

**From:** [REDACTED] on behalf of [Scottish Forestry Corporate Affairs](#)  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [Scottish Forestry Corporate Affairs](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Response - [REDACTED] - 20 November 2025  
**Date:** 21 November 2025 08:43:00  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)

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Good morning

Thanks [REDACTED] for spotting that – corrected and response issued.

Thanks all

[REDACTED]

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**From:** [REDACTED]@forestry.gov.scot>  
**Sent:** 20 November 2025 16:35  
**To:** [REDACTED]@forestry.gov.scot>; [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]@forestry.gov.scot>  
**Cc:** Scottish Forestry Corporate Affairs <[sfcorpaffairs@forestry.gov.scot](mailto:sfcorpaffairs@forestry.gov.scot)>  
**Subject:** RE: Response - [REDACTED] - 20 November 2025

Hi [REDACTED],

Thanks – content with the proposed response. Spotted his email was dated 19/11 rather than 20<sup>th</sup> so worth checking that

Thanks

[REDACTED]

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**From:** [REDACTED]@forestry.gov.scot>  
**Sent:** 20 November 2025 11:40  
**To:** [REDACTED]@forestry.gov.scot>; [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]@forestry.gov.scot>  
**Cc:** Scottish Forestry Corporate Affairs <[sfcorpaffairs@forestry.gov.scot](mailto:sfcorpaffairs@forestry.gov.scot)>  
**Subject:** Response - [REDACTED] - 20 November 2025

Hi both

Please see the below response from [REDACTED]. Can I suggest the below response?

Dear [REDACTED]

*Thank you for your email dated 20 November 2025. We refer to your letters dated 08 August 2025, 22 October 2025, and 19 November 2025. Please be advised that we will not be engaging further with this general correspondence. If you wish to pursue the matters raised, we would like to refer you to our [Model Complaints](#)*

*Handling Policy.*

Thanks

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**From:** Central Correspondence Unit <[CentralCorrespondenceUnit@gov.scot](mailto:CentralCorrespondenceUnit@gov.scot)>  
**Sent:** 20 November 2025 10:44  
**To:** [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@forestry.gov.scot](mailto:[REDACTED]@forestry.gov.scot)>  
**Subject:** FW: Your recent enquiry with Scottish Government and partner agencies - 202500490058

Good [REDACTED],  
Please see the email below. Please confirm if you require this to be added to MiCase?

Thank you,

[REDACTED] (she/her)  
Correspondence Performance Manager  
Central Correspondence Unit  
Email: [centralcorrespondenceunit@gov.scot](mailto:centralcorrespondenceunit@gov.scot)  
Improving Public Engagement Division (IPED)

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**From:** [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@\[REDACTED\]](mailto:[REDACTED]@[REDACTED])>  
**Sent:** 19 November 2025 17:26  
**To:** Scottish Government Case Handling Service <[casehandling.service@gov.scot](mailto:casehandling.service@gov.scot)>  
**Subject:** Re: Your recent enquiry with Scottish Government and partner agencies - 202500490058

Dear [REDACTED],

We refer to your letters dated 22<sup>nd</sup> October and 19<sup>th</sup> November 2025.

Due to us still waiting for answers from Scottish Forestry (SF) on the detailed issues raised since November 2024, referred to and committed to in previous SF correspondence, and also waiting for a responses from our MSP on the key issues raised again with the Cabinet Secretary recently, we were not in a position to respond to your direct question noted in your letter of 22nd October. We also refer you to the response to a previous SF letter regarding and internal investigation dated 9th December 2024, which for the record was never responded to. As recorded and evidenced throughout this Case History, we as a

community will decide when we issue the formal complaint and have repeatedly requested all outstanding answers and supporting evidence be provided before doing so. SF continued delay in providing the evidence based answers to the considered and relevant issues, has and continues to delay our opportunity to conclude this case.

With only 28 days between your letters, we strongly reject any attempt to close all outstanding matters in this serious case, considering that we have open correspondence from SF committing to providing answers to outstanding issues raised through the regulated Due Process. Considering that the issues have been raised over the past year, with a number of answers outstanding, we consider that SF attempt to close communication within 28 days of you first writing to us is yet another insult to the Scottish People, and provides further evidence of the very concerning optics in this case and the Scottish Governments clear attempt and ongoing threats to silence the voice of this community.

Can you please provide us with your contact number, so that we can have a discussion regarding the purpose of your 2 letters and clarify key points within SF previous commitments to provide the outstanding answers.

In the meantime, we again object to your attempt to close this ongoing case and refer you to all evidence recorded with the Scottish Government. Outstanding matters can not be simply be closed without answers and supporting evidence being provided to the public. As you are well aware, the Scottish Governments commitments to the Scottish People is to be fully transparent in all public communications, in particular through the Regulated Due Processes.

We look forward to receiving your contact number and the opportunity to clarify your recent communication and assess our options to obtain all outstanding answers, which will then allow us to fully consider when, and on what issues a formal public complaint is logged.

Kind Regards

[Redacted]

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**From:** [casehandling.service@gov.scot](mailto:casehandling.service@gov.scot) <[casehandling.service@gov.scot](mailto:casehandling.service@gov.scot)>

**Sent:** Wednesday, November 19, 2025 08:37

**To:** [Redacted]@ [Redacted] [Redacted]@ [Redacted] >

**Subject:** Your recent enquiry with Scottish Government and partner agencies - 202500490058

Please find attached a response to your correspondence.

\*\*\*\*\*

This e-mail (and any files or other attachments transmitted with it) is intended solely for the attention of the addressee(s). Unauthorised use, disclosure, storage, copying or distribution of any part of this e-mail is not permitted. If you are not the intended recipient please destroy the email, remove any copies from your system and inform the sender immediately by return.

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\*\*\*\*\*

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: Final Draft - Response to Multiple Correspondences  
**Date:** 06 August 2025 07:00:15  
**Attachments:** [Final Draft - MR.docx](#)  
[image001.jpg](#)  
[image002.jpg](#)

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Hi both

[REDACTED] what a marathon! Minor comments from me. Well done in corralling all of that together.

On another note – as we often refer to Unacceptable Actions Policy – would probably be worth finding an hour for the whole team to get together to discuss where we are with Unacceptable Actions.

Thanks,

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
*Corporate Planning and Governance Manager*

Scottish Forestry  
Saughton House | Broomhouse Drive | Edinburgh | EH11 3XD  
Upper Battleby | Redgorton | Perth | PH1 3EN  
[REDACTED] [@forestry.gov.scot](mailto:[REDACTED]@forestry.gov.scot)



Scottish Forestry is the Scottish Government agency responsible for forestry policy, support and regulation.

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**From:** [REDACTED]@forestry.gov.scot>  
**Sent:** 05 August 2025 16:41  
**To:** [REDACTED]@forestry.gov.scot>; [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]@forestry.gov.scot>  
**Subject:** RE: Final Draft - Response to Multiple Correspondences

Hi [REDACTED]

Firstly, I'd echo [REDACTED] comments at how well you have pulled this information together and drafted this up. It has been a very complex and long running case, and credit for helping get it to this stage.

I've read through and have a few minor points I've marked in red – I've haven't put comments against them. It may be easier to chat through for my understanding. Happy to do that, maybe in margins tomorrow, but probably on Thursday. [REDACTED] you may have comments too.

Thanks

Head of Corporate Affairs and Communications

Scottish Forestry  
Spur E1, Saughton House, Edinburgh, EH11 3XD

Email: [\[REDACTED\]@forestry.gov.scot](mailto: [REDACTED]@forestry.gov.scot)

Website: [forestry.gov.scot](http://forestry.gov.scot)

X: [@scoforestry](https://twitter.com/scoforestry)



Scottish Forestry is the Scottish Government agency responsible for forestry policy, support and regulation.

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**From:** [\[REDACTED\]@forestry.gov.scot](mailto: [REDACTED]@forestry.gov.scot)

**Sent:** 05 August 2025 16:02

**To:** [\[REDACTED\]@forestry.gov.scot](mailto: [REDACTED]@forestry.gov.scot); [\[REDACTED\]@forestry.gov.scot](mailto: [REDACTED]@forestry.gov.scot)

[\[REDACTED\]@forestry.gov.scot](mailto: [REDACTED]@forestry.gov.scot)

**Subject:** Final Draft - Response to Multiple Correspondences

Hi both

In [REDACTED] absence, I am sending you a final draft for review related to the multiple correspondences that have been submitted by one individual.

I have highlighted a section on page 5 where I am awaiting text to include from [REDACTED]. I have chased this up but think [REDACTED] may be on leave at present.

Thanks

*Corporate Support and Correspondance Officer*

Scottish Forestry | Saughton House | Broomhouse Drive | Edinburgh | EH11 3XD

Website: [forestry.gov.scot](http://forestry.gov.scot)

Email: [\[REDACTED\]@forestry.gov.scot](mailto: [REDACTED]@forestry.gov.scot)



Scottish Forestry is the Scottish Government agency responsible for forestry policy, support and regulation.

Is e Coilltearachd na h-Alba a' bhuidheann-ghnìomha aig Riaghaltas na h-Alba a tha an urra ri poileasaidh, taic agus riaghladh do choilltearachd.



**Scottish  
Forestry**  
Coilltearachd  
na h-Alba

Saughton House  
Broomhouse Drive  
Edinburgh EH11 3XD  
forestry.gov.scot

Email: [scottish.forestry@forestry.gov.scot](mailto:scottish.forestry@forestry.gov.scot)  
Tel: 0131 370 5250

Chief Executive: Paul Lowe

[Redacted]@ [Redacted]

Our ref: Multiple communications regarding East Nethershields

Date: 04 August 2025

Dear [Redacted]

I am writing to you in relation to a number of emails that have been submitted to various parts of Scottish Government over the last number of weeks and months and since I last wrote to you. I apologise for our delay in responding, this have been due to the volume and complexity of the correspondence from you on this case.

For the sake of clarity and to ensure that I have captured all correspondence, I will list them below and provide some context about who the recipients of each email was and on what dates each communication was received. You will have received acknowledgments to all the below cases that include the reference numbers I will use to identify each communication.

Case Reference	Recipient(s)	Subject	Date Received
202500450345	First Minister	Governance of Public Regulated Due Processes, for the Scottish People? Case Ref No: 202400443365	29 January 2025
202500460158	Director of Operational Delivery (Scottish Forestry)	East Nethershield Woodland Creation	31 March 2025
202500447974	First Minister	Governance of Public Regulated Due Processes, for the Scottish People? Case Ref No: 202400443365.	31 March 2025
202500465517	Director of Operational Delivery (Scottish Forestry)	East Nethershield Woodland Creation	9 May 2025
202500465792	First Minister	Governance of Public Regulated Due Processes, for the Scottish People? Case Ref No: 202400443365	12 May 2025
202500466665	Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs, Land Reform & Islands	East Nethershield Woodland Proposal and Grant Application	13 May 2025

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Is e Coilltearachd na h-Alba a' bhuidheann-ghnìomha aig Riaghaltas na h-Alba a tha an urra ri poileasaidh, taic agus riaghladh do choilltearachd

202500475250	Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs, Land Reform & Islands	East Nethershield Woodland Proposal and Grant Application	30 June 2025
202500474103	First Minister	Governance of Public Regulated Due Processes, for the Scottish People? Case Ref No: 202400443365	30 June 2025
202500475251	Scottish Forestry Enquiries, Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs, Land Reform & Islands, Director of Operational Delivery (Scottish Forestry)	East Nethershields Woodland - Non Compliant Issues	9 July 2025
202500476034	Scottish Forestry Enquiries, Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs, Land Reform & Islands, Director of Operational Delivery (Scottish Forestry)	East Nethershield Woodland Creation	14 July 2025
202500477626	Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs, Land Reform & Islands	East Nethershields	25 July 2025

I hope the above table will enable you to identify each correspondence I will refer to in this letter. I will attempt to respond to all points that I have not already addressed in previous communications to you. We are also aware that you have raised a complaint with South Lanarkshire Council on 22 July 2025 regarding noise from strimming around newly planted trees in the vicinity of Burn Farm. South Lanarkshire Council subsequently reached out to Scottish Forestry for a response. I can confirm that Scottish Forestry provided South Lanarkshire Council with our position on the issues raised and I refer you to South Lanarkshire Council should you wish to discuss this further.

Before I address the points raised in your multiple communications, please be advised that responses to Ministers and Cabinet Secretaries within the Scottish Government often require input from civil servants across relevant policy and operational areas to provide a thorough and informed reply. These responses can take some time to consider, and it is common government practice for the Offices of Ministers of Scottish Government to ask civil servants to reply on their behalf. As such, Scottish Forestry have been asked to address the correspondence sent by you for Ministers, as detailed above, as the lead on such matters within Scottish Government.

I would like to note, however, that the submission of multiple emails within a short period of time can inadvertently slow down our ability to respond effectively. Each piece of correspondence must be carefully reviewed to ensure all points raised are addressed accurately and respectfully. When many requests are submitted in quick succession, it places added pressure on our ability to respond with the diligence and attention that every enquiry deserves. Please understand that our ability to respond to such a large volume of emails is limited and we are in a much better position to respond if you provide us with sufficient time to do so.

We are committed to providing considered responses and appreciate your understanding as we work to do so.

I would like to reiterate what I have stated in previous correspondence. I understand that you have very strong views about how this case has been handled and, in particular, about aspects of Scottish Forestry's role. However, I have reached the conclusion that your extensive and repeated correspondence on this case has breached Scottish Government's [Unacceptable actions policy](#). You have made statements that constitute abusive behaviour, made unreasonable demands and been unreasonably persistent. I therefore ask you to stop contacting Scottish Forestry and Scottish Ministers in relation to the handling of this case. If you continue to contact Scottish Forestry or Scottish Ministers in the above manner, we will no longer correspond or engage with you on matters relating to the East Nethershields woodland creation application process and may take action to limit wider contact. Examples of further action that may be necessary should you continue to contact Scottish Forestry and Scottish Ministers in relation to this case can include;

- terminating all contact (subject to necessary limitations)
- terminating communication by specified channels only (eg refusing to take telephone calls from an individual)
- refusing to accept communication on a specified subject only
- requiring the individual to communicate only through a third party

Despite advising you that we have taken the decision to longer correspond or engage with you on matters relating to the East Nethershields woodland creation, you have continued to contact Scottish Forestry and Scottish Ministers.

Having stated the above, you have raised issues that were not present in earlier communications to us and Scottish Ministers and I will respond to those here. I will not to respond to points that have already been addressed in previous correspondence.

### **Case 202500450345**

You have raised concerns about a failure of Scottish Forestry senior management to meet with the community. Scottish Forestry senior managers do not routinely get involved with the handling of woodland creation applications, particularly during the development phase led by the forestry agent. Under Scottish Forestry's procedures, senior national managers do not have a direct role in regulatory decision-making processes. These are handled locally by the conservancy teams and case officers. It would therefore be irregular and very unusual for senior managers to meet with a stakeholder to discuss a particular application or regulatory decision.

If you are not satisfied with how your correspondence has been handled, then you have the option to submit a complaint. I will provide detailed information relating to our complaints policy at the end of this letter. Scottish Forestry is not prepared to enter an ongoing dialogue on these matters.

### **Case 202500460158**

You have raised concerns about delays in Scottish Forestry in replying to correspondence and you have stated that you feel Scottish Forestry has not replied fully responded to your concerns in previous communications with us.

As stated earlier in this letter, and in previous responses to you, submission of multiple emails within a short period of time can inadvertently slow down our ability to respond effectively. We strive to respond, where appropriate, as soon as is possible but I must again ask that you try to moderate the volume and frequency of correspondence that you send Scottish Ministers and Scottish Forestry as this will ultimately cause delays in responding.

After careful review of this correspondence, it is my position that Scottish Forestry have addressed other points you have raised in our letter dated 23 January 2025. I have attached that letter for your convenience.



2024-00436864 -

(1).f

If you are not satisfied with how your correspondence has been handled, then you have the option to submit a complaint.

#### **Case 202500447974**

You have raised concerns about a failure of Scottish Forestry senior management to meet with the community and have requested that the First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs, Land Reform & Islands meet with you to discuss your concerns. As stated previously, Scottish Forestry senior managers and Scottish Ministers do not routinely get involved with the handling of woodland creation applications, particularly during the development phase led by the forestry agent.

That said, I would like to remind you that Cabinet Secretary did meet with you on 05 September 2023. The Cabinet Secretary confirmed that Scottish Forestry would ensure that any application received careful and thorough assessment, including checking that the concerns raised by the community had been properly taken into account and that the woodland creation process, including community engagement, was being properly followed. **I would like to reiterate Cabinet Secretary words and say that, having reviewed all available data**, it is my firm belief that Scottish Forestry have met their obligations to ensure a thorough and considered assessment was completed.

Under Scottish Forestry's procedures senior national managers do not have a direct role in regulatory decision-making processes. These are handled locally by the conservancy teams and case officers. It would therefore be irregular and very unusual for senior managers and Scottish Ministers to meet with a stakeholder in order to discuss a particular application or regulatory decision.

You also stated that;

*“These concerns are only increasing, with both the receipt of the recent letters from Scottish Forestry, the lack of clarity and response on the content of these letters, and now also (since 20th November 2024) the non-response and action on the Material Evidence of non-compliance with the Woodland Proposals, as the work has progressed since the commencement in October 2024. This includes the unauthorized formation of new access, which is the only reason a large part of the woodland has been able to be formed over the period since, a period of 2 months and continuing, but this access was continually denied by the Agent over the previous 2 years. This conduct must not be tolerated in Public Regulated Due Processes, as it is clearly known decisions by the Agent to exclude the required Planning Regulations requirements”.*

Having considered this statement, and having reviewed our previous responses to you, it is my position that we have previously addressed the above concerns in a letter dated 23 January 2025. I have attached that letter for your convenience”.

If you are not satisfied with how your correspondence has been handled, then you have the option to submit a complaint.

#### **Case 202500465517**

You have raised concerns about delays in Scottish Forestry in replying to correspondence. You have suggested that Scottish Forestry have ignored your concerns, and you have stated that you feel Scottish Forestry has not replied fully responded to your concerns in previous communications with us.

In a letter dated 28 November 2024, I provided evidence of the considerable efforts myself and my colleagues have made to respond to your correspondence. Since then, we have continued to utilise considerable resource and time in addressing concerns you have raised. Scottish Forestry is a small agency with limited resources, but I can confidently state that we have done our utmost to provide detailed responses that have been carefully considered and thoroughly investigated. I have provided a copy of that letter for your review.



SF

Letter-202400431004

If you are not satisfied with how your correspondence has been handled, then you have the option to submit a complaint.

#### **Case 202500465792**

You have repeated concerns about delays in Scottish Forestry in replying to correspondence, repeated a request to meet with Scottish Ministers and have made allegations that Scottish Government are putting lives at risk. You have also stated that you feel that Scottish Forestry has threatened **your community** by applying the Scottish Government’s Unacceptable Actions policy.

I believe I have adequately responded to matters raised in this email above but wish to, again, advise you that you have made statements that constitute abusive behaviour, made unreasonable demands and been unreasonably persistent. It is for this reason that we have taken the decision to no longer correspond or engage with you on matters relating to the East Nethershields woodland creation.

If you are not satisfied with how your correspondence has been handled, then you have the option to submit a complaint.

### **Case 202500466665**

You have repeated concerns about delays in Scottish Forestry in replying to correspondence, repeated a request to meet with Scottish Ministers. You have, again, also stated that you feel that Scottish Forestry has threatened your community by applying the Scottish Government's Unacceptable Actions policy.

You have also stated that the Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs, Land Reform & Islands should "enforce the powers you have and intervene in this case, instructing a robust and truly independent investigation into the evidence of this case".

I believe I have addressed many of the points raised by you earlier in this letter. That said, and in response to your request that Cabinet Secretary intervene, I would like to reiterate that Scottish Forestry senior managers and Scottish Ministers do not routinely get involved with the handling of woodland creation applications, particularly during the development phase led by the forestry agent. **As highlighted previously, under Scottish Forestry's procedures** senior national managers do not have a direct role in regulatory decision-making processes. These are handled locally by the conservancy teams and case officers.

In your letter, you asked 14 questions relating to Nethershields woodland creation and repeated many points that Scottish Forestry had already responded to in the past. I do not find that it would be helpful to repeat points previously made and would like to remind you that we have made the decision not to continue to engage in discussion on matters relating to the East Nethershields woodland creation.

If you are not satisfied with how your correspondence has been handled, then you have the option to submit a complaint.

### **Case 202500475250**

You have repeated requests to meet Scottish Ministers and have highlighted your concerns that you feel that you have been ignored by Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs, Land Reform & Islands.

I have provided a response to these points earlier in this letter and clarified why it is that senior civil servants and Scottish Ministers do not routinely intervene in a way that you have suggested.

If you aren't satisfied with how your correspondence has been handled, then you have the option to submit a complaint. I will provide detailed information relating to our complaints policy at the end of this letter. Scottish Forestry is not prepared to enter an ongoing dialogue on these matters.

**Case 202500474103**

You have repeated concerns as detailed above in case 202500475250. I believe that I have sufficiently responded to both cases.

If you are not satisfied with how your correspondence has been handled, then you have the option to submit a complaint.

**Case 202500475251**

You asked us to review evidence you have submitted where you allege unauthorised work has been carried out and that the works were approved by Scottish Forestry in relation to East Nethershields woodland creation.

I have asked our Senior Operations Manager to review what you have submitted and to provide a response that I have detailed below.

**(INSERT TEXT ONCE RECEIVED)**

If you are not satisfied with how your correspondence has been handled, then you have the option to submit a complaint.

**Case 202500476034**

You asked that we permit access to the Scottish Forestry Conservancy (South) offices so that you can view all application documents relevant to the East Nethershields Woodland Proposal.

We responded to this separately, however, I wish to reiterate that we have taken the decision to publish the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) documents relating to East Nethershields. I refer you to the letter we issued to you on 05 August 2025 for further details.

As I understand it, you should have also received an earlier email stating that we would not be able to arrange access on the day you requested to visit one of our offices, but we would look to make other arrangements. I would encourage you to respond to said email and attempt to arrange a mutually suitable time to visit.

If you are not satisfied with how your correspondence has been handled, then you have the option to submit a complaint.

**Case 202500477626**

Although you have not stated this directly to Scottish Forestry, I understand that you have experienced what you have described as noise nuisance in the area that has been caused by strimming. This understanding comes from the request from information we received from South Lanarkshire Council who I believe are investigating a noise complaint.

Scottish Forestry's role as regulator focuses on the sustainable management of Scotland's forests and woodlands. This includes oversight of felling permissions, administration of grant schemes, and ensuring compliance with the UK Forestry Standard. We do not have a statutory role in regulating environmental noise. While forestry operations are not automatically exempt from noise legislation, routine activities such as weeding or thinning are generally considered reasonable land management practices when carried out responsibly and some constraints such as time sensitivity, weather dependences, ecological constraints may be a factor in the timing of operations.

