ref: SEC-26-151

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Ard-Oifigear/Chief Executive
Kevin Quinlan

10 August 2026

Dear Ms. Bruce,

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION: Woodland Felling for Wind-Farm Development

Thank you for your e-mail, dated 15 July, regarding the above.

Information requested

You have requested the following information:

- 1. The individual wind-farm projects included in the 8,611-hectare total, together with the area felled for each project.*
- 2. How much of the 8,611 hectares represents permanent woodland removal, and how much was subsequently restocked on the original site.*
- 3. How much of the felling would have occurred under normal commercial harvesting plans had the wind-farm developments not proceeded.*
- 4. Forestry and Land Scotland's [FLS] calculation of the net woodland loss attributable specifically to wind-farm development.*
- 5. How the assumed figure of 2,000 trees per hectare was derived, and whether an uncertainty range should be attached to the estimated total of 17.2 million trees.*
- 6. Whether annual figures are available showing the number of hectares felled in each year from 2000 onwards.*
- 7. Whether the increase from the previously reported figure of 8,503 hectares in 2024 to 8,611 hectares represents new felling, revised records, or a combination of both.*
- 8. The total area of compensatory planting required in connection with these developments, the area completed to date and the area still outstanding.*
- 9. Whether [FLS] holds a project-level record identifying the location, planting date, developer and species used for each compensatory planting scheme.*
- 10. Whether any developers have failed to meet, or have been delayed in meeting, compensatory planting obligations, and whether any enforcement action has followed.*
- 11. Whether the total includes woodland removed for access roads, substations, transmission infrastructure, compounds, borrow pits and other associated works, as well as turbine locations.*
- 12. How much native woodland, ancient woodland, plantations on ancient woodland sites and commercial conifer plantation was affected.*

13. *Whether project-level carbon assessments are available accounting for tree felling, peat and soil disturbance, construction, electricity generation and replacement planting.*
14. *The renewable-energy rental or related income received by [FLS] in each year since 2000.*

Information Released

Please find the below and attached with regards to your request.

1. *The individual wind-farm projects included in the 8,611-hectare total, together with the area felled for each project.*

Please find attached a *D Scheme Felling Totals* document which shows the number of hectares felled per development scheme area.

2. *How much of the 8,611 hectares represents permanent woodland removal, and how much was subsequently restocked on the original site.*

I have applied Section 10(4)(d) of the Environmental Information (Scotland) Regulations 2004 (EIRs). This is because this part of your request relates to material which is still in the course of completion – FLS does not have complete data on the number of hectares restocked after felling for these developments.

3. *How much of the felling would have occurred under normal commercial harvesting plans had the wind-farm developments not proceeded.*

All woodland on these sites are projected to be felled at a period which falls within their respective development's lease terms.

4. *Forestry and Land Scotland's [FLS] calculation of the net woodland loss attributable specifically to wind-farm development.*

Similar to part 2 of your request, I have applied Section 10(4)(d) of the EIRs to this part of your request – FLS currently has insufficient data available in order to calculate the net loss of woodland due to windfarm development.

5. *How the assumed figure of 2,000 trees per hectare was derived, and whether an uncertainty range should be attached to the estimated total of 17.2 million trees.*

This figure is intended as a guide and is based on initial planting densities. Older tree crops tend to reduce the number of surviving trees naturally as they age. Forest management tables are well established and are available via Forestry Research (FR) and their archives. FR have also made a [Forest Yield software solution](#) available, which may be of interest.

6. *Whether annual figures are available showing the number of hectares felled in each year from 2000 onwards.*

Current information shows felling only in the order that schemes were developed; felling is not separated by year.

7. *Whether the increase from the previously reported figure of 8,503 hectares in 2024 to 8,611 hectares represents new felling, revised records, or a combination of both.*

The increase from 8,503 hectares to 8,611 hectares represents an additional year of data.

8. *The total area of compensatory planting required in connection with these developments, the area completed to date and the area still outstanding.*

Determining the levels of compensatory planting in connection with these developments is outwith of FLS' control. In each instance, the respective planning authority should be contacted.

9. *Whether [FLS] holds a project-level record identifying the location, planting date, developer and species used for each compensatory planting scheme.*

I have applied Section 10(4)(a) of the EIRs to this part of your request – this is because FLS does not hold project-level records with regards to the above.

10. *Whether any developers have failed to meet, or have been delayed in meeting, compensatory planting obligations, and whether any enforcement action has followed.*

I also have applied Section 10(4)(a) of the EIRs to this part of your request – this information is not held by FLS.

11. *Whether the total includes woodland removed for access roads, substations, transmission infrastructure, compounds, borrow pits and other associated works, as well as turbine locations.*

With the exception of transmission infrastructure, all of the above are factored into the total.

12. *How much native woodland, ancient woodland, plantations on ancient woodland sites and commercial conifer plantation was affected.*

These figures relate only to conifer plantations rather than to native or ancient woodland sites.

13. *Whether project-level carbon assessments are available accounting for tree felling, peat and soil disturbance, construction, electricity generation and replacement planting.*

FLS does not hold project-level carbon assessments.

14. *The renewable-energy rental or related income received by [FLS] in each year since 2000.*

Annual revenue received by FLS from renewable energy leases is published annually as part of our [Annual Reports & Accounts](#). FLS was created as an agency in 2019 and there are therefore no reports published prior to this date.

Right to Review

If you are unhappy with the service you have received in relation to your request you may make a complaint or appeal against our decision within 40 working days of the date of this letter. Should you wish to complain about the way your request has been handled please contact:

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Scottish Information Commissioner
Kinburn Castle,
Doubledykes Road,
St Andrews,
Fife
KY16 9DS

Telephone: 01334 464610

e-mail: enquiries@foi.scot

Yours sincerely



Calum McNicol
Corporate Development Assistant