Although there is no statutory guidance specific to noise in forestry, the following documents promote good practice in operational planning and neighbour relations:

- [UK Forestry Standard \(UKFS\)](#) – the reference standard for sustainable forest management in the UK, which encourages good neighbour principles and operational planning.
- [FISA Safety Guides](#) – particularly FISA 806 (Welfare) and FISA 808 (CDM in Forestry), which support responsible site management and planning.
- [Forest Research guidance on occupational noise hazards](#) – focused on worker safety, though not environmental noise.

It is not in Scottish Forestry's remit to respond to the specific concerns you have raised in relation to noise complaints but I encourage you to continue to work with South Lanarkshire Council as I understand, from the interest they have taken in your complaint to them, that this may be within their remit and should be for South Lanarkshire Council to respond to. As previously stated, we have provided a response to South Lanarkshire Council and I expect that, if they have not already, they will be in contact with you in due course.

You have also asked to again meet with Scottish Ministers about this decision. I believe I have provided a thorough response to this request.

You have also asked for a copy of an Operational Plan for East Netherfields woodland creation. I understand that this may have previously been provided but, for the sake of ensuring you are able to view it, I have attached it to this letter below.



Operational Plan -  
East Netherfields.pdf

You have also asked to again meet with Scottish Ministers about this decision. I believe I have provided a thorough response to this request.

### **Complaint Policy**

As I stated previously, I would like to take an opportunity to provide you with information on our complaints policy. Scottish Forestry operates a Model Complaints Handling Procedure that you can read more about [here](#). I understand that you have previously stated that you would not like to have your concerns handled as complaints however I want to highlight what Scottish Forestry considers to be a complaint. A complaint is any expression of dissatisfaction about our action or lack of action, or about the standard of service provided by us or on our behalf.

Much of what you have said would fall under the above definition of a complaint. Due to the large number of concerns you have raised, it would be considered as a stage 2 complaint.

Were we to address this matter as a stage 2 complaint, we would, in the course of investigating, invite you to have a telephone conversation to discuss your complaint with you to understand why you remain dissatisfied and what outcome you are looking for. We would appoint a complaint manager to have this conversation with you, investigate all concerns raised and issue a response within stated timeframes. Any complaint manager appointed would be an experienced civil servant within Scottish Forestry, due to the complex nature of concerns raised.

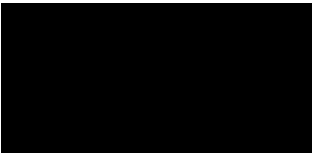

If you remained unsatisfied with any potential outcome of this complaint, you would have the right to appeal to Scottish Public Services Ombudsman (SPSO). The SPSO is the final stage for complaints about public service organisations in Scotland.

Should you wish to have your concerns addressed through our Model Complaints Handling Procedure, please contact us through our Executive Office email.

However, should you not wish to have concerns addressed through the complaint mechanism, this letter will serve as a final response to the issues you have raised to us. If you continue to contact Scottish Forestry or Scottish Ministers in relation to East Nethershields woodland creation and that contact is not related to a complaint you would like to submit, we will no longer correspond or engage with you.

Once again, I would like to apologise for the unavoidable delays in issuing this reply, but I hope it will be received with the understanding that we have addressed concerns raised.

Yours sincerely

Director of Operational Delivery  
Scottish Forestry

**From:** [REDACTED] on behalf of [Scottish Forestry Corporate Affairs](#)  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [Scottish Forestry Corporate Affairs](#)  
**Subject:** For Decision - [REDACTED] - East Nethersfield Woodland Creation - 18 November  
**Date:** 14 November 2025 14:49:00  
**Attachments:** [image001.jpg](#)  
[Interim-202500490058 \(3\).pdf](#)

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Hi both

We currently have MiCase ref 202500490058 opened having sent out the attached holding letter. This MiCase is due to for a response by 18 November 2025.

Can I check if you are content that we send the following as a response on 18 November? Alternatively, we can simply withdraw the case and not write a response but I think that triggers an automated response advising we have done so.

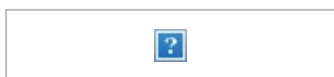
Dear [REDACTED]

*Thank you again for your email dated 21 October 2025. We have not heard from you since we issued a reply on 22 October 2025 asking if you could confirm if you wished to submit a formal complaint in line with our Model Complaints Handling Policy. As we have not had a response, we will now close this case. Should you decide to submit a formal complaint, please contact our Corporate Affairs team by email via [sfcorpaffairs@forestry.gov.scot](mailto:sfcorpaffairs@forestry.gov.scot). For all other matters, we refer you to the letter issued to you on 08 August 2025. We now consider all outstanding matters closed.*

**Thanks**

[REDACTED]  
*Corporate Support and Correspondance Officer*

Scottish Forestry | Saughton House | Broomhouse Drive | Edinburgh | EH11 3XD  
Website: [forestry.gov.scot](http://forestry.gov.scot)  
Email: [REDACTED]@forestry.gov.scot



Scottish Forestry is the Scottish Government agency responsible for forestry policy, support and regulation.

Is e Coilltearachd na h-Alba a' bhuidheann-ghnìomha aig Riaghaltas na h-Alba a tha an urra ri poileasaidh, taic agus riaghladh do choilltearachd.



[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]@ [REDACTED]

Our Reference: 202500490058

22 October 2025

Dear [REDACTED],

Thank you for your email dated 21 October 2025.

Having reviewed the points you raised, we believe that much of your email falls under our [Model Complaints Handling Policy](#).

To properly address the multiple issues you have outlined, we need your confirmation that you wish to submit a formal complaint. If you choose to do so, we will appoint a complaints manager who will be in touch shortly.

Should you decide not to lodge a formal complaint at this time, please refer to our previous letter dated 08 August 2025.

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]  
**SFCBS : Corporate Affairs and Communications**

Scottish Ministers, special advisers and the Permanent Secretary are covered by the terms of the Lobbying (Scotland) Act 2016. See [www.lobbying.scot](http://www.lobbying.scot)

St Andrew's House, Regent Road, Edinburgh EH1  
3DG  
[www.gov.scot](http://www.gov.scot)



**From:** [REDACTED] on behalf of [Scottish Forestry Corporate Affairs](#)  
**To:** [REDACTED] [Scottish Forestry Corporate Affairs](#); [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: For Decision - [REDACTED] East Nethersfield Woodland Creation - 18 November  
**Date:** 14 November 2025 15:12:00  
**Attachments:** [image001.jpg](#)  
[image002.jpg](#)

---

Grand – unless there are any objections or unless [REDACTED] contacts us beforehand, I will issue the below by COP Tuesday.

Thanks

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** [REDACTED]@forestry.gov.scot>  
**Sent:** 14 November 2025 15:09  
**To:** Scottish Forestry Corporate Affairs <[sfcorpaffairs@forestry.gov.scot](mailto:sfcorpaffairs@forestry.gov.scot)>; [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]@forestry.gov.scot>; [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]@forestry.gov.scot>  
**Subject:** RE: For Decision - [REDACTED] - East Nethersfield Woodland Creation - 18 November

Works for me.

Just sighting [REDACTED], as this case might continue.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]  
Head of Corporate Affairs and Communications

Scottish Forestry  
Spur E1, Saughton House, Edinburgh, EH11 3XD

Email: [REDACTED][@forestry.gov.scot](mailto:[REDACTED]@forestry.gov.scot)

Website: [forestry.gov.scot](http://forestry.gov.scot)

X: [@scotforestry](https://twitter.com/scotforestry)



Scottish Forestry is the Scottish Government agency responsible for forestry policy, support and regulation.

---

**From:** [REDACTED]@forestry.gov.scot> **On Behalf Of** Scottish Forestry Corporate Affairs  
**Sent:** 14 November 2025 14:50  
**To:** [REDACTED]@forestry.gov.scot>; [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]@forestry.gov.scot>

**Cc:** Scottish Forestry Corporate Affairs <[sfcorpaffairs@forestry.gov.scot](mailto:sfcorpaffairs@forestry.gov.scot)>

**Subject:** For Decision - [REDACTED] - East Nethersfield Woodland Creation - 18 November

Hi both

We currently have MiCase ref 202500490058 opened having sent out the attached holding letter. This MiCase is due to for a response by 18 November 2025.

Can I check if you are content that we send the following as a response on 18 November? Alternatively, we can simply withdraw the case and not write a response but I think that triggers an automated response advising we have done so.

Dear [REDACTED]

*Thank you again for your email dated 21 October 2025. We have not heard from you since we issued a reply on 22 October 2025 asking if you could confirm if you wished to submit a formal complaint in line with our Model Complaints Handling Policy. As we have not had a response, we will now close this case. Should you decide to submit a formal complaint, please contact our Corporate Affairs team by email via [sfcorpaffairs@forestry.gov.scot](mailto:sfcorpaffairs@forestry.gov.scot). For all other matters, we refer you to the letter issued to you on 08 August 2025. We now consider all outstanding matters closed.*

**Thanks**

[REDACTED]  
*Corporate Support and Correspondance Officer*

Scottish Forestry | Saughton House | Broomhouse Drive | Edinburgh | EH11 3XD

Website: [forestry.gov.scot](http://forestry.gov.scot)

Email: [REDACTED]@[forestry.gov.scot](mailto:forestry.gov.scot)



Scottish Forestry is the Scottish Government agency responsible for forestry policy, support and regulation.

Is e Coilltearachd na h-Alba a' bhuidheann-ghnìomha aig Riaghaltas na h-Alba a tha an urra ri poileasaidh, taic agus riaghladh do choilltearachd.

**From:** [REDACTED] on behalf of [Scottish Forestry Corporate Affairs](#)  
**To:** [Central Correspondence Unit](#)  
**Cc:** [Scottish Forestry Corporate Affairs](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Your recent enquiry with Scottish Government and partner agencies - 202500490058  
**Date:** 21 November 2025 08:50:09  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)

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Good morning

Apologies for the delay in replying and thank you for forwarding this. Please note that this has been replied to via MiCase ref 202500494686, so no further action needed on your part.

Thanks

[REDACTED]

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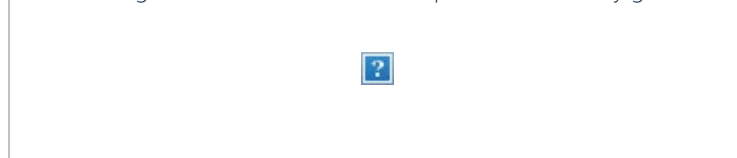
**From:** Central Correspondence Unit <CentralCorrespondenceUnit@gov.scot>  
**Sent:** 20 November 2025 10:44  
**To:** [REDACTED]@forestry.gov.scot>  
**Subject:** FW: Your recent enquiry with Scottish Government and partner agencies - 202500490058

Good [REDACTED],  
Please see the email below. Please confirm if you require this to be added to MiCase?

Thank you,

[REDACTED] (she/her)  
Correspondence Performance Manager  
Central Correspondence Unit  
Email: [centralcorrespondenceunit@gov.scot](mailto:centralcorrespondenceunit@gov.scot)  
Improving Public Engagement Division (IPED)

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**From:** [REDACTED]@ [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 19 November 2025 17:26  
**To:** Scottish Government Case Handling Service <[casehandling.service@gov.scot](mailto:casehandling.service@gov.scot)>  
**Subject:** Re: Your recent enquiry with Scottish Government and partner agencies - 202500490058

Dear [REDACTED],

We refer to your letters dated 22<sup>nd</sup> October and 19<sup>th</sup> November 2025.

Due to us still waiting for answers from Scottish Forestry (SF) on the detailed issues raised since November 2024, referred to and committed to in previous SF correspondence, and also waiting for a responses from our MSP on the key issues raised again with the Cabinet Secretary recently, we were not in a position to respond to your direct question noted in your letter of 22<sup>nd</sup> October. We also refer you to the response to a previous SF letter regarding an internal investigation dated 9<sup>th</sup> December 2024, which for the record was never responded to. As recorded and evidenced throughout this Case History, we as a community will decide when we issue the formal complaint and have repeatedly requested all outstanding answers and supporting evidence be provided before doing so. SF continued delay in providing the evidence based answers to the considered and relevant issues, has and continues to delay our opportunity to conclude this case.

With only 28 days between your letters, we strongly reject any attempt to close all outstanding matters in this serious case, considering that we have open correspondence from SF committing to providing answers to outstanding issues raised through the regulated Due Process. Considering that the issues have been raised over the past year, with a number of answers outstanding, we consider that SF attempt to close communication within 28 days of you first writing to us is yet another insult to the Scottish People, and provides further evidence of the very concerning optics in this case and the Scottish Governments clear attempt and ongoing threats to silence the voice of this community.

Can you please provide us with your contact number, so that we can have a discussion regarding the purpose of your 2 letters and clarify key points within SF previous commitments to provide the outstanding answers.

In the meantime, we again object to your attempt to close this ongoing case and refer you to all evidence recorded with the Scottish Government. Outstanding matters can not be simply be closed without answers and supporting evidence being provided to the public. As you are well aware, the Scottish Governments commitments to the Scottish People is to be fully transparent in all public communications, in particular through the Regulated Due Processes.

We look forward to receiving your contact number and the opportunity to clarify your recent communication and assess our options to obtain all outstanding answers, which will then allow us to fully consider when, and on what issues a formal public complaint is logged.

Kind Regards



**From:** [casehandling.service@gov.scot](mailto:casehandling.service@gov.scot) <[casehandling.service@gov.scot](mailto:casehandling.service@gov.scot)>

**Sent:** Wednesday, November 19, 2025 08:37

**To:** [REDACTED]@ [REDACTED] [REDACTED]@ [REDACTED]

**Subject:** Your recent enquiry with Scottish Government and partner agencies - 202500490058

Please find attached a response to your correspondence.

\*\*\*\*\*

This e-mail (and any files or other attachments transmitted with it) is intended solely for the attention of the addressee(s). Unauthorised use, disclosure, storage, copying or distribution of any part of this e-mail is not permitted. If you are not the intended recipient please destroy the email, remove any copies from your system and inform the sender immediately by return.

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\*\*\*\*\*

**From:** [Central Correspondence Unit](#)  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** FW: Your recent enquiry with Scottish Government and partner agencies - 202500490058  
**Date:** 20 November 2025 10:43:37  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)

---

Good [REDACTED],  
Please see the email below. Please confirm if you require this to be added to MiCase?

Thank you,

[REDACTED] (she/her)  
Correspondence Performance Manager  
Central Correspondence Unit  
Email: [centralcorrespondenceunit@gov.scot](mailto:centralcorrespondenceunit@gov.scot)  
Improving Public Engagement Division (IPED)

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**From:** [REDACTED]@[REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 19 November 2025 17:26  
**To:** Scottish Government Case Handling Service <[casehandling.service@gov.scot](mailto:casehandling.service@gov.scot)>  
**Subject:** Re: Your recent enquiry with Scottish Government and partner agencies - 202500490058

Dear [REDACTED],

We refer to your letters dated 22<sup>nd</sup> October and 19<sup>th</sup> November 2025.

Due to us still waiting for answers from Scottish Forestry (SF) on the detailed issues raised since November 2024, referred to and committed to in previous SF correspondence, and also waiting for a responses from our MSP on the key issues raised again with the Cabinet Secretary recently, we were not in a position to respond to your direct question noted in your letter of 22nd October. We also refer you to the response to a previous SF letter regarding an internal investigation dated 9th December 2024, which for the record was never responded to. As recorded and evidenced throughout this Case History, we as a community will decide when we issue the formal complaint and have repeatedly requested all outstanding answers and supporting evidence be provided before doing so. SF continued delay in providing the evidence based answers to the considered and relevant issues, has and continues to delay our opportunity to conclude this case.

With only 28 days between your letters, we strongly reject any attempt to close all

outstanding matters in this serious case, considering that we have open correspondence from SF committing to providing answers to outstanding issues raised through the regulated Due Process. Considering that the issues have been raised over the past year, with a number of answers outstanding, we consider that SF attempt to close communication within 28 days of you first writing to us is yet another insult to the Scottish People, and provides further evidence of the very concerning optics in this case and the Scottish Governments clear attempt and ongoing threats to silence the voice of this community.

Can you please provide us with your contact number, so that we can have a discussion regarding the purpose of your 2 letters and clarify key points within SF previous commitments to provide the outstanding answers.

In the meantime, we again object to your attempt to close this ongoing case and refer you to all evidence recorded with the Scottish Government. Outstanding matters can not be simply be closed without answers and supporting evidence being provided to the public. As you are well aware, the Scottish Governments commitments to the Scottish People is to be fully transparent in all public communications, in particular through the Regulated Due Processes.

We look forward to receiving your contact number and the opportunity to clarify your recent communication and assess our options to obtain all outstanding answers, which will then allow us to fully consider when, and on what issues a formal public complaint is logged.

Kind Regards

[Redacted]

---

**From:** [casehandling.service@gov.scot](mailto:casehandling.service@gov.scot) <[casehandling.service@gov.scot](mailto:casehandling.service@gov.scot)>

**Sent:** Wednesday, November 19, 2025 08:37

**To:** [Redacted]@ [Redacted]@ [Redacted]

**Subject:** Your recent enquiry with Scottish Government and partner agencies - 202500490058

Please find attached a response to your correspondence.

\*\*\*\*\*

This e-mail (and any files or other attachments transmitted with it) is intended solely for the attention of the addressee(s). Unauthorised use, disclosure, storage, copying or distribution of any part of this e-mail is not permitted. If you are not the intended recipient please destroy the email, remove any copies from your system and inform the sender immediately by return.

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The views or opinions contained within this e-mail may not necessarily reflect those of the Scottish Government.

\*\*\*\*\*

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [Scottish Forestry Corporate Affairs](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Response - [REDACTED] - 20 November 2025  
**Date:** 20 November 2025 16:34:35  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)

---

Hi [REDACTED],

Thanks – content with the proposed response. Spotted his email was dated 19/11 rather than 20<sup>th</sup> so worth checking that

Thanks

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** [REDACTED]@forestry.gov.scot>  
**Sent:** 20 November 2025 11:40  
**To:** [REDACTED]@forestry.gov.scot>; [REDACTED]  
<[REDACTED]@forestry.gov.scot>  
**Cc:** Scottish Forestry Corporate Affairs <sfcorpaffairs@forestry.gov.scot>  
**Subject:** Response - [REDACTED] - 20 November 2025

Hi both

Please see the below response from [REDACTED]. Can I suggest the below response?

Dear [REDACTED]

*Thank you for your email dated 20 November 2025. We refer to your letters dated 08 August 2025, 22 October 2025, and 19 November 2025. Please be advised that we will not be engaging further with this general correspondence. If you wish to pursue the matters raised, we would like to refer you to our [Model Complaints Handling Policy](#).*

Thanks

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Central Correspondence Unit <[CentralCorrespondenceUnit@gov.scot](mailto:CentralCorrespondenceUnit@gov.scot)>  
**Sent:** 20 November 2025 10:44  
**To:** [REDACTED]@forestry.gov.scot>  
**Subject:** FW: Your recent enquiry with Scottish Government and partner agencies - 202500490058

Good [REDACTED],

Please see the email below. Please confirm if you require this to be added to MiCase?

Thank you,

██████████ (she/her)  
Correspondence Performance Manager  
Central Correspondence Unit  
Email: [centralcorrespondenceunit@gov.scot](mailto:centralcorrespondenceunit@gov.scot)  
Improving Public Engagement Division (IPED)

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**From:** ██████████@██████████  
**Sent:** 19 November 2025 17:26  
**To:** Scottish Government Case Handling Service <[casehandling.service@gov.scot](mailto:casehandling.service@gov.scot)>  
**Subject:** Re: Your recent enquiry with Scottish Government and partner agencies - 202500490058

Dear ██████████,

We refer to your letters dated 22<sup>nd</sup> October and 19<sup>th</sup> November 2025.

Due to us still waiting for answers from Scottish Forestry (SF) on the detailed issues raised since November 2024, referred to and committed to in previous SF correspondence, and also waiting for a responses from our MSP on the key issues raised again with the Cabinet Secretary recently, we were not in a position to respond to your direct question noted in your letter of 22nd October. We also refer you to the response to a previous SF letter regarding an internal investigation dated 9th December 2024, which for the record was never responded to. As recorded and evidenced throughout this Case History, we as a community will decide when we issue the formal complaint and have repeatedly requested all outstanding answers and supporting evidence be provided before doing so. SF continued delay in providing the evidence based answers to the considered and relevant issues, has and continues to delay our opportunity to conclude this case.

With only 28 days between your letters, we strongly reject any attempt to close all outstanding matters in this serious case, considering that we have open correspondence from SF committing to providing answers to outstanding issues raised through the regulated Due Process. Considering that the issues have been raised over the past year, with a number of answers outstanding, we consider that SF attempt to close communication within 28 days of you first writing to us is yet another insult to the Scottish People, and provides further evidence of the very concerning optics in this case and the Scottish Governments clear attempt and ongoing threats to silence the voice of this community.

Can you please provide us with your contact number, so that we can have a discussion regarding the purpose of your 2 letters and clarify key points within SF previous commitments to provide the outstanding answers.

In the meantime, we again object to your attempt to close this ongoing case and refer you to all evidence recorded with the Scottish Government. Outstanding matters can not be simply be closed without answers and supporting evidence being provided to the public. As you are well aware, the Scottish Governments commitments to the Scottish People is to be fully transparent in all public communications, in particular through the Regulated Due Processes.

We look forward to receiving your contact number and the opportunity to clarify your recent communication and assess our options to obtain all outstanding answers, which will then allow us to fully consider when, and on what issues a formal public complaint is logged.

Kind Regards

[Redacted]

---

**From:** [casehandling.service@gov.scot](mailto:casehandling.service@gov.scot) <[casehandling.service@gov.scot](mailto:casehandling.service@gov.scot)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 19, 2025 08:37  
**To:** [Redacted]@ [Redacted]@ [Redacted]  
**Subject:** Your recent enquiry with Scottish Government and partner agencies - 202500490058

Please find attached a response to your correspondence.

\*\*\*\*\*

This e-mail (and any files or other attachments transmitted with it) is intended solely for the attention of the addressee(s). Unauthorised use, disclosure, storage, copying or distribution of any part of this e-mail is not permitted. If you are not the intended recipient please destroy the email, remove any copies from your system and inform the sender immediately by return.

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\*\*\*\*\*

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [Scottish Forestry Corporate Affairs](#); [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: Response - [REDACTED] - 20 November 2025  
**Date:** 20 November 2025 12:15:07  
**Attachments:** [image002.jpg](#)  
[image003.png](#)

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[REDACTED]

Thanks – I agree with that approach.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Head of Corporate Affairs and Communications

Scottish Forestry  
Spur E1, Saughton House, Edinburgh, EH11 3XD

Email: [REDACTED]@forestry.gov.scot

Website: [forestry.gov.scot](http://forestry.gov.scot)

X: [@scotforestry](#)



Scottish Forestry is the Scottish Government agency responsible for forestry policy, support and regulation.

---

**From:** [REDACTED]@forestry.gov.scot>  
**Sent:** 20 November 2025 11:40  
**To:** [REDACTED]@forestry.gov.scot>; [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]@forestry.gov.scot>  
**Cc:** Scottish Forestry Corporate Affairs <[sfcorpaffairs@forestry.gov.scot](mailto:sfcorpaffairs@forestry.gov.scot)>  
**Subject:** Response - [REDACTED] - 20 November 2025

Hi both

Please see the below response from [REDACTED]. Can I suggest the below response?

Dear [REDACTED]

*Thank you for your email dated 20 November 2025. We refer to your letters dated 08 August 2025, 22 October 2025, and 19 November 2025. Please be advised that we will not be engaging further with this general correspondence. If you wish to pursue the matters raised, we would like to refer you to our [Model Complaints Handling Policy](#).*

Thanks

---

**From:** Central Correspondence Unit <[CentralCorrespondenceUnit@gov.scot](mailto:CentralCorrespondenceUnit@gov.scot)>

**Sent:** 20 November 2025 10:44

**To:** [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@forestry.gov.scot](mailto:[REDACTED]@forestry.gov.scot)>

**Subject:** FW: Your recent enquiry with Scottish Government and partner agencies - 202500490058

Good [REDACTED],

Please see the email below. Please confirm if you require this to be added to MiCase?

Thank you,

[REDACTED] (she/her)

Correspondence Performance Manager

Central Correspondence Unit

Email: [centralcorrespondenceunit@gov.scot](mailto:centralcorrespondenceunit@gov.scot)

Improving Public Engagement Division (IPED)

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**From:** [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@\[REDACTED\]](mailto:[REDACTED]@[REDACTED])>

**Sent:** 19 November 2025 17:26

**To:** Scottish Government Case Handling Service <[casehandling.service@gov.scot](mailto:casehandling.service@gov.scot)>

**Subject:** Re: Your recent enquiry with Scottish Government and partner agencies - 202500490058

Dear [REDACTED],

We refer to your letters dated 22<sup>nd</sup> October and 19<sup>th</sup> November 2025.

Due to us still waiting for answers from Scottish Forestry (SF) on the detailed issues raised since November 2024, referred to and committed to in previous SF correspondence, and also waiting for a responses from our MSP on the key issues raised again with the Cabinet Secretary recently, we were not in a position to respond to your direct question noted in your letter of 22nd October. We also refer you to the response to a previous SF letter regarding and internal investigation dated 9th December 2024, which for the record was never responded to. As recorded and evidenced throughout this Case History, we as a community will decide when we issue the formal complaint and have repeatedly requested all outstanding answers and supporting evidence be provided before doing so.

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Can you please provide us with your contact number, so that we can have a discussion regarding the purpose of your 2 letters and clarify key points within SF previous commitments to provide the outstanding answers.

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We look forward to receiving your contact number and the opportunity to clarify your recent communication and assess our options to obtain all outstanding answers, which will then allow us to fully consider when, and on what issues a formal public complaint is logged.

Kind Regards

[Redacted]

---

**From:** [casehandling.service@gov.scot](mailto:casehandling.service@gov.scot) <[casehandling.service@gov.scot](mailto:casehandling.service@gov.scot)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 19, 2025 08:37  
**To:** [Redacted]@ [Redacted]@ [Redacted] >  
**Subject:** Your recent enquiry with Scottish Government and partner agencies - 202500490058

Please find attached a response to your correspondence.

\*\*\*\*\*

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\*\*\*\*\*

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Central Correspondence Unit](#)  
**Cc:** [Scottish Forestry Corporate Affairs](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Your recent enquiry with Scottish Government and partner agencies - 202500482741  
**Date:** 21 October 2025 16:49:30  
**Attachments:** [East Netershield Woodland Creation - request to view docs.msg](#)  
[image001.png](#)  
[image002.jpg](#)

---

Hi [REDACTED], yes, please record this on MiCase and would suggest as GC.

Kind regards

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
Corporate Support and Correspondence Officer  
Scottish Forestry  
Saughton House | Broomhouse Drive | Edinburgh | EH11 3XD  
[Website: forestry.gov.scot](http://forestry.gov.scot)  
Twitter: [@scotforestry](https://twitter.com/scotforestry)



Scottish Forestry is the Scottish Government agency responsible for forestry policy, support and regulation.

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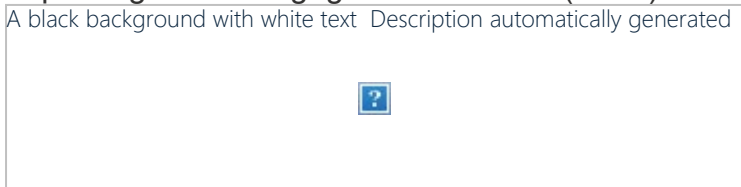
**From:** Central Correspondence Unit <CentralCorrespondenceUnit@gov.scot>  
**Sent:** 21 October 2025 16:28  
**To:** [REDACTED]@forestry.gov.scot>  
**Subject:** FW: Your recent enquiry with Scottish Government and partner agencies - 202500482741

Good afternoon [REDACTED],  
Please see the email below. Please confirm if you require this to be added to MiCase?

Thank you,

[REDACTED] (she/her)  
Correspondence Performance Manager  
Central Correspondence Unit  
Email: [centralcorrespondenceunit@gov.scot](mailto:centralcorrespondenceunit@gov.scot)  
Improving Public Engagement Division (IPED)

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**From:** [REDACTED]@ [REDACTED]

**Sent:** 21 October 2025 14:10

**To:** Scottish Government Case Handling Service <[casehandling.service@gov.scot](mailto:casehandling.service@gov.scot)>; Scottish Forestry Conservancy, Central Scotland <[centralscotland.cons@forestry.gov.scot](mailto:centralscotland.cons@forestry.gov.scot)>

**Cc:** [REDACTED]@[forestry.gov.scot](mailto:forestry.gov.scot)>; Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs, Land Reform & Islands 2024 [REDACTED]@[gov.scot](mailto:gov.scot)>

**Subject:** Re: Your recent enquiry with Scottish Government and partner agencies - 202500482741

Dear All those involved in the above case,

With reference to various SF communication over the past few months and with referenced to the attached Central Office email, we would like to record a point of clarity;

1. Based on the attached email we were expecting the requested documents to be issued from the Central Office via email, hence the earlier email recording that we had still not received them.
2. We have now accessed the EIA Register linked in Scottish Forestry letter ref 202500476034 and now record the following; We note the date of the Register, (28<sup>th</sup> July 2025), has no relevance to the Scottish Government Public Regulated Due Process for this case, which was carried out between the end of 2021 to the end of 2024.

2.01 As our ongoing request for access to the information, which was relevant to the date of, and included within the application, please clarify if Scottish Forestry are now recording that this distribution of documents on 5<sup>th</sup> August 2025 (first referred to in the letter dated 8<sup>th</sup> August 2025) reflects the documents published within the Formal Application in 2024. If you are now stating all these documents were issued during the Regulated Due Process, please confirm when and by what means? We refer to the evidence within the case history, which also referred to the Agents private web site for the documents included in the Application. This evidence remains on record.

2.02 We note that a number of the documents have never been accessible or issued to the Stakeholders through the Regulated Due Process. This evidence remains on record.

2.03. We note that critical documents, which were withdrawn during the Stage 1 Regulated Due Process, therefore did not form part of the Application, have now been published again on the EIA Register in 5<sup>th</sup> August 2025. This evidence remains on record.

2.04 We note a number of the documents are not dated, therefore in addition to the documents not previously issued, a full and robust review will have to be

carried out to check the documents now published are accurate and match the documents which were available during the Public Regulated Due Process. We refer to the previous evidence that remains on record that documents were being altered by the Agent after the Approval.

2.05 We note there is no Doc ref number 1. Please clarify?

2.06 There are out of date Plans included on the register that have no relevance to the Formal Application. This evidence remains on record.

2.07 There are listed documents which have been fully Redacted and not dated, therefore we have no knowledge if these documents had formed part of the Regulated Due Process. As these are key Hazard and Constraint Documents, can you please advise why these have been redacted from the Neighbouring Stakeholders listed within the Regulated Due Process? The evidence to support all issues raised and the evidence based responses to all documents published during the Due Process remain on record.

2.08 The Final Map does not reflect the woodland that was formed between Oct 2024 to early 2025. All the relevant and detailed information was evidenced and recorded with SF, as they became apparent and with reference to previous Scottish Forestry's detailed comments recorded during the Regulated Due Process. We note that we still wait for Scottish Forestry's detailed response to all Issues that have been recorded with them over the past 10-11 months. This evidence remains on record.

2.09 As recorded at the time with this evidence remaining on record, a number of the published documents were only issued on the last days of the engagement stage and the stakeholders were not engaged on this information. Despite all the evidence recorded on these documents, and all other documents, including the serious evidence based issues noted on the Issue Log, Scottish Forestry refused to consult with the community on any of the evidence. We refer again to the commitments made by the Cabinet Secretary in Sept 2023, in that senior Managers from Scottish Forestry would meet the community to discuss there issues in detail.

**3.** In addition to the above we also take this opportunity to record other clarification point on this ongoing case.

3.01 These publications do not acknowledge or reflect all the evidence based and supported responses to the content of these documents, which was reinforced in the evidence based response to the version of Issue Log that was accessible during Due Process and Application. We repeat, a robust review of the Issue Log now published will have to be carried. This evidence remains on record.

3.02 We will review Scottish Forestry's other letter dated the 8<sup>th</sup> August 2025, and record our response to the references and comments within. However, from an quick overview there seems to be no new evidence provided to answer the evidence based issues recorded throughout the Due Process, and since the Approval was granted in 2024. Due to this, the critical issues that were recently

recorded with the Cabinet Secretary, through communication from the Communities MSP, remain unanswered with no evidence being provided. We record that the continual responses being received, with general non evidence based comments can not be accepted. This evidence remains on record.

3.03 It has been stated again that our communication has breached Scottish Government's 'Unacceptable actions policy' now making serious accusation of "abusive behaviour", "made unreasonable demands" and "been unreasonably persistent. As you will expect we take these accusation very seriously, based on the evidence within the case, and strongly reject your claims. As a member of the Scottish Public I have the right to record factual evidence, which I consider requires to be done for public record and have the right to inform our elected members and Government of this evidence. Unless you are prepared to provide me evidence of what communication has constituted "abusive behaviour" I ask that you confirm you are withdrawing this serious unsubstantiated accusation towards us.

3.04 Although this letter attempts to suggest you have "addressed" all issues previously, the evidence records you have not. The evidence remains on record and I believe you will be aware of the issues you have not addressed.

In summary, this case is ongoing with the evidence that the Public's representations have not been answered with evidence from the Regulator and Government. We will continue to request the required evidence, through FOI Requests if forced to do so, and if still required will issue the relevant and evidence based complaints to the appropriate departments with the Scottish Government.

We make one final direct request for you to meet us face to face and bring this unacceptable situation to a satisfactory conclusion. Threats to silence the evidence we have recorded is not acceptable. Rather than ongoing threats, lets talk, as why would that be an issue?

Regards

[REDACTED]

20.

---

**From:** [casehandling.service@gov.scot](mailto:casehandling.service@gov.scot) <[casehandling.service@gov.scot](mailto:casehandling.service@gov.scot)>

**Sent:** 26 September 2025 14:59

**To:** [REDACTED]@ [REDACTED]@ [REDACTED]

**Subject:** Your recent enquiry with Scottish Government and partner agencies - 202500482741

Please find attached a response to your correspondence.

\*\*\*\*\*

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\*\*\*\*\*

**From:** [REDACTED] on behalf of [Scottish Forestry Conservancy, Central Scotland](#)  
**To:** [REDACTED]@ [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** East Nethersfield Woodland Creation - request to view docs  
**Date:** 11 July 2025 08:45:22  
**Attachments:** [image001.jpg](#)

---

Dear [REDACTED],

We have been passed your correspondence requesting access to documents associated with the East Nethersfields Woodland Proposal.

Scottish Forestry is committed to transparency, and it is our policy to share case documents for forestry projects we are working on or have consulted on.

We will review the relevant documentation and ensure this is provided – following any necessary redaction and review under General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR), as appropriate.

As your request includes the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) documents for this proposal. We are legally obliged to make these available and will ensure they are shared in an appropriate format. All documents related to this case are stored electronically, and we are happy to provide them via email, or we can have these printed and posted to you. Just let us know which you would prefer.

We would also like to clarify that we cannot accommodate in-person visits to our offices for document inspection, as our premises are not equipped with suitable facilities for public access. Allowing members of the public into our main office areas would not be appropriate.

Some documents may require redaction in line with data protection obligations, and we will require time to prepare these accordingly.

Kind Regards

In Response to Email Dated 07/07/2025:

To whom it concerns,

We request access to your local office for the South Lanarkshire Council Area to view all application documents relevant to the East Nethersfields Woodland Proposal.

Although you refused this access during the Consultation Period, this access should have and must be provided to the Consultees and Stakeholders, as clearly stated within the Public Regulated Due Process. We urge you to respond confirming this access and availability of all documents will now be provided as requested, with no further obstruction to the Stakeholders. We request that access is provided on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> July at 14:00. If this time is not suitable, please advise, by return.

As stated on the email below we have recommenced communication with our Cabinet Secretary due to your refusal to communicate and request, by copy of this email, that she ensures that this required Public access is provided without any further obstruction.

We wait your confirmation of access.

We also continue to wait for your answers to all outstanding issues relevant to this case, with all the required supporting evidence, including all the issues that have been developing and witnessed on site since Scottish Forestry approved the woodland to progress last year, including further recent changes to the existing access and from what was included on the Formal Application. The outstanding issues and missing evidence is still critical to this Due Process and is significant for all future communication the actions within the Due Process for this Woodland Proposal.

Kind Regards

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

Central Scotland Conservancy|Bothwell House|Hamilton Business Park|Caird Park  
Hamilton ML3 0QA  
Direct: [Redacted]

Email: [centralscotland.cons@forestry.gov.scot](mailto:centralscotland.cons@forestry.gov.scot)

Website: [forestry.gov.scot](http://forestry.gov.scot)

Twitter: [@scotforestry](https://twitter.com/scotforestry)



Scottish Forestry is the Scottish Government agency responsible for forestry policy, support and regulation.

\*\*\*\*\*  
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Communications with the Scottish Government and Scottish Forestry may be monitored or

recorded in order to secure the effective operation of the system and for other lawful purposes. The views or opinions contained within this e-mail may not necessarily reflect those of the Scottish Government or Scottish Forestry.

\*\*\*\*\*  
\*\*\*\*\*

**From:** [REDACTED] on behalf of [Scottish Forestry Corporate Affairs](#)  
**To:** [REDACTED] [Scottish Forestry Corporate Affairs](#) [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: Your recent enquiry with Scottish Government and partner agencies - 202500482741  
**Date:** 22 October 2025 12:31:55  
**Attachments:** [image001.jpg](#)  
[image002.jpg](#)  
[image003.png](#)

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Thanks [REDACTED]

The below holding response has been issued and, once [REDACTED] confirms next steps, I will let you all know.

Thanks

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** [REDACTED]@forestry.gov.scot>  
**Sent:** 22 October 2025 12:23  
**To:** [REDACTED]@forestry.gov.scot>; Scottish Forestry Corporate Affairs <[sfcorpaffairs@forestry.gov.scot](mailto:sfcorpaffairs@forestry.gov.scot)>; [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]@forestry.gov.scot>  
**Subject:** RE: Your recent enquiry with Scottish Government and partner agencies - 202500482741

Happy with that approach.

Otherwise it will be yet another exchange with us referring to previous responses, and we have stated we are no longer going to correspond with him on these issues.

Thanks

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** [REDACTED]@forestry.gov.scot>  
**Sent:** 22 October 2025 10:36  
**To:** Scottish Forestry Corporate Affairs <[sfcorpaffairs@forestry.gov.scot](mailto:sfcorpaffairs@forestry.gov.scot)>; [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]@forestry.gov.scot>; [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]@forestry.gov.scot>  
**Subject:** RE: Your recent enquiry with Scottish Government and partner agencies - 202500482741

[REDACTED]

Thank you, I think that looks a sensible approach and reconfirms our position and is clear about the complaints option (can evidence to SPSO if it went there).

Unless [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] have other views, happy with the response.

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
Head of Corporate Affairs and Communications

Scottish Forestry  
Spur E1, Saughton House, Edinburgh, EH11 3XD

Email: [REDACTED]@forestry.gov.scot

Website: [forestry.gov.scot](https://forestry.gov.scot)

X: [@scotforestry](#)



Scottish Forestry is the Scottish Government agency responsible for forestry policy, support and regulation.

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**From:** [REDACTED]@forestry.gov.scot> **On Behalf Of** Scottish Forestry  
Corporate Affairs

**Sent:** 22 October 2025 09:08

**To:** [REDACTED]@forestry.gov.scot>; [REDACTED]  
<[REDACTED]@forestry.gov.scot>

**Cc:** Scottish Forestry Corporate Affairs <[sfcorpaffairs@forestry.gov.scot](mailto:sfcorpaffairs@forestry.gov.scot)>; [REDACTED]  
<[REDACTED]@forestry.gov.scot>

**Subject:** FW: Your recent enquiry with Scottish Government and partner agencies - 202500482741

Hi both

Please note that we have received the below response from [REDACTED]. Can I recommend that, prior to considering a response, I reach out to [REDACTED] and gain understanding that the below is to be considered a complaint in line with our Model Complaints Handling policy? Draft text below:

Dear [REDACTED],

Thank you for your email dated 21 October 2025.

Having reviewed the points you raised, we believe that much of your email falls under our [Model Complaints Handling Policy](#).

To properly address the multiple issues you have outlined, we need your confirmation that you wish to submit a formal complaint. If you choose to do so, we will appoint a complaints manager who will be in touch shortly.

Should you decide not to lodge a formal complaint at this time, please refer to our

previous letter dated 08 August 2025.

Thanks

---

**From:** [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@forestry.gov.scot>

**Sent:** 21 October 2025 16:49

**To:** Central Correspondence Unit <CentralCorrespondenceUnit@gov.scot>

**Cc:** Scottish Forestry Corporate Affairs <sfcorpaffairs@forestry.gov.scot>

**Subject:** FW: Your recent enquiry with Scottish Government and partner agencies - 202500482741

Hi [REDACTED], yes, please record this on MiCase and would suggest as GC.

Kind regards

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
Corporate Support and Correspondence Officer  
Scottish Forestry  
Saughton House | Broomhouse Drive | Edinburgh | EH11 3XD  
[Website: forestry.gov.scot](http://forestry.gov.scot)  
Twitter: [@scotforestry](https://twitter.com/scotforestry)



Scottish Forestry is the Scottish Government agency responsible for forestry policy, support and regulation.

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**From:** Central Correspondence Unit <CentralCorrespondenceUnit@gov.scot>

**Sent:** 21 October 2025 16:28

**To:** [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@forestry.gov.scot>

**Subject:** FW: Your recent enquiry with Scottish Government and partner agencies - 202500482741

Good afternoon [REDACTED],  
Please see the email below. Please confirm if you require this to be added to MiCase?

Thank you,

[REDACTED] (she/her)  
Correspondence Performance Manager  
Central Correspondence Unit  
Email: [centralcorrespondenceunit@gov.scot](mailto:centralcorrespondenceunit@gov.scot)

## Improving Public Engagement Division (IPED)

A black background with white text Description automatically generated



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**From:** [REDACTED]@ [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 21 October 2025 14:10  
**To:** Scottish Government Case Handling Service <[casehandling.service@gov.scot](mailto:casehandling.service@gov.scot)>; Scottish Forestry Conservancy, Central Scotland <[centralscotland.cons@forestry.gov.scot](mailto:centralscotland.cons@forestry.gov.scot)>  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]@[forestry.gov.scot](mailto:forestry.gov.scot)>; Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs, Land Reform & Islands 2024 <[CabSecforRALRI@gov.scot](mailto:CabSecforRALRI@gov.scot)>  
**Subject:** Re: Your recent enquiry with Scottish Government and partner agencies - 202500482741

Dear All those involved in the above case,

With reference to various SF communication over the past few months and with referenced to the attached Central Office email, we would like to record a point of clarity;

1. Based on the attached email we were expecting the requested documents to be issued from the Central Office via email, hence the earlier email recording that we had still not received them.
2. We have now accessed the EIA Register linked in Scottish Forestry letter ref 202500476034 and now record the following; We note the date of the Register, (28<sup>th</sup> July 2025), has no relevance to the Scottish Government Public Regulated Due Process for this case, which was carried out between the end of 2021 to the end of 2024.

2.01 As our ongoing request for access to the information, which was relevant to the date of, and included within the application, please clarify if Scottish Forestry are now recording that this distribution of documents on 5<sup>th</sup> August 2025 (first referred to in the letter dated 8<sup>th</sup> August 2025) reflects the documents published within the Formal Application in 2024. If you are now stating all these documents were issued during the Regulated Due Process, please confirm when and by what means? We refer to the evidence within the case history, which also referred to the Agents private web site for the documents included in the Application. This evidence remains on record.

2.02 We note that a number of the documents have never been accessible or issued to the Stakeholders through the Regulated Due Process. This evidence

remains on record.

2.03. We note that critical documents, which were withdrawn during the Stage 1 Regulated Due Process, therefore did not form part of the Application, have now been published again on the EIA Register in 5<sup>th</sup> August 2025. This evidence remains on record.

2.04 We note a number of the documents are not dated, therefore in addition to the documents not previously issued, a full and robust review will have to be carried out to check the documents now published are accurate and match the documents which were available during the Public Regulated Due Process. We refer to the previous evidence that remains on record that documents were being altered by the Agent after the Approval.

2.05 We note there is no Doc ref number 1. Please clarify?

2.06 There are out of date Plans included on the register that have no relevance to the Formal Application. This evidence remains on record.

2.07 There are listed documents which have been fully Redacted and not dated, therefore we have no knowledge if these documents had formed part of the Regulated Due Process. As these are key Hazard and Constraint Documents, can you please advise why these have been redacted from the Neighbouring Stakeholders listed within the Regulated Due Process? The evidence to support all issues raised and the evidence based responses to all documents published during the Due Process remain on record.

2.08 The Final Map does not reflect the woodland that was formed between Oct 2024 to early 2025. All the relevant and detailed information was evidenced and recorded with SF, as they became apparent and with reference to previous Scottish Forestry's detailed comments recorded during the Regulated Due Process. We note that we still wait for Scottish Forestry's detailed response to all Issues that have been recorded with them over the past 10-11 months. This evidence remains on record.

2.09 As recorded at the time with this evidence remaining on record, a number of the published documents were only issued on the last days of the engagement stage and the stakeholders were not engaged on this information. Despite all the evidence recorded on these documents, and all other documents, including the serious evidence based issues noted on the Issue Log, Scottish Forestry refused to consult with the community on any of the evidence. We refer again to the commitments made by the Cabinet Secretary in Sept 2023, in that senior Managers from Scottish Forestry would meet the community to discuss there issues in detail.

**3.** In addition to the above we also take this opportunity to record other clarification point on this ongoing case.

3.01 These publications do not acknowledge or reflect all the evidence based and supported responses to the content of these documents, which was reinforced in the evidence based response to the version of Issue Log that was accessible during

Due Process and Application. We repeat, a robust review of the Issue Log now published will have to be carried. This evidence remains on record.

3.02 We will review Scottish Forestry's other letter dated the 8<sup>th</sup> August 2025, and record our response to the references and comments within. However, from a quick overview there seems to be no new evidence provided to answer the evidence based issues recorded throughout the Due Process, and since the Approval was granted in 2024. Due to this, the critical issues that were recently recorded with the Cabinet Secretary, through communication from the Communities MSP, remain unanswered with no evidence being provided. We record that the continual responses being received, with general non evidence based comments can not be accepted. This evidence remains on record.

3.03 It has been stated again that our communication has breached Scottish Government's 'Unacceptable actions policy' now making serious accusation of "abusive behaviour", "made unreasonable demands" and "been unreasonably persistent. As you will expect we take these accusation very seriously, based on the evidence within the case, and strongly reject your claims. As a member of the Scottish Public I have the right to record factual evidence, which I consider requires to be done for public record and have the right to inform our elected members and Government of this evidence. Unless you are prepared to provide me evidence of what communication has constituted "abusive behaviour" I ask that you confirm you are withdrawing this serious unsubstantiated accusation towards us.

3.04 Although this letter attempts to suggest you have "addressed" all issues previously, the evidence records you have not. The evidence remains on record and I believe you will be aware of the issues you have not addressed.

In summary, this case is ongoing with the evidence that the Public's representations have not been answered with evidence from the Regulator and Government. We will continue to request the required evidence, through FOI Requests if forced to do so, and if still required will issue the relevant and evidence based complaints to the appropriate departments with the Scottish Government.

We make one final direct request for you to meet us face to face and bring this unacceptable situation to a satisfactory conclusion. Threats to silence the evidence we have recorded is not acceptable. Rather than ongoing threats, lets talk, as why would that be an issue?

Regards



---

**From:** [casehandling.service@gov.scot](mailto:casehandling.service@gov.scot) <[casehandling.service@gov.scot](mailto:casehandling.service@gov.scot)>

**Sent:** 26 September 2025 14:59

**To:** [REDACTED]@ [REDACTED]@ [REDACTED] >

**Subject:** Your recent enquiry with Scottish Government and partner agencies - 202500482741

Please find attached a response to your correspondence.

\*\*\*\*\*

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\*\*\*\*\*



[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]@ [REDACTED]

Our Reference: 202500490058

22 October 2025

Dear [REDACTED] ,

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email dated 21 October 2025.

Having reviewed the points you raised, we believe that much of your email falls under our [Model Complaints Handling Policy](#).

To properly address the multiple issues you have outlined, we need your confirmation that you wish to submit a formal complaint. If you choose to do so, we will appoint a complaints manager who will be in touch shortly.

Should you decide not to lodge a formal complaint at this time, please refer to our previous letter dated 08 August 2025.

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]

**SFCBS : Corporate Affairs and Communications**

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St Andrew's House, Regent Road, Edinburgh EH1  
3DG  
[www.gov.scot](http://www.gov.scot)



**INVESTORS IN PEOPLE™**  
We invest in people Silver



**From:** [REDACTED] on behalf of [Scottish Forestry Executive Office](#)  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [Scottish Forestry Corporate Affairs](#); [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: East Nethwershiels Woodland - Non Compliant Issues  
**Date:** 23 September 2025 18:00:00  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)  
[image003.jpg](#)  
[SF Response - 08 August 2025.pdf](#)  
[image002.png](#)

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Hi,

Further to the below of 2 Sept, logged as GC with ref 202500483826 due 1 Oct.

Further to our team meeting this am, have highlighted below where it might have been a request for information, however, on reflection, our response of 8 August attached, under **202500475251** and **Other Regulations** although not specifically mentioned parking, I am understanding we have addressed this point in this section, so should continue to handle as an GC.

In addition, we have responded on the noise and vehicles issues in the related MR **202500481405** issued 11 Sept to their MSPs Senior Caseworker who had contacted SF on the senders behalf.

I have drafted the below in response:

Dear [REDACTED],

Further to your email of 2 September 2025, please refer to our previous response with reference 202500450345 which we sent to you on 8 August 2025 at 1:33 pm where we have responded to your correspondence of 9 July 2025 under reference 202500475251. Please find a copy of this letter attached in case this has not reached you.

Yours sincerely,

---

**From:** [REDACTED] **On Behalf Of** Scottish Forestry Enquiries

**Sent:** 03 September 2025 08:28

**To:** Scottish Forestry Executive Office

**Subject:** FW: East Nethwershiels Woodland - Non Compliant Issues

**Importance:** High

Good Morning,

Please see below.

Kind Regards

[REDACTED]  
*Finance & Business Support Officer*

Scottish Forestry

Saughton House | Broomhouse Drive | Edinburgh | EH11 3XD

Email: [REDACTED]@forestry.gov.scot

Website: [forestry.gov.scot](http://forestry.gov.scot)

Twitter: [@scotforestry](https://twitter.com/scotforestry)

[BRAVE values](#) are the roots that underpin Scottish Forestry, to create a workplace where our staff, and the people we work with, feel valued, supported and respected.

**B**e professional, **R**espect others, **A**ct with honesty and integrity, **V**alue teamwork and collaboration and **E**ncourage innovation and creativity.



Scottish Forestry is the Scottish Government agency responsible for forestry policy, support and regulation.

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**From:** [REDACTED]@ [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 02 September 2025 11:46  
**To:** Scottish Forestry Enquiries <[scottish.forestry@forestry.gov.scot](mailto:scottish.forestry@forestry.gov.scot)>  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]@[forestry.gov.scot](mailto:forestry.gov.scot)>; Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs, Land Reform & Islands 2024 <[cabsecforralri@gov.scot](mailto:cabsecforralri@gov.scot)>  
**Subject:** Re: East Nethwershiels Woodland - Non Compliant Issues  
**Importance:** High

To whom it concerns,

We refer to item 4 below, recorded on the 9<sup>th</sup> July 2025 the unauthorized formation of Forestry Infrastructure at the above location.

In addition to this previous information, we now record that this infrastructure is being used for parking and movement of forestry vehicles and equipment. As this is in direct conflict with the Grant Approval, and the recorded denial by the developer throughout the Due Process that there will be any new access or forestry infrastructure installed on this development, we request the SF immediately stop the use of this unauthorized and illegal use of this area of the land. This includes the illegal use of the private track for forestry activities. It is evident from the previous photographs that the private track is being used to access these locations, for these activities.

As you are aware and have recorded in the Due Process, all new forestry infrastructure must go through the Local Authority Planning Regulations, therefore we advise that you instruct the developer to provide evidence of this before any new infrastructure is formed, or used on this development. We have provided all the same evidence to the Local Authority recording a breach in Planning Regulations and advise you that there has been no pre engagement with SLC Planning Officers before any of the works that have been evidenced on site have developed.

We also take this opportunity to advise that new ground mats are being installed to new vehicle gates, which again did not form part of the application and Grant Approval.

Please advise, by return, what SF plan to do on this non compliance issues. From a SF communication last month we understand that all issues raised with SF will/are being investigated, we wait the detailed evidenced based responses on all the outstanding issues.

Regards

---

**From:** [REDACTED]@ [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 09 July 2025 09:59  
**To:** [scottish.forestry@forestry.gov.scot](mailto:scottish.forestry@forestry.gov.scot) <[scottish.forestry@forestry.gov.scot](mailto:scottish.forestry@forestry.gov.scot)>  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]@[forestry.gov.scot](mailto:forestry.gov.scot); [REDACTED]@[forestry.gov.scot](mailto:forestry.gov.scot)>;  
[cabsecforralri@gov.scot](mailto:cabsecforralri@gov.scot) <[cabsecforralri@gov.scot](mailto:cabsecforralri@gov.scot)>  
**Subject:** East Nethwershiels Woodland - Non Compliant Issues

To whom it concerns,

We refer to all other evidence recorded within this Public Regulated Due Process, including the unauthorised issues that have been evidenced to you since the works were approved by Scottish Forestry. As we have now recorded on a number of occasions, all Guidance, Requirements and Evidence linked to these issues are known to all Scottish Forestry representatives involved in this case and we request that these are referred to, to ensure enforcement action is taken immediately to deal with these new and all outstanding and ongoing issues.

1. We refer to all the additional unauthorized gates which have been installed over the past 6 - 8 months. Serious questions remain unanswered; 1. Why have all the unauthorized vehicle gates been installed, when everyone knows the application clearly stated that there will be no new vehicle access required and these Gates do NOT form part of the application documents. Only one of these Gate appeared later on the drawing attached to the delayed EIA Report, which did not form part of the Public Consultation? 2. Why has other unauthorized gates been allowed to be installed, and all unauthorised gates still remain in place after months of this being evidenced to Scottish Forestry? 3. Why has a number of these gates been allowed to remain padlocked preventing free responsible access by the Public? 4. Why has there been existing field gates removed leaving gaps in the perimeter hedging and fencing directly onto public roads?
2. There continues to be unauthorized access on Private Roads for maintenance vehicles and plant for the Woodland, why is this being allowed to continue when everyone knows that this is unauthorized and has been recorded on a number of occasions since January 2023? Without further delay, please issue the Woodland Operation and Management Plan that the Due Process states must be included with all applications and as you know it never was and despite this being requested on numerous occasions it is still being withheld from all Consultees and Stakeholders. Operation and Maintenance work has clearly been progressing over the past month and we as the community must have transparency now on this withheld mandatory documentation.
3. More existing fencing has been removed without authorization from the adjacent landowners and does not form part of the Application? Also, this fencing that has been removed is not solely owned by the new landowner and is fencing to a Private Road. Scottish Forestry clearly stated within the Due Process that NO existing fencing or accesses will be altered without it being noted within the application with evidence of a review of the Local Authority Planning Process. This evidence was withheld from the Application and existing fencing has continued to be removed since Scottish Forestry approved the works to commence.
4. There is currently unauthorized work being carried out forming forestry infrastructure works (Access and Parking), including large areas of soil being removed, stonework from a historic ruin being disturbed and spoil being loaded onto both the ruin and existing trees out with the ownership of the new landowner.

As everyone knows the application clearly stated there would be NO formation of new access and/or Roads, Tracks and Car Parks. This was the repeated response to the issue being raised at the start of the Due Process, this being that the known and required access and infrastructure works was being withheld from Woodland Proposal and never formed part of the Application. Everyone knows Scottish Forestry's recorded responses to this issues, in that new access and infrastructure works, including parking must be processed through the recorded requirements of the Local Authority Planning Process. We request that this unauthorized and illegal work is stopped immediately by Scottish Forestry and the Local Authority is advised of the breach of the Planning Regulations and this is dealt with accordingly. There seems to be an attitude from the Agent on site that they can now do what they want as it was not part of the Woodland Creation Application process. We all know that is incorrect and requires Public Regulator control and robust enforcement. The Record Evidence and Case History from the past 3 year can not be dismissed and ignore. The developers had 2 years to get this right, they made the choices they did but can now think they can do what they want.

5. Trees Planted out with the locations on the updated plan attached to the EIA Screening Letter? In addition to this we note that we have still not received an acceptable answer, to the evidence that it has not been agreed with SLC that trees are planted in conflict with the Local Authority recorded requirements though the Due Process and stated in the Issue Log?
6. As we have been refused access to the Woodland Management and Operation Plan, please advise what has been agreed with the maintenance of the natural grasses, both within the Deer Fence and all other areas, including grazing land which has currently got no livestock grazing it? We note that the natural grass has been getting cut, within the deer fencing over the past month and continues and that this operation seems to be damaging some of the trees. With the issuing of the Management and Operation Plan, and with reference to the Scottish Government Requirements, please confirm when Scottish Forestry have scheduled their first review and inspection of the woodland. Scottish Forestry stated in an email from earlier in the year that they inspect and validate the compliance of the woodland once it has been confirmed as installed, which it has been now for 3 -4 months? We continue to monitor the operations and note that there is already evidence of a number of trees that have died and others under stress. We look forward to a detailed response to all previously evidence based question and transparency on Scottish Forestry's validation of the woodland, both its install and its maintenance over the medium to long term of the woodland.

In addition to all these new and ongoing items, we refer to the increasing risk from Wild Fires, which has never been answered with a credible response and evidence. We now request an immediate response to this unacceptable situation. As everyone is aware this "Large and Sensitive" proposal has been approved minimum evidence of Design or Infrastructure being included in the Application to mitigate the clear and serious additional risk to property and life which this new woodland will cause. The unacceptable response

within the Issue Log and in the EAI Letter treats the families of this community with complete contempt. We have already provided sufficient evidence of the failure to comply with the Scottish Governments Guidance and Recommendations on this issue and we record that it is now time, based on increasing risks that are already landing and affecting communities throughout Scotland, that both the CEO of Scottish Forestry and our Cabinet Secretary now intervene and carry out a thorough review into how many Woodland Applications comply with the Scottish Government recorded requirements, and when found not to, why? Please don't be complicit in ignoring the increased risk to the properties and life's, including Fire Fighters and other rural workers, due to non compliant woodlands. With regards to our Properties and our Families, including our young children I now expect the respect of a competent answer from both Scottish Forestry and our Cabinet Secretary that deals with this issue with immediate action being taken to protect my children now and in the coming years.

The Following is Scottish Forestry's response noted on the delayed EIA Letter which does not refer to [Scottish Forestry - Wildfire prevention](#) and was not included within the Application Documentation, therefore withheld from the Engagement and Consultation. We have highlighted some key points, adding additional comments in red text and note that there has been no evidence provided that this complies with ALL of the detail noted in the above Scottish Government Guidance. Why were these serious and important questions not answered 2 years in advance of a delayed EIA?

**Population & Human Health Risk of Wild Fires The site is in a low risk area for wild fire, both in the current climate and with future climate models. This is in complete contradiction to all other Scottish Government Guidance and Publications on this matter, including on the effect to woodland and rural environments. This statement raises serious questions on the competency of those who have regulated and approved this Application. Again, where is the evidence to support these significant statements?**

The risk will be further mitigated by vegetation management during the establishment phase along with the proposed grazing of four areas retained in agriculture (Lot 1 - south of Burn Farm and east of South Sheild Farm, in lot 2 - west of A726 and east of Powmillon Burn). The area east of South Shields Farm was added post consultation due to that property having a timber barn in close proximity to the proposed woodland. The whole site is relatively flat which reduces the risk of rapid spread of a fire should one occur. This is a direct contradiction to the Landscape Report which describes the Landscape as Ridges and Valleys. It also does not acknowledge that the site sits at c800 ft and the areas is known for its high winds, the "land of the sloping trees" In addition, the public roads, track and rides crossing the site provide both fire breaks The rides across the site are not designed Fire Breaks and will not provide "good" access. and good access No evidence provide to demonstrate that ALL guidance has been followed to the above Scottish Government Guidance to manage a fire should one occur. During higher risk conditions, This contradicts what is sated above signs would be erected advising against use of BBQs and other activities which would increase the risk of fires starting. The hierarchy of the mitigation to protect Properties and Life prioritises a designed infrastructure before signs, clearly detailed. Also, fires can be started due to numerous reasons and in no way does a sign mitigate all these known risks. The above issue has

been assessed against The Forestry (Environmental Impact Assessment)(Scotland) Regulations 2017 and has been found to have **no significant negative environmental impacts.** **Again, where is the evidence for this significant statement?**

Please do not wait for a tragedy to happen before we hear that we are sorry for the families and will carry out an investigation. We and others around Scotland have made you all aware of the concerning development of this serious issue and there is no justifiable reason for you do not to take robust action now, based on the evidence.

This is not about Trees or no Trees, wilderness or no wilderness this is about peoples property and life and Scottish Forestry and the Scottish Government have the responsibility to mitigate the risk to the Scottish People.

Cabinet Secretary, please don't simply pass this back to those in Scottish Forestry who have laughed at us in the past on this serious point which has been recorded for over 2 years now, please do the right thing before its to late. Yes, this is powerful and direct language, but its because it's my children's future I am trying to protect and I am now at the place that being ignored and laughed at by our Government Representatives, and now threatened to be silenced by the same organisation is simply not acceptable to me. I deserve and require more respect from you all.

I hope you all reflect on this ongoing correspondence and the evidence you continue to be provided by the Public and now do the right thing. I also wait for confirmation that as a Stakeholder, who was invited into the Process in July 2022, I will provided access to all the required documents as I am entitled to based on the Scottish Governments Pubic Due Process, which has been continually denied since the application was received from Scottish Forestry.

Regards



\*\*\*\*\*  
\*\*\*\*\*

**This email has been received from an external party and has been swept for the presence of computer viruses.**

\*\*\*\*\*  
\*\*\*\*\*



**Scottish  
Forestry**  
Coilltearachd  
na h-Alba

Saughton House  
Broomhouse Drive  
Edinburgh EH11 3XD  
forestry.gov.scot

Email: [scottish.forestry@forestry.gov.scot](mailto:scottish.forestry@forestry.gov.scot)  
Tel: 0131 370 5250

Chief Executive: Paul Lowe

[redacted]  
[redacted]@[redacted]

Our ref: Multiple communications regarding East

Date: 08 August 2025

Nethershields Dear [redacted]

I am writing to you in relation to a number of emails that have been submitted to various parts of Scottish Government over the last number of weeks and months and since I last wrote to you. I apologise for our delay in responding, as I wanted to take time to go through the correspondence from you on this case.

For the sake of clarity and to ensure that I have captured all correspondence, I will list them below and provide some context about who the recipients of each email was and on what dates each communication was received. You will have received acknowledgments to all the below cases that include the reference numbers I will use to identify each communication.

Case Reference	Recipient(s)	Subject	Date Received
202500450345	First Minister	Governance of Public Regulated Due Processes, for the Scottish People? Case Ref No: 202400443365	29 January 2025
202500460158	Director of Operational Delivery (Scottish Forestry)	East Nethershield Woodland Creation	31 March 2025
202500447974	First Minister	Governance of Public Regulated Due Processes, for the Scottish People? Case Ref No: 202400443365.	31 March 2025
202500465517	Director of Operational Delivery (Scottish Forestry)	East Nethershield Woodland Creation	9 May 2025
202500465792	First Minister	Governance of Public Regulated Due Processes, for the Scottish People? Case Ref No: 202400443365	12 May 2025
202500466665	Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs, Land Reform & Islands	East Nethershield Woodland Proposal and Grant Application	13 May 2025
202500475250	Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs, Land Reform & Islands	East Nethershield Woodland Proposal and Grant Application	30 June 2025

Scottish Forestry is the Scottish Government agency responsible for forestry policy, support and regulation



Is e Coilltearachd na h-Alba a' bhuidheann-ghnìomha aig Riaghaltas na h-Alba a tha an urra ri poileasaidh, taic agus riaghladh do choilltearachd

202500474103	First Minister	Governance of Public Regulated Due Processes, for the Scottish People? Case Ref No: 202400443365	30 June 2025
202500475251	Scottish Forestry Enquiries, Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs, Land Reform & Islands, Director of Operational Delivery (Scottish Forestry)	East Nethershields Woodland - Non Compliant Issues	9 July 2025
202500476034	Scottish Forestry Enquiries, Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs, Land Reform & Islands, Director of Operational Delivery (Scottish Forestry)	East Nethershield Woodland Creation	14 July 2025
202500477626	Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs, Land Reform & Islands	East Nethershields	25 July 2025

I hope the above table will enable you to identify each correspondence I will refer to in this letter. I will attempt to respond to all points that I have not already addressed in previous communications to you. We are also aware that you have raised a complaint with South Lanarkshire Council on 22 July 2025 regarding noise from strimming around newly planted trees in the vicinity of Burn Farm. South Lanarkshire Council subsequently reached out to Scottish Forestry for a response. I can confirm that Scottish Forestry provided South Lanarkshire Council with our position on the issues raised and I refer you to South Lanarkshire Council should you wish to discuss this further.

Before I address the points raised in your multiple communications, please be advised that responses from Ministers and Cabinet Secretaries within the Scottish Government often require input from civil servants across relevant policy and operational areas to provide a thorough and informed reply. These responses can take some time to consider, and it is common government practice for the Offices of Ministers of Scottish Government to ask civil servants to reply on their behalf. As such, Scottish Forestry have been asked to address the correspondence sent by you for Ministers, as detailed above, as the lead on such matters within Scottish Government.

I would like to note, however, that the submission of multiple emails within a short period of time can inadvertently slow down our ability to respond effectively. Each piece of correspondence must be carefully reviewed to ensure all points raised are addressed accurately and respectfully. When many requests are submitted in quick succession, it places added pressure on our ability to respond with the diligence and attention that every enquiry deserves. Please understand that our ability to respond to such a large volume of emails is limited and we are in a much better position to respond if you provide us with sufficient time to do so.

We are committed to providing considered responses and appreciate your understanding as we work to do so.

I would like to reiterate what I have stated in previous correspondence. I understand that you have very strong views about how this case has been handled and, in particular, about aspects of Scottish Forestry's role. However, I have reached the conclusion that your extensive and repeated correspondence on this case has breached Scottish Government's [Unacceptable actions policy](#). You have made statements that constitute abusive behaviour, made unreasonable demands and been unreasonably persistent. I therefore ask you to stop contacting Scottish Forestry and Scottish Ministers in relation to the handling of this case. If you continue to contact Scottish Forestry or Scottish Ministers in the above manner, we will no longer correspond or engage with you on matters relating to the East Nethershields woodland creation application process and may take action to limit wider contact. Examples of further action that may be necessary should you continue to contact Scottish Forestry and Scottish Ministers in relation to this case can include;

- terminating all contact (subject to necessary limitations)
- terminating communication by specified channels only (eg refusing to take telephone calls from an individual)
- refusing to accept communication on a specified subject only
- requiring the individual to communicate only through a third party

Despite advising you that we have taken the decision to longer correspond or engage with you on matters relating to the East Nethershields woodland creation, you have continued to contact Scottish Forestry and Scottish Ministers.

Having stated the above, you have raised issues that were not present in earlier communications to us and Scottish Ministers, and I will respond to those here. I will not respond to points that have already been addressed in previous correspondence.

### **Case 202500450345**

You have raised concerns about a failure of Scottish Forestry senior management to meet with the community. Scottish Forestry senior managers do not routinely get involved with the handling of woodland creation applications, particularly during the development phase led by the forestry agent. Under Scottish Forestry's procedures, senior national managers do not have a direct role in regulatory decision-making processes. These are handled locally by the conservancy teams and case officers. It would therefore be irregular and very unusual for senior managers to meet with a stakeholder to discuss a particular application or regulatory decision.

If you are not satisfied with how your correspondence has been handled, then you have the option to submit a complaint. I will provide detailed information relating to our complaints policy at the end of this letter. Scottish Forestry is not prepared to enter an ongoing dialogue on these matters.

### **Case 202500460158**

You have raised concerns about delays in Scottish Forestry in replying to correspondence and you have stated that you feel Scottish Forestry has not replied fully responded to your concerns in previous communications with us.

As stated earlier in this letter, and in previous responses to you, submission of multiple emails within a short period of time can inadvertently slow down our ability to respond effectively. We strive to respond, where appropriate, as soon as is possible but I must again ask that you try to moderate the volume and frequency of correspondence that you send Scottish Ministers and Scottish Forestry as this will ultimately cause delays in responding.

After careful review of this correspondence, it is my position that Scottish Forestry have addressed other points you have raised in our letter dated 23 January 2025. I have attached that letter for your convenience.

If you are not satisfied with how your correspondence has been handled, then you have the option to submit a complaint.

### **Case 202500447974**

You have raised concerns about a failure of Scottish Forestry senior management to meet with the community and have requested that the First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs, Land Reform & Islands meet with you to discuss your concerns. As stated previously, Scottish Forestry senior managers and Scottish Ministers do not routinely get involved with the handling of woodland creation applications, particularly during the development phase led by the forestry agent.

That said, I would like to remind you that Cabinet Secretary did meet with you on 05 September 2023. The Cabinet Secretary confirmed that Scottish Forestry would ensure that any application received careful and thorough assessment, including checking that the concerns raised by the community had been properly taken into account and that the woodland creation process, including community engagement, was being properly followed.

Under Scottish Forestry's procedures senior national managers don not have a direct role in regulatory decision-making processes. These are handled locally by the conservancy teams and case officers. It would therefore be irregular and very unusual for senior managers and Scottish Ministers to meet with a stakeholder in order to discuss a particular application or regulatory decision.

You also stated that;

*“These concerns are only increasing, with both the receipt of the recent letters from Scottish Forestry, the lack of clarity and response on the content of these letters, and now also (since 20th November 2024) the non-response and action on the Material Evidence of non-compliance with the Woodland Proposals, as the work has progressed since the commencement in October 2024. This includes the unauthorized formation of new access, which is the only reason a large part of the woodland has been able to be formed over the period since, a period of 2 months and continuing, but this access was continually denied by the Agent over the previous 2 years. This conduct must not be tolerated in Public Regulated Due Processes, as it is clearly known decisions by the Agent to exclude the required Planning Regulations requirements”.*

Having considered this statement, and having reviewed our previous responses to you, it is my position that we have previously addressed the above concerns in a letter dated 23 January 2025. I have attached that letter for your convenience”.

If you are not satisfied with how your correspondence has been handled, then you have the option to submit a complaint.

### **Case 202500465517**

You have raised concerns about delays in Scottish Forestry in replying to correspondence. You have suggested that Scottish Forestry have ignored your concerns, and you have stated that you feel Scottish Forestry has not replied fully responded to your concerns in previous communications with us.

In a letter dated 28 November 2024, I provided evidence of the considerable efforts myself and my colleagues have made to respond to your correspondence. Since then, we have continued to utilise considerable resource and time in addressing concerns you have raised. Scottish Forestry is a small agency with limited resources, but I can confidently state that we have done our utmost to provide detailed responses that have been carefully considered and thoroughly investigated. I have provided a copy of that letter for your review.

If you are not satisfied with how your correspondence has been handled, then you have the option to submit a complaint.

### **Case 202500465792**

You have repeated concerns about delays in Scottish Forestry in replying to correspondence, repeated a request to meet with Scottish Ministers and have made allegations that Scottish Government are putting lives at risk. You have also stated that you feel that Scottish Forestry has made threats by applying the Scottish Government's Unacceptable Actions policy.

I believe I have adequately responded to matters raised in this email above but wish to, again, advise you that you have made statements that constitute abusive behaviour, made unreasonable demands and been unreasonably persistent. It is for this reason that we have taken the decision to no longer correspond or engage with you on matters relating to the East Nethersields woodland creation.

If you are not satisfied with how your correspondence has been handled, then you have the option to submit a complaint.

### **Case 202500466665**

You have repeated concerns about delays in Scottish Forestry in replying to correspondence, repeated a request to meet with Scottish Ministers. You have, again, also stated that you feel that Scottish Forestry has threatened your community by applying the Scottish Government's Unacceptable Actions policy.

You have also stated that the Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs, Land Reform & Islands should "enforce the powers you have and intervene in this case, instructing a robust and truly independent investigation into the evidence of this case".

I believe I have addressed many of the points raised by you earlier in this letter. That said, and in response to your request that Cabinet Secretary intervene, I would like to reiterate that Scottish Forestry senior managers and Scottish Ministers do not routinely get involved with the handling of woodland creation applications, particularly during the development phase led by the forestry agent. As highlighted previously, senior national managers do not have a direct role in regulatory decision-making processes. These are handled locally by the conservancy teams and case officers.

In your letter, you asked 14 questions relating to Nethershields woodland creation and repeated many points that Scottish Forestry had already responded to in the past. I do not find that it would be helpful to repeat points previously made and would like to remind you that we have made the decision not to continue to engage in discussion on matters relating to the East Nethershields woodland creation.

If you are not satisfied with how your correspondence has been handled, then you have the option to submit a complaint.

#### **Case 202500475250**

You have repeated requests to meet Scottish Ministers and have highlighted your concerns that you feel that you have been ignored by Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs, Land Reform & Islands.

I have provided a response to these points earlier in this letter and clarified why it is that senior civil servants and Scottish Ministers do not routinely intervene in a way that you have suggested.

If you aren't satisfied with how your correspondence has been handled, then you have the option to submit a complaint. I will provide detailed information relating to our complaints policy at the end of this letter. Scottish Forestry is not prepared to enter an ongoing dialogue on these matters.

#### **Case 202500474103**

You have repeated concerns as detailed above in case 202500475250. I believe that I have sufficiently responded to both cases.

If you are not satisfied with how your correspondence has been handled, then you have the option to submit a complaint.

#### **Case 202500475251**

You asked us to review evidence you have submitted where you allege unauthorised work has been carried out and that the works were approved by Scottish Forestry in relation to East Nethershields woodland creation.

I have asked the local Senior Operations Manager to review what you have submitted and to provide a response that I have detailed below.

In considering your points, it is useful to provide clarity on the regulatory and administrative processes that relate to this woodland creation project.

### **The Forestry (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2017**

The applicant wrote to Scottish Forestry requesting that Scottish Forestry adopt a screening opinion in relation to the woodland creation project at East Nethershields. This correspondence included the information necessary for that screening opinion to be reached and on that basis, Scottish Forestry concluded that the project did **not** require consent to proceed. For information - if a screening opinion concludes that consent **is** required, it is sought by the applicant by way of the submission of an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) report (commonly referred to as 'requiring an EIA'). In support of the screening opinion, Scottish Forestry issued a document to the effect that consent is not required and stated the reasons for that decision (commonly known as the 'reasoned conclusion'). Scottish Forestry sent a copy of this document to interested parties, including yourself.

The above background summary is relevant to your enquiry for the following reasons: through the screening process, Scottish Forestry decided that EIA consent was not required and thus none was sought by the applicant. In this scenario, the Regulations make no provision for the enforcement action to which you appear to refer, as put simply, there is no consent under which to act in this way (Scottish Forestry may only take EIA enforcement action in relation to projects which have or require EIA consent).

Additionally, other than through an application to the Court of Session, the published screening opinion cannot be withdrawn or reviewed – this application must be made before the expiry of 3 months from the date of the adoption of a screening opinion. I consider that some of the matters you raise in your e-mail fall within scope of decisions made under these Regulations and note that Scottish Forestry considers the processes undertaken in this respect to be complete.

### **The Forestry Grant Scheme (FGS)**

Subsequent to the above, the applicant submitted a separate application to the Forestry Grant Scheme (FGS) seeking financial support in delivering the woodland creation project. The application was assessed against the relevant published guidance and in relation to relevant requirements and guidelines contained within the UK Forestry Standard. Following completion of this, the application was approved and an FGS contract agreed with the applicant. Scottish Forestry has established procedures outlining how it will inspect and monitor all FGS contracts throughout the life of those contracts, this including what will be inspected, how and when. It also covers what action SF will take in circumstances where it is found that an applicant is in breach of an FGS contract.

In the case of East Nethershields the contract requires that this monitoring and compliance process takes place over a period of 20 years, commencing with an initial inspection of the project post completion. In all cases Scottish Forestry expects that projects are managed in line with the requirements as set out within the FGS guidance along with those of the contract undertakings, maps and operational plan. A number of the matters you raise are considered as a matter of course as a result of the aforementioned monitoring and compliance process.

### **Other Regulations**

From a regulatory perspective, it may be that a number of your concerns fall within regulatory regimes under which Scottish Forestry has no direct locus. However, where such situations appear to be connected to a forestry project and are considered by Scottish Forestry to be material to it, Scottish Forestry will work

with the relevant regulatory bodies in an attempt to address any issues. On occasion this can be aligned with the ongoing FGS contact management processes that have described.

### **Provision of information relating to the woodland creation project at East Nethershields**

Your e-mail refers to information that has not been provided to you by Scottish Forestry. We have received a separate request from you to provide all the application information held by us in relation to this project. This has been logged under case reference 202500476034 and you will have received a response to that request by now.

If you are not satisfied with how your correspondence has been handled, then you have the option to submit a complaint.

### **Case 202500476034**

You asked that we permit access to the Scottish Forestry Conservancy (South) offices so that you can view all application documents relevant to the East Nethershields Woodland Proposal.

We responded to this separately, however, I wish to reiterate that we have taken the decision to publish the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) documents relating to East Nethershields. I refer you to the letter we issued to you on 08 August 2025 for further details.

As I understand it, you should have also received an earlier email stating that we would not be able to arrange access on the day you requested to visit one of our offices, but we would look to make other arrangements.

If you are not satisfied with how your correspondence has been handled, then you have the option to submit a complaint.

### **Case 202500477626**

Although you have not stated this directly to Scottish Forestry, I understand that you have experienced what you have described as noise nuisance in the area that has been caused by strimming. This understanding comes from the request from information we received from South Lanarkshire Council who I believe are investigating a noise complaint.

Scottish Forestry's role as regulator focuses on the sustainable management of Scotland's forests and woodlands. This includes oversight of felling permissions, administration of grant schemes, and ensuring compliance with the UK Forestry Standard. We do not have a statutory role in regulating environmental noise. While forestry operations are not automatically exempt from noise legislation, routine activities such as weeding or thinning are generally considered reasonable land management practices when carried out responsibly and some constraints such as time sensitivity, weather dependences, ecological constraints may be a factor in the timing of operations.

Although there is no statutory guidance specific to noise in forestry, the following documents promote good practice in operational planning and neighbour relations:

- [UK Forestry Standard \(UKFS\)](#) – the reference standard for sustainable forest management in the UK, which encourages good neighbour principles and operational planning.
- [FISA Safety Guides](#) – particularly FISA 806 (Welfare) and FISA 808 (CDM in Forestry), which support responsible site management and planning.
- [Forest Research guidance on occupational noise hazards](#) – focused on worker safety, though not environmental noise.

It is not in Scottish Forestry's remit to respond to the specific concerns you have raised in relation to noise complaints but I encourage you to continue to work with South Lanarkshire Council as I understand, from the interest they have taken in your complaint to them, that this may be within their remit and should be for South Lanarkshire Council to respond to. As previously stated, we have provided a response to South Lanarkshire Council and I expect that, if they have not already, they will be in contact with you in due course.

You have also asked to again meet with Scottish Ministers about this decision. I believe I have provided a thorough response to this request.

You have also asked for a copy of an Operational Plan for East Nethershields woodland creation. I understand that this may have previously been provided but, for the sake of ensuring you are able to view it, I have attached it to this letter below.

You have also asked to again meet with Scottish Ministers about this decision. I believe I have provided a thorough response to this request.

### **Complaint Policy**

As I stated previously, I would like to take an opportunity to provide you with information on our complaints policy. Scottish Forestry operates a Model Complaints Handling Procedure that you can read more about [here](#). I understand that you have previously stated that you would not like to have your concerns handled as complaints however I want to highlight what Scottish Forestry considers to be a complaint. A complaint is any expression of dissatisfaction about our action or lack of action, or about the standard of service provided by us or on our behalf.

Much of what you have said would fall under the above definition of a complaint. Due to the large number of concerns you have raised, it would be considered as a stage 2 complaint.

Were we to address this matter as a stage 2 complaint, we would, in the course of investigating, consider an appropriate form of communication to discuss your complaint with you to understand why you remain dissatisfied and what outcome you are looking for. We would appoint a complaint manager to have this conversation with you, investigate all concerns raised and issue a response within stated timeframes. Any complaint manager appointed would be an experienced civil servant within Scottish Forestry, due to the complex nature of concerns raised.

If you remained unsatisfied with any potential outcome of this complaint, you would have the right to appeal to Scottish Public Services Ombudsman (SPSO). The SPSO is the final stage for complaints about public service organisations in Scotland.

Should you wish to have your concerns addressed through our Model Complaints Handling Procedure, please contact us through our Executive Office email.

However, should you not wish to have concerns addressed through the complaint's mechanism, this letter will serve as a final response to the issues you have raised to us. If you continue to contact Scottish Forestry or Scottish Ministers in relation to East Nethershields woodland creation and that contact is not related to a complaint you would like to submit, we will no longer correspond or engage with you.

Once again, I would like to apologise for the unavoidable delays in issuing this reply, but I hope it will be received with the understanding that we have addressed concerns raised.

Yours sincerely

[redacted signature]

[redacted]

Director of Operational Delivery  
Scottish Forestry

**From:** [REDACTED] on behalf of [Scottish Forestry Enquiries](#)  
**To:** [Scottish Forestry Executive Office](#)  
**Subject:** FW: East Nethwershiels Woodland - Non Compliant Issues  
**Date:** 03 September 2025 08:28:27  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)  
[image003.jpg](#)  
[image004.png](#)  
**Importance:** High

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Good Morning,  
Please see below.  
Kind Regards

[REDACTED]  
*Finance & Business Support Officer*

Scottish Forestry

Saughton House | Broomhouse Drive | Edinburgh | EH11 3XD

Email: [REDACTED]@[forestry.gov.scot](#)

Website: [forestry.gov.scot](#)

Twitter: [@scotforestry](#)

[BRAVE values](#) are the roots that underpin Scottish Forestry, to create a workplace where our staff, and the people we work with, feel valued, supported and respected.

**B**e professional, **R**espect others, **A**ct with honesty and integrity, **V**alue teamwork and collaboration and **E**ncourage innovation and creativity.



Scottish Forestry is the Scottish Government agency responsible for forestry policy, support and regulation.

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 02 September 2025 11:46  
**To:** Scottish Forestry Enquiries  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]; Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs, Land Reform & Islands 2024  
**Subject:** Re: East Nethwershiels Woodland - Non Compliant Issues  
**Importance:** High

To whom it concerns,

We refer to item 4 below, recorded on the 9<sup>th</sup> July 2025 the unauthorized formation of Forestry Infrastructure at the above location.

In addition to this previous information, we now record that this infrastructure is being used for parking and movement of forestry vehicles and equipment. As this is in direct conflict with the Grant Approval, and the recorded denial by the developer throughout the Due Process that there will be any new access or forestry infrastructure installed on this development, we request the SF immediately stop the use of this unauthorized and illegal use of this area of the land. This includes the illegal use of the private track for forestry activities. It is evident from the previous photographs that the private track is being used to access these locations, for these activities.

As you are aware and have recorded in the Due Process, all new forestry infrastructure must go through the Local Authority Planning Regulations, therefore we advise that you

instruct the developer to provide evidence of this before any new infrastructure is formed, or used on this development. We have provided all the same evidence to the Local Authority recording a breach in Planning Regulations and advise you that there has been no pre engagement with SLC Planning Officers before any of the works that have been evidenced on site have developed.

We also take this opportunity to advise that new ground mats are being installed to new vehicle gates, which again did not form part of the application and Grant Approval. Please advise, by return, what SF plan to do on this non compliance issues. From a SF communication last month we understand that all issues raised with SF will/are being investigated, we wait the detailed evidenced based responses on all the outstanding issues.

Regards

---

**From:** [REDACTED]@ [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 09 July 2025 09:59  
**To:** [scottish.forestry@forestry.gov.scot](mailto:scottish.forestry@forestry.gov.scot) <[scottish.forestry@forestry.gov.scot](mailto:scottish.forestry@forestry.gov.scot)>  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]@forestry.gov.scot [REDACTED]@forestry.gov.scot>; [cabsecforralri@gov.scot](mailto:cabsecforralri@gov.scot) <[cabsecforralri@gov.scot](mailto:cabsecforralri@gov.scot)>  
**Subject:** East Nethwershiels Woodland - Non Compliant Issues

To whom it concerns,

We refer to all other evidence recorded within this Public Regulated Due Process, including the unauthorised issues that have been evidenced to you since the works were approved by Scottish Forestry. As we have now recorded on a number of occasions, all Guidance, Requirements and Evidence linked to these issues are known to all Scottish Forestry representatives involved in this case and we request that these are referred to, to ensure enforcement action is taken immediately to deal with these new and all outstanding and ongoing issues.

1. We refer to all the additional unauthorized gates which have been installed over the past 6 - 8 months. Serious questions remain unanswered; 1. Why have all the unauthorized vehicle gates been installed, when everyone knows the application clearly stated that there will be no new vehicle access required and these Gates do NOT form part of the application documents. Only one of these Gate appeared later on the drawing attached to the delayed EIA Report, which did not form part of the Public Consultation? 2. Why has other unauthorized gates been allowed to be installed, and all unauthorised gates still remain in place after months of this being evidenced to Scottish Forestry? 3. Why has a number of these gates been allowed to remain padlocked preventing free responsible access by the Public? 4. Why has there been existing field gates removed leaving gaps in the perimeter hedging and fencing directly onto public roads?
2. There continues to be unauthorized access on Private Roads for maintenance vehicles and plant for the Woodland, why is this being allowed to continue when everyone knows that this is unauthorized and has been recorded on a number of

occasions since January 2023? Without further delay, please issue the Woodland Operation and Management Plan that the Due Process states must be included with all applications and as you know it never was and despite this being requested on numerous occasions it is still being withheld from all Consultees and Stakeholders. Operation and Maintenance work has clearly been progressing over the past month and we as the community must have transparency now on this withheld mandatory documentation.

3. More existing fencing has been removed without authorization from the adjacent landowners and does not form part of the Application? Also, this fencing that has been removed is not solely owned by the new landowner and is fencing to a Private Road. Scottish Forestry clearly stated within the Due Process that NO existing fencing or accesses will be altered without it being noted within the application with evidence of a review of the Local Authority Planning Process. This evidence was withheld from the Application and existing fencing has continued to be removed since Scottish Forestry approved the works to commence.
4. There is currently unauthorized work being carried out forming forestry infrastructure works (Access and Parking), including large areas of soil being removed, stonework from a historic ruin being disturbed and spoil being loaded onto both the ruin and existing trees out with the ownership of the new landowner. As everyone knows the application clearly stated there would be NO formation of new access and/or Roads, Tracks and Car Parks. This was the repeated response to the issue being raised at the start of the Due Process, this being that the known and required access and infrastructure works was being withheld from Woodland Proposal and never formed part of the Application. Everyone knows Scottish Forestry's recorded responses to this issues, in that new access and infrastructure works, including parking must be processed through the recorded requirements of the Local Authority Planning Process. We request that this unauthorized and illegal work is stopped immediately by Scottish Forestry and the Local Authority is advised of the breach of the Planning Regulations and this is dealt with accordingly. There seems to be an attitude from the Agent on site that they can now do what they want as it was not part of the Woodland Creation Application process. We all know that is incorrect and requires Public Regulator control and robust enforcement. The Record Evidence and Case History from the past 3 year can not be dismissed and ignore. The developers had 2 years to get this right, they made the choices they did but can now think they can do what they want.
5. Trees Planted out with the locations on the updated plan attached to the EIA Screening Letter? In addition to this we note that we have still not received an acceptable answer, to the evidence that it has not been agreed with SLC that trees are planted in conflict with the Local Authority recorded requirements though the Due Process and stated in the Issue Log?
6. As we have been refused access to the Woodland Management and Operation Plan,

please advise what has been agreed with the maintenance of the natural grasses, both within the Deer Fence and all other areas, including grazing land which has currently got no livestock grazing it? We note that the natural grass has been getting cut, within the deer fencing over the past month and continues and that this operation seems to be damaging some of the trees. With the issuing of the Management and Operation Plan, and with reference to the Scottish Government Requirements, please confirm when Scottish Forestry have scheduled their first review and inspection of the woodland. Scottish Forestry stated in an email from earlier in the year that they inspect and validate the compliance of the woodland once it has been confirmed as installed, which it has been now for 3 -4 months? We continue to monitor the operations and note that there is already evidence of a number of trees that have died and others under stress. We look forward to a detailed response to all previously evidence based question and transparency on Scottish Forestry's validation of the woodland, both its install and its maintenance over the medium to long term of the woodland.

In addition to all these new and ongoing items, we refer to the increasing risk from Wild Fires, which has never been answered with a credible response and evidence. We now request an immediate response to this unacceptable situation. As everyone is aware this "Large and Sensitive" proposal has been approved minimum evidence of Design or Infrastructure being included in the Application to mitigate the clear and serious additional risk to property and life which this new woodland will cause. The unacceptable response within the Issue Log and in the EAI Letter treats the families of this community with complete contempt. We have already provided sufficient evidence of the failure to comply with the Scottish Governments Guidance and Recommendations on this issue and we record that it is now time, based on increasing risks that are already landing and affecting communities throughout Scotland, that both the CEO of Scottish Forestry and our Cabinet Secretary now intervene and carry out a thorough review into how many Woodland Applications comply with the Scottish Government recorded requirements, and when found not to, why? Please don't be complicit in ignoring the increased risk to the properties and life's, including Fire Fighters and other rural workers, due to non compliant woodlands. With regards to our Properties and our Families, including our young children I now expect the respect of a competent answer from both Scottish Forestry and our Cabinet Secretary that deals with this issue with immediate action being taken to protect my children now and in the coming years.

The Following is Scottish Forestry's response noted on the delayed EIA Letter which does not refer to [Scottish Forestry - Wildfire prevention](#) and was not included within the Application Documentation, therefore withheld from the Engagement and Consultation. We have highlighted some key points, adding additional comments in red text and note that there has been no evidence provided that this complies with ALL of the detail noted in the above Scottish Government Guidance. Why were these serious and important questions not answered 2 years in advance of a delayed EIA?

**Population & Human Health Risk of Wild Fires The site is in a low risk area for wild fire, both in the current climate and with future climate models. This is in complete contradiction to all other Scottish Government Guidance and Publications on this**

**matter, including on the effect to woodland and rural environments. This statement raises serious questions on the competency of those who have regulated and approved this Application. Again, where is the evidence to support these significant statements?**

The risk will be further mitigated by vegetation management during the establishment phase along with the proposed grazing of four areas retained in agriculture (Lot 1 - south of Burn Farm and east of South Sheild Farm, in lot 2 - west of A726 and east of Powmillon Burn). The area east of South Shields Farm was added post consultation due to that property having a timber barn in close proximity to the proposed woodland. **The whole site is relatively flat which reduces the risk of rapid spread of a fire should one occur. This is a direct contradiction to the Landscape Report which describes the Landscape as Ridges and Valleys. It also does not acknowledge that the site sits at c800 ft and the areas is known for its high winds, the "land of the sloping trees"** In addition, the public roads, track and **rides crossing the site provide both fire breaks** **The rides across the site are not designed Fire Breaks and will not provide "good" access.** and **good access** **No evidence provide to demonstrate that ALL guidance has been followed to the above Scottish Government Guidance** to manage a fire should one occur. **During higher risk conditions, This contradicts what is sated above** signs would be erected advising against use of BBQs and other activities which would increase the risk of fires starting. **The hierarchy of the mitigation to protect Properties and Life prioritises a designed infrastructure before signs, clearly detailed. Also, fires can be started due to numerous reasons and in no way does a sign mitigate all these known risks.** The above issue has been assessed against The Forestry (Environmental Impact Assessment)(Scotland) Regulations 2017 and has been found to have **no significant negative environmental impacts.** **Again, where is the evidence for this significant statement?**

Please do not wait for a tragedy to happen before we hear that we are sorry for the families and will carry out an investigation. We and others around Scotland have made you all aware of the concerning development of this serious issue and there is no justifiable reason for you do not to take robust action now, based on the evidence.

This is not about Trees or no Trees, wilderness or no wilderness this is about peoples property and life and Scottish Forestry and the Scottish Government have the responsibility to mitigate the risk to the Scottish People.

Cabinet Secretary, please don't simply pass this back to those in Scottish Forestry who have laughed at us in the past on this serious point which has been recorded for over 2 years now, please do the right thing before its to late. Yes, this is powerful and direct language, but its because it's my children's future I am trying to protect and I am now at the place that being ignored and laughed at by our Government Representatives, and now threatened to be silenced by the same organisation is simply not acceptable to me. I deserve and require more respect from you all.

I hope you all reflect on this ongoing correspondence and the evidence you continue to be provided by the Public and now do the right thing. I also wait for confirmation that as a Stakeholder, who was invited into the Process in July 2022, I will provided access to all the required documents as I am entitled to based on the Scottish Governments Pubic Due Process, which has been continually denied since the application was received from Scottish Forestry.

Regards



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\*\*\*\*\*

This email has been received from an external party and has been swept for the presence of computer viruses.

\*\*\*\*\*

\*\*\*\*\*



Scottish  
Forestry  
Coilltearachd  
na h-Alba

Saughton House  
Broomhouse Drive  
Edinburgh EH11 3XD  
forestry.gov.scot

Email: [scottish.forestry@forestry.gov.scot](mailto:scottish.forestry@forestry.gov.scot)  
Tel: 0131 370 5250

Chief Executive: Paul Lowe

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]@ [REDACTED]  
202400436864 East Nethersheids Woodland Creation Proposal Update 15 October 2024

Our ref: 2024/00436864

Date: 23 January 2025

Dear [REDACTED],

## **EAST NETHERSHEILDS WOODLAND CREATION PROPOSAL - ACTIVE WORKS ON SITE**

I refer to your emails which cover the following case references:

2024/00436864  
2024/00438574  
2024/00439853  
2024/00441100  
2024/00443365  
2025/00447451  
2024/00445244  
2024/00446206  
2025/00447243  
2025/00447956

and the voicemail left with Central Scotland Conservancy on 26 November 2024.

Apologies for the time taken to respond to these emails, however as some were copied to the Cabinet Secretary there was a delay whilst these were forwarded to Scottish Forestry for a response. Also, as we have previously advised, the large number of emails you have sent means it is more complex to respond and takes longer to ensure that all parties copied in and matters raised have been considered.

Scottish Forestry have reviewed and investigated the concerns you have raised with the operational works and at this stage we are content that works are proceeding in accordance with the EIA screening opinion issued on 29/8/24 and as per the Forestry Grant scheme contract. We do not normally visit sites or inspect works until they are confirmed as complete as operational issues are often identified, addressed and resolved by the developer as they finalise the implementation.

Scottish Forestry is the Scottish Government agency responsible for forestry policy, support and regulation

Is e Coilltearachd na h-Alba a' bhuidheann-ghnìomha aig Riaghaltas na h-Alba a tha an urra ri poileasaidh, taic agus riaghladh do choilltearachd

 **Scottish Government**  
Riaghaltas na h-Alba

When we receive an FGS grant claim we will visit the site and carry out a full inspection to verify compliance with grant conditions, the UK Forestry Standard and the approved project design. If at that stage we find that the project hasn't been implemented in line with the approved plan we will consider and take appropriate action. Please note that we will further review all the points you have identified as we conduct the site inspection.

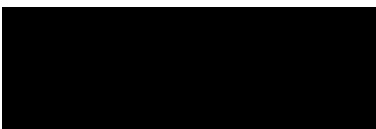
The map referenced in your email of 20 November 2024 is not the approved map. The approved maps, both dated 20 August 2024, were provided with the screening opinion we have previously sent to you and include a gate off the private access track to East Nethersields Farm.

To avoid further confusion we have included a copy of the approved maps and the final version of the issues log, as requested in your emails of 17 October 2024, 6 November 2024 and 6 January 2025. These documents are also available from Tillhill's website - [East Nethersields - Tilhill Forestry](#).

Should you have any further concerns about how this project is being implemented we are happy for these to be brought to our attention. However unless these present an immediate risk to the environment the local conservancy team will acknowledge/keep a record of your concerns and investigate them when we are inspecting the site later in 2025, in line with normal procedures.

As per recent responses on this case, I would ask that you try to moderate the volume and frequency of correspondence that you send as we have limited capacity and if we decide that your correspondence is unreasonable we may take action to limit contact.

Yours sincerely



Director Operational Delivery

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Central Correspondence Unit](#)  
**Cc:** [Scottish Forestry Corporate Affairs](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Your recent enquiry with Scottish Government and partner agencies - 202500482741  
**Date:** 21 October 2025 16:49:30  
**Attachments:** [East Netershield Woodland Creation - request to view docs.msg](#)  
[image001.png](#)  
[image002.jpg](#)

---

Hi [REDACTED], yes, please record this on MiCase and would suggest as GC.

Kind regards

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Corporate Support and Correspondence Officer  
Scottish Forestry  
Saughton House | Broomhouse Drive | Edinburgh | EH11 3XD  
[Website: forestry.gov.scot](http://forestry.gov.scot)  
Twitter: [@scotforestry](https://twitter.com/scotforestry)



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**From:** Central Correspondence Unit <CentralCorrespondenceUnit@gov.scot>  
**Sent:** 21 October 2025 16:28  
**To:** [REDACTED]@forestry.gov.scot>  
**Subject:** FW: Your recent enquiry with Scottish Government and partner agencies - 202500482741

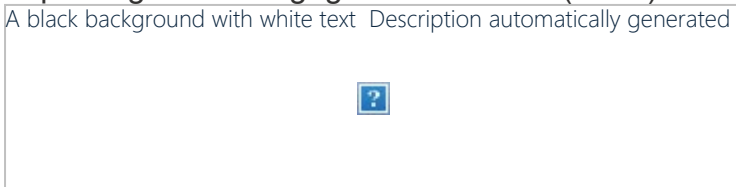
Good afternoon [REDACTED],  
Please see the email below. Please confirm if you require this to be added to MiCase?

Thank you,

[REDACTED] (she/her)

Correspondence Performance Manager  
Central Correspondence Unit  
Email: [centralcorrespondenceunit@gov.scot](mailto:centralcorrespondenceunit@gov.scot)  
Improving Public Engagement Division (IPED)

A black background with white text. Description automatically generated



**From:** [REDACTED]@ [REDACTED]

**Sent:** 21 October 2025 14:10

**To:** Scottish Government Case Handling Service <[casehandling.service@gov.scot](mailto:casehandling.service@gov.scot)>; Scottish Forestry Conservancy, Central Scotland <[centralscotland.cons@forestry.gov.scot](mailto:centralscotland.cons@forestry.gov.scot)>

**Cc:** [REDACTED]@[forestry.gov.scot](mailto:forestry.gov.scot)>; Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs, Land Reform & Islands 2024 <[CabSecforRALRI@gov.scot](mailto:CabSecforRALRI@gov.scot)>

**Subject:** Re: Your recent enquiry with Scottish Government and partner agencies - 202500482741

Dear All those involved in the above case,

With reference to various SF communication over the past few months and with referenced to the attached Central Office email, we would like to record a point of clarity;

1. Based on the attached email we were expecting the requested documents to be issued from the Central Office via email, hence the earlier email recording that we had still not received them.
2. We have now accessed the EIA Register linked in Scottish Forestry letter ref 202500476034 and now record the following; We note the date of the Register, (28<sup>th</sup> July 2025), has no relevance to the Scottish Government Public Regulated Due Process for this case, which was carried out between the end of 2021 to the end of 2024.

2.01 As our ongoing request for access to the information, which was relevant to the date of, and included within the application, please clarify if Scottish Forestry are now recording that this distribution of documents on 5<sup>th</sup> August 2025 (first referred to in the letter dated 8<sup>th</sup> August 2025) reflects the documents published within the Formal Application in 2024. If you are now stating all these documents were issued during the Regulated Due Process, please confirm when and by what means? We refer to the evidence within the case history, which also referred to the Agents private web site for the documents included in the Application. This evidence remains on record.

2.02 We note that a number of the documents have never been accessible or issued to the Stakeholders through the Regulated Due Process. This evidence remains on record.

2.03. We note that critical documents, which were withdrawn during the Stage 1 Regulated Due Process, therefore did not form part of the Application, have now been published again on the EIA Register in 5<sup>th</sup> August 2025. This evidence remains on record.

2.04 We note a number of the documents are not dated, therefore in addition to the documents not previously issued, a full and robust review will have to be

carried out to check the documents now published are accurate and match the documents which were available during the Public Regulated Due Process. We refer to the previous evidence that remains on record that documents were being altered by the Agent after the Approval.

2.05 We note there is no Doc ref number 1. Please clarify?

2.06 There are out of date Plans included on the register that have no relevance to the Formal Application. This evidence remains on record.

2.07 There are listed documents which have been fully Redacted and not dated, therefore we have no knowledge if these documents had formed part of the Regulated Due Process. As these are key Hazard and Constraint Documents, can you please advise why these have been redacted from the Neighbouring Stakeholders listed within the Regulated Due Process? The evidence to support all issues raised and the evidence based responses to all documents published during the Due Process remain on record.

2.08 The Final Map does not reflect the woodland that was formed between Oct 2024 to early 2025. All the relevant and detailed information was evidenced and recorded with SF, as they became apparent and with reference to previous Scottish Forestry's detailed comments recorded during the Regulated Due Process. We note that we still wait for Scottish Forestry's detailed response to all Issues that have been recorded with them over the past 10-11 months. This evidence remains on record.

2.09 As recorded at the time with this evidence remaining on record, a number of the published documents were only issued on the last days of the engagement stage and the stakeholders were not engaged on this information. Despite all the evidence recorded on these documents, and all other documents, including the serious evidence based issues noted on the Issue Log, Scottish Forestry refused to consult with the community on any of the evidence. We refer again to the commitments made by the Cabinet Secretary in Sept 2023, in that senior Managers from Scottish Forestry would meet the community to discuss there issues in detail.

**3.** In addition to the above we also take this opportunity to record other clarification point on this ongoing case.

3.01 These publications do not acknowledge or reflect all the evidence based and supported responses to the content of these documents, which was reinforced in the evidence based response to the version of Issue Log that was accessible during Due Process and Application. We repeat, a robust review of the Issue Log now published will have to be carried. This evidence remains on record.

3.02 We will review Scottish Forestry's other letter dated the 8<sup>th</sup> August 2025, and record our response to the references and comments within. However, from an quick overview there seems to be no new evidence provided to answer the evidence based issues recorded throughout the Due Process, and since the Approval was granted in 2024. Due to this, the critical issues that were recently

recorded with the Cabinet Secretary, through communication from the Communities MSP, remain unanswered with no evidence being provided. We record that the continual responses being received, with general non evidence based comments can not be accepted. This evidence remains on record.

3.03 It has been stated again that our communication has breached Scottish Government's 'Unacceptable actions policy' now making serious accusation of "abusive behaviour", "made unreasonable demands" and "been unreasonably persistent. As you will expect we take these accusation very seriously, based on the evidence within the case, and strongly reject your claims. As a member of the Scottish Public I have the right to record factual evidence, which I consider requires to be done for public record and have the right to inform our elected members and Government of this evidence. Unless you are prepared to provide me evidence of what communication has constituted "abusive behaviour" I ask that you confirm you are withdrawing this serious unsubstantiated accusation towards us.

3.04 Although this letter attempts to suggest you have "addressed" all issues previously, the evidence records you have not. The evidence remains on record and I believe you will be aware of the issues you have not addressed.

In summary, this case is ongoing with the evidence that the Public's representations have not been answered with evidence from the Regulator and Government. We will continue to request the required evidence, through FOI Requests if forced to do so, and if still required will issue the relevant and evidence based complaints to the appropriate departments with the Scottish Government.

We make one final direct request for you to meet us face to face and bring this unacceptable situation to a satisfactory conclusion. Threats to silence the evidence we have recorded is not acceptable. Rather than ongoing threats, lets talk, as why would that be an issue?

Regards

[REDACTED]

20.

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**From:** [casehandling.service@gov.scot](mailto:casehandling.service@gov.scot) <[casehandling.service@gov.scot](mailto:casehandling.service@gov.scot)>

**Sent:** 26 September 2025 14:59

**To:** [REDACTED]@ [REDACTED] [REDACTED]@ [REDACTED] >

**Subject:** Your recent enquiry with Scottish Government and partner agencies - 202500482741

Please find attached a response to your correspondence.

\*\*\*\*\*

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\*\*\*\*\*

**From:** [REDACTED] on behalf of [Scottish Forestry Conservancy, Central Scotland](#)  
**To:** [REDACTED]@ [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** East Nethersfield Woodland Creation - request to view docs  
**Date:** 11 July 2025 08:45:22  
**Attachments:** [image001.jpg](#)

---

Dear [REDACTED],

We have been passed your correspondence requesting access to documents associated with the East Nethersfields Woodland Proposal.

Scottish Forestry is committed to transparency, and it is our policy to share case documents for forestry projects we are working on or have consulted on.

We will review the relevant documentation and ensure this is provided – following any necessary redaction and review under General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR), as appropriate.

As your request includes the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) documents for this proposal. We are legally obliged to make these available and will ensure they are shared in an appropriate format. All documents related to this case are stored electronically, and we are happy to provide them via email, or we can have these printed and posted to you. Just let us know which you would prefer.

We would also like to clarify that we cannot accommodate in-person visits to our offices for document inspection, as our premises are not equipped with suitable facilities for public access. Allowing members of the public into our main office areas would not be appropriate.

Some documents may require redaction in line with data protection obligations, and we will require time to prepare these accordingly.

Kind Regards

In Response to Email Dated 07/07/2025:

To whom it concerns,

We request access to your local office for the South Lanarkshire Council Area to view all application documents relevant to the East Nethersfields Woodland Proposal.

Although you refused this access during the Consultation Period, this access should have and must be provided to the Consultees and Stakeholders, as clearly stated within the Public Regulated Due Process. We urge you to respond confirming this access and availability of all documents will now be provided as requested, with no further obstruction to the Stakeholders. We request that access is provided on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> July at 14:00. If this time is not suitable, please advise, by return.

As stated on the email below we have recommenced communication with our Cabinet Secretary due to your refusal to communicate and request, by copy of this email, that she ensures that this required Public access is provided without any further obstruction.

We wait your confirmation of access.

We also continue to wait for your answers to all outstanding issues relevant to this case, with all the required supporting evidence, including all the issues that have been developing and witnessed on site since Scottish Forestry approved the woodland to progress last year, including further recent changes to the existing access and from what was included on the Formal Application. The outstanding issues and missing evidence is still critical to this Due Process and is significant for all future communication the actions within the Due Process for this Woodland Proposal.

Kind Regards

[Redacted signature]

Scottish Forestry  
Central Scotland Conservancy|Bothwell House|Hamilton Business Park|Caird  
Park  
Hamilton ML3 0QA  
Direct: [Redacted]

Email: [centralscotland.cons@forestry.gov.scot](mailto:centralscotland.cons@forestry.gov.scot)

Website: [forestry.gov.scot](http://forestry.gov.scot)

Twitter: [@scotforestry](https://twitter.com/scotforestry)



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\*\*\*\*\*

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recorded in order to secure the effective operation of the system and for other lawful purposes. The views or opinions contained within this e-mail may not necessarily reflect those of the Scottish Government or Scottish Forestry.

\*\*\*\*\*  
\*\*\*\*\*

**From:** [REDACTED] on behalf of [Scottish Forestry Corporate Affairs](#)  
**To:** [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; [Scottish Forestry Corporate Affairs](#); [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: Your recent enquiry with Scottish Government and partner agencies - 202500482741  
**Date:** 22 October 2025 12:31:55  
**Attachments:** [image001.jpg](#)  
[image002.jpg](#)  
[image003.png](#)

---

Thanks [REDACTED]

The below holding response has been issued and, once [REDACTED] confirms next steps, I will let you all know.

Thanks

---

**From:** [REDACTED]@forestry.gov.scot>  
**Sent:** 22 October 2025 12:23  
**To:** [REDACTED]@forestry.gov.scot>; Scottish Forestry Corporate Affairs <[sfcorpaffairs@forestry.gov.scot](mailto:sfcorpaffairs@forestry.gov.scot)>; [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]@forestry.gov.scot>  
**Subject:** RE: Your recent enquiry with Scottish Government and partner agencies - 202500482741

Happy with that approach.

Otherwise it will be yet another exchange with us referring to previous responses, and we have stated we are no longer going to correspond with him on these issues.

Thanks

---

**From:** [REDACTED]@forestry.gov.scot>  
**Sent:** 22 October 2025 10:36  
**To:** Scottish Forestry Corporate Affairs <[sfcorpaffairs@forestry.gov.scot](mailto:sfcorpaffairs@forestry.gov.scot)>; [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]@forestry.gov.scot>; [REDACTED]  
<[REDACTED]@forestry.gov.scot>  
**Subject:** RE: Your recent enquiry with Scottish Government and partner agencies - 202500482741

Thank you, I think that looks a sensible approach and reconfirms our position and is clear about the complaints option (can evidence to SPSO if it went there).

Unless [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] have other views, happy with the response.

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
Head of Corporate Affairs and Communications

Scottish Forestry  
Spur E1, Saughton House, Edinburgh, EH11 3XD

Email: [REDACTED]@forestry.gov.scot

Website: [forestry.gov.scot](https://forestry.gov.scot)

X: [@scotforestry](#)



Scottish Forestry is the Scottish Government agency responsible for forestry policy, support and regulation.

---

**From:** [REDACTED]@forestry.gov.scot > **On Behalf Of** Scottish Forestry Corporate Affairs

**Sent:** 22 October 2025 09:08

**To:** [REDACTED]@forestry.gov.scot >; [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]@forestry.gov.scot >

**Cc:** Scottish Forestry Corporate Affairs <[sfcorpaffairs@forestry.gov.scot](mailto:sfcorpaffairs@forestry.gov.scot)>; [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]@forestry.gov.scot >

**Subject:** FW: Your recent enquiry with Scottish Government and partner agencies - 202500482741

Hi both

Please note that we have received the below response from [REDACTED]. Can I recommend that, prior to considering a response, I reach out to [REDACTED] and gain understanding that the below is to be considered a complaint in line with our Model Complaints Handling policy? Draft text below:

Dear [REDACTED],

Thank you for your email dated 21 October 2025.

Having reviewed the points you raised, we believe that much of your email falls under our [Model Complaints Handling Policy](#).

To properly address the multiple issues you have outlined, we need your confirmation that you wish to submit a formal complaint. If you choose to do so, we will appoint a complaints manager who will be in touch shortly.

Should you decide not to lodge a formal complaint at this time, please refer to our

previous letter dated 08 August 2025.

Thanks

---

**From:** [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@forestry.gov.scot](mailto:[REDACTED]@forestry.gov.scot)>

**Sent:** 21 October 2025 16:49

**To:** Central Correspondence Unit <[CentralCorrespondenceUnit@gov.scot](mailto:CentralCorrespondenceUnit@gov.scot)>

**Cc:** Scottish Forestry Corporate Affairs <[sfcorpaffairs@forestry.gov.scot](mailto:sfcorpaffairs@forestry.gov.scot)>

**Subject:** FW: Your recent enquiry with Scottish Government and partner agencies - 202500482741

Hi [REDACTED], yes, please record this on MiCase and would suggest as GC.

Kind regards

[REDACTED]  
Corporate Support and Correspondence Officer  
Scottish Forestry  
Saughton House | Broomhouse Drive | Edinburgh | EH11 3XD  
[Website: forestry.gov.scot](http://www.forestry.gov.scot)  
Twitter: [@scotforestry](https://twitter.com/scotforestry)



Scottish Forestry is the Scottish Government agency responsible for forestry policy, support and regulation.

---

**From:** Central Correspondence Unit <[CentralCorrespondenceUnit@gov.scot](mailto:CentralCorrespondenceUnit@gov.scot)>

**Sent:** 21 October 2025 16:28

**To:** [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@forestry.gov.scot](mailto:[REDACTED]@forestry.gov.scot)>

**Subject:** FW: Your recent enquiry with Scottish Government and partner agencies - 202500482741

Good afternoon [REDACTED],

Please see the email below. Please confirm if you require this to be added to MiCase?

Thank you,

[REDACTED] (she/her)  
Correspondence Performance Manager  
Central Correspondence Unit  
Email: [centralcorrespondenceunit@gov.scot](mailto:centralcorrespondenceunit@gov.scot)

## Improving Public Engagement Division (IPED)

A black background with white text Description automatically generated



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**From:** [REDACTED]@ [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 21 October 2025 14:10  
**To:** Scottish Government Case Handling Service <[casehandling.service@gov.scot](mailto:casehandling.service@gov.scot)>; Scottish Forestry Conservancy, Central Scotland <[centralscotland.cons@forestry.gov.scot](mailto:centralscotland.cons@forestry.gov.scot)>  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]@[forestry.gov.scot](mailto:forestry.gov.scot)>; Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs, Land Reform & Islands 2024 <[CabSecforRALRI@gov.scot](mailto:CabSecforRALRI@gov.scot)>  
**Subject:** Re: Your recent enquiry with Scottish Government and partner agencies - 202500482741

Dear All those involved in the above case,

With reference to various SF communication over the past few months and with referenced to the attached Central Office email, we would like to record a point of clarity;

1. Based on the attached email we were expecting the requested documents to be issued from the Central Office via email, hence the earlier email recording that we had still not received them.
2. We have now accessed the EIA Register linked in Scottish Forestry letter ref 202500476034 and now record the following; We note the date of the Register, (28<sup>th</sup> July 2025), has no relevance to the Scottish Government Public Regulated Due Process for this case, which was carried out between the end of 2021 to the end of 2024.

2.01 As our ongoing request for access to the information, which was relevant to the date of, and included within the application, please clarify if Scottish Forestry are now recording that this distribution of documents on 5<sup>th</sup> August 2025 (first referred to in the letter dated 8<sup>th</sup> August 2025) reflects the documents published within the Formal Application in 2024. If you are now stating all these documents were issued during the Regulated Due Process, please confirm when and by what means? We refer to the evidence within the case history, which also referred to the Agents private web site for the documents included in the Application. This evidence remains on record.

2.02 We note that a number of the documents have never been accessible or issued to the Stakeholders through the Regulated Due Process. This evidence

remains on record.

2.03. We note that critical documents, which were withdrawn during the Stage 1 Regulated Due Process, therefore did not form part of the Application, have now been published again on the EIA Register in 5<sup>th</sup> August 2025. This evidence remains on record.

2.04 We note a number of the documents are not dated, therefore in addition to the documents not previously issued, a full and robust review will have to be carried out to check the documents now published are accurate and match the documents which were available during the Public Regulated Due Process. We refer to the previous evidence that remains on record that documents were being altered by the Agent after the Approval.

2.05 We note there is no Doc ref number 1. Please clarify?

2.06 There are out of date Plans included on the register that have no relevance to the Formal Application. This evidence remains on record.

2.07 There are listed documents which have been fully Redacted and not dated, therefore we have no knowledge if these documents had formed part of the Regulated Due Process. As these are key Hazard and Constraint Documents, can you please advise why these have been redacted from the Neighbouring Stakeholders listed within the Regulated Due Process? The evidence to support all issues raised and the evidence based responses to all documents published during the Due Process remain on record.

2.08 The Final Map does not reflect the woodland that was formed between Oct 2024 to early 2025. All the relevant and detailed information was evidenced and recorded with SF, as they became apparent and with reference to previous Scottish Forestry's detailed comments recorded during the Regulated Due Process. We note that we still wait for Scottish Forestry's detailed response to all Issues that have been recorded with them over the past 10-11 months. This evidence remains on record.

2.09 As recorded at the time with this evidence remaining on record, a number of the published documents were only issued on the last days of the engagement stage and the stakeholders were not engaged on this information. Despite all the evidence recorded on these documents, and all other documents, including the serious evidence based issues noted on the Issue Log, Scottish Forestry refused to consult with the community on any of the evidence. We refer again to the commitments made by the Cabinet Secretary in Sept 2023, in that senior Managers from Scottish Forestry would meet the community to discuss there issues in detail.

**3.** In addition to the above we also take this opportunity to record other clarification point on this ongoing case.

3.01 These publications do not acknowledge or reflect all the evidence based and supported responses to the content of these documents, which was reinforced in the evidence based response to the version of Issue Log that was accessible during

Due Process and Application. We repeat, a robust review of the Issue Log now published will have to be carried. This evidence remains on record.

3.02 We will review Scottish Forestry's other letter dated the 8<sup>th</sup> August 2025, and record our response to the references and comments within. However, from a quick overview there seems to be no new evidence provided to answer the evidence based issues recorded throughout the Due Process, and since the Approval was granted in 2024. Due to this, the critical issues that were recently recorded with the Cabinet Secretary, through communication from the Communities MSP, remain unanswered with no evidence being provided. We record that the continual responses being received, with general non evidence based comments can not be accepted. This evidence remains on record.

3.03 It has been stated again that our communication has breached Scottish Government's 'Unacceptable actions policy' now making serious accusation of "abusive behaviour", "made unreasonable demands" and "been unreasonably persistent. As you will expect we take these accusation very seriously, based on the evidence within the case, and strongly reject your claims. As a member of the Scottish Public I have the right to record factual evidence, which I consider requires to be done for public record and have the right to inform our elected members and Government of this evidence. Unless you are prepared to provide me evidence of what communication has constituted "abusive behaviour" I ask that you confirm you are withdrawing this serious unsubstantiated accusation towards us.

3.04 Although this letter attempts to suggest you have "addressed" all issues previously, the evidence records you have not. The evidence remains on record and I believe you will be aware of the issues you have not addressed.

In summary, this case is ongoing with the evidence that the Public's representations have not been answered with evidence from the Regulator and Government. We will continue to request the required evidence, through FOI Requests if forced to do so, and if still required will issue the relevant and evidence based complaints to the appropriate departments with the Scottish Government.

We make one final direct request for you to meet us face to face and bring this unacceptable situation to a satisfactory conclusion. Threats to silence the evidence we have recorded is not acceptable. Rather than ongoing threats, lets talk, as why would that be an issue?

Regards



---

**From:** [casehandling.service@gov.scot](mailto:casehandling.service@gov.scot) <[casehandling.service@gov.scot](mailto:casehandling.service@gov.scot)>

**Sent:** 26 September 2025 14:59

**To:** [REDACTED]@ [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@[REDACTED]>

**Subject:** Your recent enquiry with Scottish Government and partner agencies - 202500482741

Please find attached a response to your correspondence.

\*\*\*\*\*

This e-mail (and any files or other attachments transmitted with it) is intended solely for the attention of the addressee(s). Unauthorised use, disclosure, storage, copying or distribution of any part of this e-mail is not permitted. If you are not the intended recipient please destroy the email, remove any copies from your system and inform the sender immediately by return.

Communications with the Scottish Government may be monitored or recorded in order to secure the effective operation of the system and for other lawful purposes. The views or opinions contained within this e-mail may not necessarily reflect those of the Scottish Government.

\*\*\*\*\*



[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]@

Our Reference: 202500490058

22 October 2025

Dear [REDACTED],

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email dated 21 October 2025.

Having reviewed the points you raised, we believe that much of your email falls under our [Model Complaints Handling Policy](#).

To properly address the multiple issues you have outlined, we need your confirmation that you wish to submit a formal complaint. If you choose to do so, we will appoint a complaints manager who will be in touch shortly.

Should you decide not to lodge a formal complaint at this time, please refer to our previous letter dated 08 August 2025.

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]  
**SFCBS : Corporate Affairs and Communications**

Scottish Ministers, special advisers and the Permanent Secretary are covered by the terms of the Lobbying (Scotland) Act 2016. See [www.lobbying.scot](http://www.lobbying.scot)

St Andrew's House, Regent Road, Edinburgh EH1  
3DG  
[www.gov.scot](http://www.gov.scot)



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**From:** [REDACTED] on behalf of [Scottish Forestry Corporate Affairs](#)  
**To:** [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [Scottish Forestry Corporate Affairs](#)  
**Subject:** For Decision - [REDACTED] - East Nethersfield Woodland Creation - 18 November  
**Date:** 14 November 2025 14:49:56  
**Attachments:** [image001.jpg](#)  
[Interim-202500490058 \(3\).pdf](#)

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Hi both

We currently have MiCase ref 202500490058 opened having sent out the attached holding letter. This MiCase is due to for a response by 18 November 2025.

Can I check if you are content that we send the following as a response on 18 November? Alternatively, we can simply withdraw the case and not write a response but I think that triggers an automated response advising we have done so.

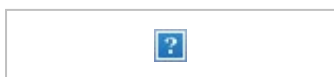
Dear [REDACTED]

*Thank you again for your email dated 21 October 2025. We have not heard from you since we issued a reply on 22 October 2025 asking if you could confirm if you wished to submit a formal complaint in line with our Model Complaints Handling Policy. As we have not had a response, we will now close this case. Should you decide to submit a formal complaint, please contact our Corporate Affairs team by email via [sfcorpaffairs@forestry.gov.scot](mailto:sfcorpaffairs@forestry.gov.scot). For all other matters, we refer you to the letter issued to you on 08 August 2025. We now consider all outstanding matters closed.*

**Thanks**

[REDACTED]  
*Corporate Support and Correspondance Officer*

Scottish Forestry | Saughton House | Broomhouse Drive | Edinburgh | EH11 3XD  
Website: [forestry.gov.scot](http://forestry.gov.scot)  
Email: [REDACTED]@[forestry.gov.scot](mailto:forestry.gov.scot)



Scottish Forestry is the Scottish Government agency responsible for forestry policy, support and regulation.

Is e Coilltearachd na h-Alba a' bhuidheann-ghnìomha aig Riaghaltas na h-Alba a tha an urra ri poileasaidh, taic agus riaghladh do choilltearachd.



[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]@ [REDACTED]

Our Reference: 202500490058

22 October 2025

Dear [REDACTED],

Thank you for your email dated 21 October 2025.

Having reviewed the points you raised, we believe that much of your email falls under our [Model Complaints Handling Policy](#).

To properly address the multiple issues you have outlined, we need your confirmation that you wish to submit a formal complaint. If you choose to do so, we will appoint a complaints manager who will be in touch shortly.

Should you decide not to lodge a formal complaint at this time, please refer to our previous letter dated 08 August 2025.

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]  
**SFCBS : Corporate Affairs and Communications**

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St Andrew's House, Regent Road, Edinburgh EH1  
3DG  
[www.gov.scot](http://www.gov.scot)



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We invest in people Silver



**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Scottish Forestry Corporate Affairs](#); [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: For Decision - [REDACTED] - East Nethersfield Woodland Creation - 18 November  
**Date:** 17 November 2025 16:19:58  
**Attachments:** [image001.jpg](#)  
[image002.jpg](#)

---

Content – thanks....

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**From:** [REDACTED]@forestry.gov.scot> **On Behalf Of** Scottish Forestry Corporate Affairs  
**Sent:** 14 November 2025 15:12  
**To:** [REDACTED]@forestry.gov.scot>; Scottish Forestry Corporate Affairs <[sfcorpaffairs@forestry.gov.scot](mailto:sfcorpaffairs@forestry.gov.scot)>; [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]@forestry.gov.scot>; [REDACTED]@forestry.gov.scot>  
**Subject:** RE: For Decision - [REDACTED] - East Nethersfield Woodland Creation - 18 November

Grand – unless there are any objections or unless [REDACTED] contacts us beforehand, I will issue the below by COP Tuesday.

Thanks

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** [REDACTED]@forestry.gov.scot>  
**Sent:** 14 November 2025 15:09  
**To:** Scottish Forestry Corporate Affairs <[sfcorpaffairs@forestry.gov.scot](mailto:sfcorpaffairs@forestry.gov.scot)>; [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]@forestry.gov.scot>; [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]@forestry.gov.scot>  
**Subject:** RE: For Decision - [REDACTED] - East Nethersfield Woodland Creation - 18 November

Works for me.

Just sighting [REDACTED], as this case might continue.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Head of Corporate Affairs and Communications

Scottish Forestry  
Spur E1, Saughton House, Edinburgh, EH11 3XD

Email: [REDACTED]@forestry.gov.scot

Website: [forestry.gov.scot](http://forestry.gov.scot)

X: [@scotforestry](#)



Scottish Forestry is the Scottish Government agency responsible for forestry policy, support and regulation.

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**From:** [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@forestry.gov.scot](mailto:[REDACTED]@forestry.gov.scot)> **On Behalf Of** Scottish Forestry Corporate Affairs

**Sent:** 14 November 2025 14:50

**To:** [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@forestry.gov.scot](mailto:[REDACTED]@forestry.gov.scot)>; [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@forestry.gov.scot](mailto:[REDACTED]@forestry.gov.scot)>

**Cc:** Scottish Forestry Corporate Affairs <[sfcorpaffairs@forestry.gov.scot](mailto:sfcorpaffairs@forestry.gov.scot)>

**Subject:** For Decision - [REDACTED] - East Nethersfield Woodland Creation - 18 November

Hi both

We currently have MiCase ref 202500490058 opened having sent out the attached holding letter. This MiCase is due to for a response by 18 November 2025.

Can I check if you are content that we send the following as a response on 18 November? Alternatively, we can simply withdraw the case and not write a response but I think that triggers an automated response advising we have done so.

Dear [REDACTED]

*Thank you again for your email dated 21 October 2025. We have not heard from you since we issued a reply on 22 October 2025 asking if you could confirm if you wished to submit a formal complaint in line with our Model Complaints Handling Policy. As we have not had a response, we will now close this case. Should you decide to submit a formal complaint, please contact our Corporate Affairs team by email via [sfcorpaffairs@forestry.gov.scot](mailto:sfcorpaffairs@forestry.gov.scot). For all other matters, we refer you to the letter issued to you on 08 August 2025. We now consider all outstanding matters closed.*

**Thanks**

[REDACTED]  
*Corporate Support and Correspondance Officer*

Scottish Forestry | Saughton House | Broomhouse Drive | Edinburgh | EH11 3XD

Website: [forestry.gov.scot](http://forestry.gov.scot)

Email: [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@forestry.gov.scot](mailto:[REDACTED]@forestry.gov.scot)>



Scottish Forestry is the Scottish Government agency responsible for forestry policy,

**support and regulation.**

Is e Coilltearachd na h-Alba a' bhuidheann-ghnìomha aig Riaghaltas na h-Alba a tha an urra ri poileasaidh, taic agus riaghladh do choilltearachd.

**From:** [REDACTED] on behalf of [Scottish Forestry Executive Office](#)  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [Scottish Forestry Corporate Affairs](#); [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: East Nethwershiels Woodland - Non Compliant Issues  
**Date:** 23 September 2025 18:00:00  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)  
[image003.jpg](#)  
[SF Response - 08 August 2025.pdf](#)  
[image002.png](#)

---

Hi,

Further to the below of 2 Sept, logged as GC with ref 202500483826 due 1 Oct.

Further to our team meeting this am, have highlighted below where it might have been a request for information, however, on reflection, our response of 8 August attached, under **202500475251** and **Other Regulations** although not specifically mentioned parking, I am understanding we have addressed this point in this section, so should continue to handle as an GC.

In addition, we have responded on the noise and vehicles issues in the related MR **202500481405** issued 11 Sept to their MSPs Senior Caseworker who had contacted SF on the senders behalf.

I have drafted the below in response:

Dear [REDACTED],

Further to your email of 2 September 2025, please refer to our previous response with reference 202500450345 which we sent to you on 8 August 2025 at 1:33 pm where we have responded to your correspondence of 9 July 2025 under reference 202500475251. Please find a copy of this letter attached in case this has not reached you.

Yours sincerely,

---

**From:** Leighanne Fleming **On Behalf Of** Scottish Forestry Enquiries

**Sent:** 03 September 2025 08:28

**To:** Scottish Forestry Executive Office

**Subject:** FW: East Nethwershiels Woodland - Non Compliant Issues

**Importance:** High

Good Morning,

Please see below.

Kind Regards

[REDACTED]  
*Finance & Business Support Officer*

Scottish Forestry

Saughton House | Broomhouse Drive | Edinburgh | EH11 3XD

Email: [REDACTED]@forestry.gov.scot

Website: [forestry.gov.scot](http://forestry.gov.scot)

Twitter: [@scotforestry](https://twitter.com/scotforestry)

[BRAVE values](#) are the roots that underpin Scottish Forestry, to create a workplace where our staff, and the people we work with, feel valued, supported and respected.

**B**e professional, **R**espect others, **A**ct with honesty and integrity, **V**alue teamwork and collaboration and **E**ncourage innovation and creativity.



Scottish Forestry is the Scottish Government agency responsible for forestry policy, support and regulation.

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**From:** [REDACTED]@ [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 02 September 2025 11:46  
**To:** Scottish Forestry Enquiries <[scottish.forestry@forestry.gov.scot](mailto:scottish.forestry@forestry.gov.scot)>  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]@[forestry.gov.scot](mailto:forestry.gov.scot)>; Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs, Land Reform & Islands 2024 <[cabsecforralri@gov.scot](mailto:cabsecforralri@gov.scot)>  
**Subject:** Re: East Nethwershiels Woodland - Non Compliant Issues  
**Importance:** High

To whom it concerns,

We refer to item 4 below, recorded on the 9<sup>th</sup> July 2025 the unauthorized formation of Forestry Infrastructure at the above location.

In addition to this previous information, we now record that this infrastructure is being used for parking and movement of forestry vehicles and equipment. As this is in direct conflict with the Grant Approval, and the recorded denial by the developer throughout the Due Process that there will be any new access or forestry infrastructure installed on this development, we request the SF immediately stop the use of this unauthorized and illegal use of this area of the land. This includes the illegal use of the private track for forestry activities. It is evident from the previous photographs that the private track is being used to access these locations, for these activities.

As you are aware and have recorded in the Due Process, all new forestry infrastructure must go through the Local Authority Planning Regulations, therefore we advise that you instruct the developer to provide evidence of this before any new infrastructure is formed, or used on this development. We have provided all the same evidence to the Local Authority recording a breach in Planning Regulations and advise you that there has been no pre engagement with SLC Planning Officers before any of the works that have been evidenced on site have developed.

We also take this opportunity to advise that new ground mats are being installed to new vehicle gates, which again did not form part of the application and Grant Approval.

Please advise, by return, what SF plan to do on this non compliance issues. From a SF communication last month we understand that all issues raised with SF will/are being investigated, we wait the detailed evidenced based responses on all the outstanding issues.

Regards

---

**From:** [REDACTED]@ [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 09 July 2025 09:59  
**To:** [scottish.forestry@forestry.gov.scot](mailto:scottish.forestry@forestry.gov.scot) <[scottish.forestry@forestry.gov.scot](mailto:scottish.forestry@forestry.gov.scot)>  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]@[forestry.gov.scot](mailto:forestry.gov.scot) <[REDACTED]@[forestry.gov.scot](mailto:forestry.gov.scot)>;  
[cabsecforralri@gov.scot](mailto:cabsecforralri@gov.scot) <[cabsecforralri@gov.scot](mailto:cabsecforralri@gov.scot)>  
**Subject:** East Nethwershiels Woodland - Non Compliant Issues

To whom it concerns,

We refer to all other evidence recorded within this Public Regulated Due Process, including the unauthorised issues that have been evidenced to you since the works were approved by Scottish Forestry. As we have now recorded on a number of occasions, all Guidance, Requirements and Evidence linked to these issues are known to all Scottish Forestry representatives involved in this case and we request that these are referred to, to ensure enforcement action is taken immediately to deal with these new and all outstanding and ongoing issues.

1. We refer to all the additional unauthorized gates which have been installed over the past 6 - 8 months. Serious questions remain unanswered; 1. Why have all the unauthorized vehicle gates been installed, when everyone knows the application clearly stated that there will be no new vehicle access required and these Gates do NOT form part of the application documents. Only one of these Gate appeared later on the drawing attached to the delayed EIA Report, which did not form part of the Public Consultation? 2. Why has other unauthorized gates been allowed to be installed, and all unauthorised gates still remain in place after months of this being evidenced to Scottish Forestry? 3. Why has a number of these gates been allowed to remain padlocked preventing free responsible access by the Public? 4. Why has there been existing field gates removed leaving gaps in the perimeter hedging and fencing directly onto public roads?
2. There continues to be unauthorized access on Private Roads for maintenance vehicles and plant for the Woodland, why is this being allowed to continue when everyone knows that this is unauthorized and has been recorded on a number of occasions since January 2023? Without further delay, please issue the Woodland Operation and Management Plan that the Due Process states must be included with all applications and as you know it never was and despite this being requested on numerous occasions it is still being withheld from all Consultees and Stakeholders. Operation and Maintenance work has clearly been progressing over the past month and we as the community must have transparency now on this withheld mandatory documentation.
3. More existing fencing has been removed without authorization from the adjacent landowners and does not form part of the Application? Also, this fencing that has been removed is not solely owned by the new landowner and is fencing to a Private Road. Scottish Forestry clearly stated within the Due Process that NO existing fencing or accesses will be altered without it being noted within the application with evidence of a review of the Local Authority Planning Process. This evidence was withheld from the Application and existing fencing has continued to be removed since Scottish Forestry approved the works to commence.
4. There is currently unauthorized work being carried out forming forestry infrastructure works (Access and Parking), including large areas of soil being removed, stonework from a historic ruin being disturbed and spoil being loaded onto both the ruin and existing trees out with the ownership of the new landowner.

As everyone knows the application clearly stated there would be NO formation of new access and/or Roads, Tracks and Car Parks. This was the repeated response to the issue being raised at the start of the Due Process, this being that the known and required access and infrastructure works was being withheld from Woodland Proposal and never formed part of the Application. Everyone knows Scottish Forestry's recorded responses to this issues, in that new access and infrastructure works, including parking must be processed through the recorded requirements of the Local Authority Planning Process. We request that this unauthorized and illegal work is stopped immediately by Scottish Forestry and the Local Authority is advised of the breach of the Planning Regulations and this is dealt with accordingly. There seems to be an attitude from the Agent on site that they can now do what they want as it was not part of the Woodland Creation Application process. We all know that is incorrect and requires Public Regulator control and robust enforcement. The Record Evidence and Case History from the past 3 year can not be dismissed and ignore. The developers had 2 years to get this right, they made the choices they did but can now think they can do what they want.

5. Trees Planted out with the locations on the updated plan attached to the EIA Screening Letter? In addition to this we note that we have still not received an acceptable answer, to the evidence that it has not been agreed with SLC that trees are planted in conflict with the Local Authority recorded requirements though the Due Process and stated in the Issue Log?
6. As we have been refused access to the Woodland Management and Operation Plan, please advise what has been agreed with the maintenance of the natural grasses, both within the Deer Fence and all other areas, including grazing land which has currently got no livestock grazing it? We note that the natural grass has been getting cut, within the deer fencing over the past month and continues and that this operation seems to be damaging some of the trees. With the issuing of the Management and Operation Plan, and with reference to the Scottish Government Requirements, please confirm when Scottish Forestry have scheduled their first review and inspection of the woodland. Scottish Forestry stated in an email from earlier in the year that they inspect and validate the compliance of the woodland once it has been confirmed as installed, which it has been now for 3 -4 months? We continue to monitor the operations and note that there is already evidence of a number of trees that have died and others under stress. We look forward to a detailed response to all previously evidence based question and transparency on Scottish Forestry's validation of the woodland, both its install and its maintenance over the medium to long term of the woodland.

In addition to all these new and ongoing items, we refer to the increasing risk from Wild Fires, which has never been answered with a credible response and evidence. We now request an immediate response to this unacceptable situation. As everyone is aware this "Large and Sensitive" proposal has been approved minimum evidence of Design or Infrastructure being included in the Application to mitigate the clear and serious additional risk to property and life which this new woodland will cause. The unacceptable response

within the Issue Log and in the EAI Letter treats the families of this community with complete contempt. We have already provided sufficient evidence of the failure to comply with the Scottish Governments Guidance and Recommendations on this issue and we record that it is now time, based on increasing risks that are already landing and affecting communities throughout Scotland, that both the CEO of Scottish Forestry and our Cabinet Secretary now intervene and carry out a thorough review into how many Woodland Applications comply with the Scottish Government recorded requirements, and when found not to, why? Please don't be complicit in ignoring the increased risk to the properties and life's, including Fire Fighters and other rural workers, due to non compliant woodlands. With regards to our Properties and our Families, including our young children I now expect the respect of a competent answer from both Scottish Forestry and our Cabinet Secretary that deals with this issue with immediate action being taken to protect my children now and in the coming years.

The Following is Scottish Forestry's response noted on the delayed EIA Letter which does not refer to [Scottish Forestry - Wildfire prevention](#) and was not included within the Application Documentation, therefore withheld from the Engagement and Consultation. We have highlighted some key points, adding additional comments in red text and note that there has been no evidence provided that this complies with ALL of the detail noted in the above Scottish Government Guidance. Why were these serious and important questions not answered 2 years in advance of a delayed EIA?

**Population & Human Health Risk of Wild Fires The site is in a low risk area for wild fire, both in the current climate and with future climate models. This is in complete contradiction to all other Scottish Government Guidance and Publications on this matter, including on the effect to woodland and rural environments. This statement raises serious questions on the competency of those who have regulated and approved this Application. Again, where is the evidence to support these significant statements?**

The risk will be further mitigated by vegetation management during the establishment phase along with the proposed grazing of four areas retained in agriculture (Lot 1 - south of Burn Farm and east of South Sheild Farm, in lot 2 - west of A726 and east of Powmillon Burn). The area east of South Shields Farm was added post consultation due to that property having a timber barn in close proximity to the proposed woodland. **The whole site is relatively flat which reduces the risk of rapid spread of a fire should one occur. This is a direct contradiction to the Landscape Report which describes the Landscape as Ridges and Valleys. It also does not acknowledge that the site sits at c800 ft and the areas is known for its high winds, the "land of the sloping trees"** In addition, the public roads, track and **rides crossing the site provide both fire breaks** **The rides across the site are not designed Fire Breaks and will not provide "good" access.** and **good access** **No evidence provide to demonstrate that ALL guidance has been followed to the above Scottish Government Guidance** to manage a fire should one occur. **During higher risk conditions, This contradicts what is sated above** **signs would be erected advising against use of BBQs and other activities which would increase the risk of fires starting.** **The hierarchy of the mitigation to protect Properties and Life prioritises a designed infrastructure before signs, clearly detailed. Also, fires can be started due to numerous reasons and in no way does a sign mitigate all these known risks.** The above issue has

been assessed against The Forestry (Environmental Impact Assessment)(Scotland) Regulations 2017 and has been found to have **no significant negative environmental impacts.** **Again, where is the evidence for this significant statement?**

Please do not wait for a tragedy to happen before we hear that we are sorry for the families and will carry out an investigation. We and others around Scotland have made you all aware of the concerning development of this serious issue and there is no justifiable reason for you do not to take robust action now, based on the evidence.

This is not about Trees or no Trees, wilderness or no wilderness this is about peoples property and life and Scottish Forestry and the Scottish Government have the responsibility to mitigate the risk to the Scottish People.

Cabinet Secretary, please don't simply pass this back to those in Scottish Forestry who have laughed at us in the past on this serious point which has been recorded for over 2 years now, please do the right thing before its to late. Yes, this is powerful and direct language, but its because it's my children's future I am trying to protect and I am now at the place that being ignored and laughed at by our Government Representatives, and now threatened to be silenced by the same organisation is simply not acceptable to me. I deserve and require more respect from you all.

I hope you all reflect on this ongoing correspondence and the evidence you continue to be provided by the Public and now do the right thing. I also wait for confirmation that as a Stakeholder, who was invited into the Process in July 2022, I will provided access to all the required documents as I am entitled to based on the Scottish Governments Pubic Due Process, which has been continually denied since the application was received from Scottish Forestry.

Regards



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**This email has been received from an external party and has been swept for the presence of computer viruses.**

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**Scottish Forestry**  
Coilltearachd na h-Alba

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Email: scottish.forestry@forestry.gov.scot  
Tel: 0131 370 5250

Chief Executive: Paul Lowe

[Redacted]  
[Redacted]@[Redacted]

Our ref: Multiple communications regarding East Nethershields

Date: 08 August 2025

Dear [Redacted]

I am writing to you in relation to a number of emails that have been submitted to various parts of Scottish Government over the last number of weeks and months and since I last wrote to you. I apologise for our delay in responding, as I wanted to take time to go through the correspondence from you on this case.

For the sake of clarity and to ensure that I have captured all correspondence, I will list them below and provide some context about who the recipients of each email was and on what dates each communication was received. You will have received acknowledgments to all the below cases that include the reference numbers I will use to identify each communication.

Case Reference	Recipient(s)	Subject	Date Received
202500450345	First Minister	Governance of Public Regulated Due Processes, for the Scottish People? Case Ref No: 202400443365	29 January 2025
202500460158	Director of Operational Delivery (Scottish Forestry)	East Nethershield Woodland Creation	31 March 2025
202500447974	First Minister	Governance of Public Regulated Due Processes, for the Scottish People? Case Ref No: 202400443365.	31 March 2025
202500465517	Director of Operational Delivery (Scottish Forestry)	East Nethershield Woodland Creation	9 May 2025
202500465792	First Minister	Governance of Public Regulated Due Processes, for the Scottish People? Case Ref No: 202400443365	12 May 2025
202500466665	Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs, Land Reform & Islands	East Nethershield Woodland Proposal and Grant Application	13 May 2025
202500475250	Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs, Land Reform & Islands	East Nethershield Woodland Proposal and Grant Application	30 June 2025

Scottish Forestry is the Scottish Government agency responsible for forestry policy, support and regulation



Is e Coilltearachd na h-Alba a' bhuidheann-ghnìomha aig Riaghaltas na h-Alba a tha an urra ri poileasaidh, taic agus riaghladh do choilltearachd

202500474103	First Minister	Governance of Public Regulated Due Processes, for the Scottish People? Case Ref No: 202400443365	30 June 2025
202500475251	Scottish Forestry Enquiries, Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs, Land Reform & Islands, Director of Operational Delivery (Scottish Forestry)	East Nethershields Woodland - Non Compliant Issues	9 July 2025
202500476034	Scottish Forestry Enquiries, Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs, Land Reform & Islands, Director of Operational Delivery (Scottish Forestry)	East Nethershield Woodland Creation	14 July 2025
202500477626	Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs, Land Reform & Islands	East Nethershields	25 July 2025

I hope the above table will enable you to identify each correspondence I will refer to in this letter. I will attempt to respond to all points that I have not already addressed in previous communications to you. We are also aware that you have raised a complaint with South Lanarkshire Council on 22 July 2025 regarding noise from strimming around newly planted trees in the vicinity of Burn Farm. South Lanarkshire Council subsequently reached out to Scottish Forestry for a response. I can confirm that Scottish Forestry provided South Lanarkshire Council with our position on the issues raised and I refer you to South Lanarkshire Council should you wish to discuss this further.

Before I address the points raised in your multiple communications, please be advised that responses from Ministers and Cabinet Secretaries within the Scottish Government often require input from civil servants across relevant policy and operational areas to provide a thorough and informed reply. These responses can take some time to consider, and it is common government practice for the Offices of Ministers of Scottish Government to ask civil servants to reply on their behalf. As such, Scottish Forestry have been asked to address the correspondence sent by you for Ministers, as detailed above, as the lead on such matters within Scottish Government.

I would like to note, however, that the submission of multiple emails within a short period of time can inadvertently slow down our ability to respond effectively. Each piece of correspondence must be carefully reviewed to ensure all points raised are addressed accurately and respectfully. When many requests are submitted in quick succession, it places added pressure on our ability to respond with the diligence and attention that every enquiry deserves. Please understand that our ability to respond to such a large volume of emails is limited and we are in a much better position to respond if you provide us with sufficient time to do so.

We are committed to providing considered responses and appreciate your understanding as we work to do so.

I would like to reiterate what I have stated in previous correspondence. I understand that you have very strong views about how this case has been handled and, in particular, about aspects of Scottish Forestry's role. However, I have reached the conclusion that your extensive and repeated correspondence on this case has breached Scottish Government's [Unacceptable actions policy](#). You have made statements that constitute abusive behaviour, made unreasonable demands and been unreasonably persistent. I therefore ask you to stop contacting Scottish Forestry and Scottish Ministers in relation to the handling of this case. If you continue to contact Scottish Forestry or Scottish Ministers in the above manner, we will no longer correspond or engage with you on matters relating to the East Nethershields woodland creation application process and may take action to limit wider contact. Examples of further action that may be necessary should you continue to contact Scottish Forestry and Scottish Ministers in relation to this case can include;

- terminating all contact (subject to necessary limitations)
- terminating communication by specified channels only (eg refusing to take telephone calls from an individual)
- refusing to accept communication on a specified subject only
- requiring the individual to communicate only through a third party

Despite advising you that we have taken the decision to longer correspond or engage with you on matters relating to the East Nethershields woodland creation, you have continued to contact Scottish Forestry and Scottish Ministers.

Having stated the above, you have raised issues that were not present in earlier communications to us and Scottish Ministers, and I will respond to those here. I will not respond to points that have already been addressed in previous correspondence.

### **Case 202500450345**

You have raised concerns about a failure of Scottish Forestry senior management to meet with the community. Scottish Forestry senior managers do not routinely get involved with the handling of woodland creation applications, particularly during the development phase led by the forestry agent. Under Scottish Forestry's procedures, senior national managers do not have a direct role in regulatory decision-making processes. These are handled locally by the conservancy teams and case officers. It would therefore be irregular and very unusual for senior managers to meet with a stakeholder to discuss a particular application or regulatory decision.

If you are not satisfied with how your correspondence has been handled, then you have the option to submit a complaint. I will provide detailed information relating to our complaints policy at the end of this letter. Scottish Forestry is not prepared to enter an ongoing dialogue on these matters.

### **Case 202500460158**

You have raised concerns about delays in Scottish Forestry in replying to correspondence and you have stated that you feel Scottish Forestry has not replied fully responded to your concerns in previous communications with us.

As stated earlier in this letter, and in previous responses to you, submission of multiple emails within a short period of time can inadvertently slow down our ability to respond effectively. We strive to respond, where appropriate, as soon as is possible but I must again ask that you try to moderate the volume and frequency of correspondence that you send Scottish Ministers and Scottish Forestry as this will ultimately cause delays in responding.

After careful review of this correspondence, it is my position that Scottish Forestry have addressed other points you have raised in our letter dated 23 January 2025. I have attached that letter for your convenience.

If you are not satisfied with how your correspondence has been handled, then you have the option to submit a complaint.

### **Case 202500447974**

You have raised concerns about a failure of Scottish Forestry senior management to meet with the community and have requested that the First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs, Land Reform & Islands meet with you to discuss your concerns. As stated previously, Scottish Forestry senior managers and Scottish Ministers do not routinely get involved with the handling of woodland creation applications, particularly during the development phase led by the forestry agent.

That said, I would like to remind you that Cabinet Secretary did meet with you on 05 September 2023. The Cabinet Secretary confirmed that Scottish Forestry would ensure that any application received careful and thorough assessment, including checking that the concerns raised by the community had been properly taken into account and that the woodland creation process, including community engagement, was being properly followed.

Under Scottish Forestry's procedures senior national managers don not have a direct role in regulatory decision-making processes. These are handled locally by the conservancy teams and case officers. It would therefore be irregular and very unusual for senior managers and Scottish Ministers to meet with a stakeholder in order to discuss a particular application or regulatory decision.

You also stated that;

*“These concerns are only increasing, with both the receipt of the recent letters from Scottish Forestry, the lack of clarity and response on the content of these letters, and now also (since 20th November 2024) the non-response and action on the Material Evidence of non-compliance with the Woodland Proposals, as the work has progressed since the commencement in October 2024. This includes the unauthorized formation of new access, which is the only reason a large part of the woodland has been able to be formed over the period since, a period of 2 months and continuing, but this access was continually denied by the Agent over the previous 2 years. This conduct must not be tolerated in Public Regulated Due Processes, as it is clearly known decisions by the Agent to exclude the required Planning Regulations requirements”.*

Having considered this statement, and having reviewed our previous responses to you, it is my position that we have previously addressed the above concerns in a letter dated 23 January 2025. I have attached that letter for your convenience”.

If you are not satisfied with how your correspondence has been handled, then you have the option to submit a complaint.

### **Case 202500465517**

You have raised concerns about delays in Scottish Forestry in replying to correspondence. You have suggested that Scottish Forestry have ignored your concerns, and you have stated that you feel Scottish Forestry has not replied fully responded to your concerns in previous communications with us.

In a letter dated 28 November 2024, I provided evidence of the considerable efforts myself and my colleagues have made to respond to your correspondence. Since then, we have continued to utilise considerable resource and time in addressing concerns you have raised. Scottish Forestry is a small agency with limited resources, but I can confidently state that we have done our utmost to provide detailed responses that have been carefully considered and thoroughly investigated. I have provided a copy of that letter for your review.

If you are not satisfied with how your correspondence has been handled, then you have the option to submit a complaint.

### **Case 202500465792**

You have repeated concerns about delays in Scottish Forestry in replying to correspondence, repeated a request to meet with Scottish Ministers and have made allegations that Scottish Government are putting lives at risk. You have also stated that you feel that Scottish Forestry has made threats by applying the Scottish Government's Unacceptable Actions policy.

I believe I have adequately responded to matters raised in this email above but wish to, again, advise you that you have made statements that constitute abusive behaviour, made unreasonable demands and been unreasonably persistent. It is for this reason that we have taken the decision to no longer correspond or engage with you on matters relating to the East Nethersields woodland creation.

If you are not satisfied with how your correspondence has been handled, then you have the option to submit a complaint.

### **Case 202500466665**

You have repeated concerns about delays in Scottish Forestry in replying to correspondence, repeated a request to meet with Scottish Ministers. You have, again, also stated that you feel that Scottish Forestry has threatened your community by applying the Scottish Government's Unacceptable Actions policy.

You have also stated that the Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs, Land Reform & Islands should "enforce the powers you have and intervene in this case, instructing a robust and truly independent investigation into the evidence of this case".

I believe I have addressed many of the points raised by you earlier in this letter. That said, and in response to your request that Cabinet Secretary intervene, I would like to reiterate that Scottish Forestry senior managers and Scottish Ministers do not routinely get involved with the handling of woodland creation applications, particularly during the development phase led by the forestry agent. As highlighted previously, senior national managers do not have a direct role in regulatory decision-making processes. These are handled locally by the conservancy teams and case officers.

In your letter, you asked 14 questions relating to Nethershields woodland creation and repeated many points that Scottish Forestry had already responded to in the past. I do not find that it would be helpful to repeat points previously made and would like to remind you that we have made the decision not to continue to engage in discussion on matters relating to the East Nethershields woodland creation.

If you are not satisfied with how your correspondence has been handled, then you have the option to submit a complaint.

#### **Case 202500475250**

You have repeated requests to meet Scottish Ministers and have highlighted your concerns that you feel that you have been ignored by Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs, Land Reform & Islands.

I have provided a response to these points earlier in this letter and clarified why it is that senior civil servants and Scottish Ministers do not routinely intervene in a way that you have suggested.

If you aren't satisfied with how your correspondence has been handled, then you have the option to submit a complaint. I will provide detailed information relating to our complaints policy at the end of this letter. Scottish Forestry is not prepared to enter an ongoing dialogue on these matters.

#### **Case 202500474103**

You have repeated concerns as detailed above in case 202500475250. I believe that I have sufficiently responded to both cases.

If you are not satisfied with how your correspondence has been handled, then you have the option to submit a complaint.

#### **Case 202500475251**

You asked us to review evidence you have submitted where you allege unauthorised work has been carried out and that the works were approved by Scottish Forestry in relation to East Nethershields woodland creation.

I have asked the local Senior Operations Manager to review what you have submitted and to provide a response that I have detailed below.

In considering your points, it is useful to provide clarity on the regulatory and administrative processes that relate to this woodland creation project.

### **The Forestry (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2017**

The applicant wrote to Scottish Forestry requesting that Scottish Forestry adopt a screening opinion in relation to the woodland creation project at East Nethershields. This correspondence included the information necessary for that screening opinion to be reached and on that basis, Scottish Forestry concluded that the project did **not** require consent to proceed. For information - if a screening opinion concludes that consent **is** required, it is sought by the applicant by way of the submission of an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) report (commonly referred to as 'requiring an EIA'). In support of the screening opinion, Scottish Forestry issued a document to the effect that consent is not required and stated the reasons for that decision (commonly known as the 'reasoned conclusion'). Scottish Forestry sent a copy of this document to interested parties, including yourself.

The above background summary is relevant to your enquiry for the following reasons: through the screening process, Scottish Forestry decided that EIA consent was not required and thus none was sought by the applicant. In this scenario, the Regulations make no provision for the enforcement action to which you appear to refer, as put simply, there is no consent under which to act in this way (Scottish Forestry may only take EIA enforcement action in relation to projects which have or require EIA consent).

Additionally, other than through an application to the Court of Session, the published screening opinion cannot be withdrawn or reviewed – this application must be made before the expiry of 3 months from the date of the adoption of a screening opinion. I consider that some of the matters you raise in your e-mail fall within scope of decisions made under these Regulations and note that Scottish Forestry considers the processes undertaken in this respect to be complete.

### **The Forestry Grant Scheme (FGS)**

Subsequent to the above, the applicant submitted a separate application to the Forestry Grant Scheme (FGS) seeking financial support in delivering the woodland creation project. The application was assessed against the relevant published guidance and in relation to relevant requirements and guidelines contained within the UK Forestry Standard. Following completion of this, the application was approved and an FGS contract agreed with the applicant. Scottish Forestry has established procedures outlining how it will inspect and monitor all FGS contracts throughout the life of those contracts, this including what will be inspected, how and when. It also covers what action SF will take in circumstances where it is found that an applicant is in breach of an FGS contract.

In the case of East Nethershields the contract requires that this monitoring and compliance process takes place over a period of 20 years, commencing with an initial inspection of the project post completion. In all cases Scottish Forestry expects that projects are managed in line with the requirements as set out within the FGS guidance along with those of the contract undertakings, maps and operational plan. A number of the matters you raise are considered as a matter of course as a result of the aforementioned monitoring and compliance process.

### **Other Regulations**

From a regulatory perspective, it may be that a number of your concerns fall within regulatory regimes under which Scottish Forestry has no direct locus. However, where such situations appear to be connected to a forestry project and are considered by Scottish Forestry to be material to it, Scottish Forestry will work

with the relevant regulatory bodies in an attempt to address any issues. On occasion this can be aligned with the ongoing FGS contact management processes that have described.

### **Provision of information relating to the woodland creation project at East Nethersields**

Your e-mail refers to information that has not been provided to you by Scottish Forestry. We have received a separate request from you to provide all the application information held by us in relation to this project. This has been logged under case reference 202500476034 and you will have received a response to that request by now.

If you are not satisfied with how your correspondence has been handled, then you have the option to submit a complaint.

### **Case 202500476034**

You asked that we permit access to the Scottish Forestry Conservancy (South) offices so that you can view all application documents relevant to the East Nethersields Woodland Proposal.

We responded to this separately, however, I wish to reiterate that we have taken the decision to publish the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) documents relating to East Nethersields. I refer you to the letter we issued to you on 08 August 2025 for further details.

As I understand it, you should have also received an earlier email stating that we would not be able to arrange access on the day you requested to visit one of our offices, but we would look to make other arrangements.

If you are not satisfied with how your correspondence has been handled, then you have the option to submit a complaint.

### **Case 202500477626**

Although you have not stated this directly to Scottish Forestry, I understand that you have experienced what you have described as noise nuisance in the area that has been caused by strimming. This understanding comes from the request from information we received from South Lanarkshire Council who I believe are investigating a noise complaint.

Scottish Forestry's role as regulator focuses on the sustainable management of Scotland's forests and woodlands. This includes oversight of felling permissions, administration of grant schemes, and ensuring compliance with the UK Forestry Standard. We do not have a statutory role in regulating environmental noise. While forestry operations are not automatically exempt from noise legislation, routine activities such as weeding or thinning are generally considered reasonable land management practices when carried out responsibly and some constraints such as time sensitivity, weather dependences, ecological constraints may be a factor in the timing of operations.

Although there is no statutory guidance specific to noise in forestry, the following documents promote good practice in operational planning and neighbour relations:

- [UK Forestry Standard \(UKFS\)](#) – the reference standard for sustainable forest management in the UK, which encourages good neighbour principles and operational planning.
- [FISA Safety Guides](#) – particularly FISA 806 (Welfare) and FISA 808 (CDM in Forestry), which support responsible site management and planning.
- [Forest Research guidance on occupational noise hazards](#) – focused on worker safety, though not environmental noise.

It is not in Scottish Forestry's remit to respond to the specific concerns you have raised in relation to noise complaints but I encourage you to continue to work with South Lanarkshire Council as I understand, from the interest they have taken in your complaint to them, that this may be within their remit and should be for South Lanarkshire Council to respond to. As previously stated, we have provided a response to South Lanarkshire Council and I expect that, if they have not already, they will be in contact with you in due course.

You have also asked to again meet with Scottish Ministers about this decision. I believe I have provided a thorough response to this request.

You have also asked for a copy of an Operational Plan for East Nethershields woodland creation. I understand that this may have previously been provided but, for the sake of ensuring you are able to view it, I have attached it to this letter below.

You have also asked to again meet with Scottish Ministers about this decision. I believe I have provided a thorough response to this request.

### **Complaint Policy**

As I stated previously, I would like to take an opportunity to provide you with information on our complaints policy. Scottish Forestry operates a Model Complaints Handling Procedure that you can read more about [here](#). I understand that you have previously stated that you would not like to have your concerns handled as complaints however I want to highlight what Scottish Forestry considers to be a complaint. A complaint is any expression of dissatisfaction about our action or lack of action, or about the standard of service provided by us or on our behalf.

Much of what you have said would fall under the above definition of a complaint. Due to the large number of concerns you have raised, it would be considered as a stage 2 complaint.

Were we to address this matter as a stage 2 complaint, we would, in the course of investigating, consider an appropriate form of communication to discuss your complaint with you to understand why you remain dissatisfied and what outcome you are looking for. We would appoint a complaint manager to have this conversation with you, investigate all concerns raised and issue a response within stated timeframes. Any complaint manager appointed would be an experienced civil servant within Scottish Forestry, due to the complex nature of concerns raised.

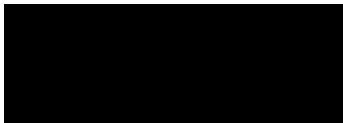
If you remained unsatisfied with any potential outcome of this complaint, you would have the right to appeal to Scottish Public Services Ombudsman (SPSO). The SPSO is the final stage for complaints about public service organisations in Scotland.

Should you wish to have your concerns addressed through our Model Complaints Handling Procedure, please contact us through our Executive Office email.

However, should you not wish to have concerns addressed through the complaint's mechanism, this letter will serve as a final response to the issues you have raised to us. If you continue to contact Scottish Forestry or Scottish Ministers in relation to East Nethershields woodland creation and that contact is not related to a complaint you would like to submit, we will no longer correspond or engage with you.

Once again, I would like to apologise for the unavoidable delays in issuing this reply, but I hope it will be received with the understanding that we have addressed concerns raised.

Yours sincerely



Director of Operational Delivery  
Scottish Forestry



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Tel: 0131 370 5250

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]@ [REDACTED]

Our Reference: 202500483826

Your Reference: East Nethersields Woodland - Non Compliant Issues

26 September 2025

Dear [REDACTED],

Further to your email of 2 September 2025, we refer you to our previous response with reference 202500450345 sent to you on 8 August 2025, where we have responded to your correspondence of 9 July 2025 under reference 202500475251.

Please find a copy of this letter attached in case this has not reached you.

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]  
**SFCBS : Executive Office**

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