

Claims and payments

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Claim years available

Our approach to claim years depends on the grant type, which are detailed below.

This approach has been structured to ensure applications go through the competitive clearing process and, at the same time, manage the grant budget without a long forward booking of projects.

Woodland Creation	Capital such as fencing and initial planting – up to three claim years (i.e. within N+2, where N = the current calendar year at time of application submission) with work having to start in the first two years, e.g. apply in 2016, start work in 2016 with further work in claim years 2017 and 2018. Alternatively, apply in 2016, start work in year 2017 and complete in 2018.
Agroforestry	As for Woodland Creation – up to three claim years (within N +2, where N = the current calendar year at time of application submission) with work having to start in the first two years.
Woodland Improvement Grant	Up to three year claim years (within N+2, where N = the current calendar year at time of application submission) with work having to start in the first two years, except for Woodland Improvement Grant – Restructuring Regeneration where a delay until year three is acceptable to meet species diversity rules.
Sustainable Management of Forests	The next claim year (N+1 year) is available as the first annual management claim year.
Tree Health	The current and next year claim year (within N+1 where N = the current calendar year at time of application submission).
Harvesting & Processing	One claim year available (within N, where N = the calendar year of the application round).
Forest Infrastructure	One claim year available (within N, where N = the calendar year of the application round).
Forestry Co-operation	One claim year available (within N, where N = the calendar year of the application round).

Making a claim

Claims for payment can be made either by you as the scheme beneficiary or an accountable person acting on your behalf.

An accountable person must be mandated on the [PF05 - Business mandate form](#) before we can accept a claim from them on your behalf.

Although an accountable person can claim on your behalf, any errors on the claim that may result in us seeking to recover payments or impose a financial penalty will be applied against you as the holder of the contract. You should therefore make sure that your claim details are correct before a claim is submitted.

You can only claim for the items set out in your contract once your work has been completed.

There are two types of claims:

- capital claims
- annual management claims

Capital items

Capital items can be supported on either a standard cost or actual cost basis.

For more information on actual costs, refer to our more [detailed guidance](#).

Capital items are available in:

- all the Woodland Improvement Grant options
- all the Woodland Creation options
- Tree Health
- Harvesting and Processing
- Forest Infrastructure
- Forestry Co-operation

For capital items, you can only claim for the area / length / quantity actually completed and you cannot exceed the amounts indicated in your contract or exceed what is on the ground. If you, or your accountable person, claim for work that has not been completed we will consider this as an overclaim and breaches and penalties may apply.

Any capital expenditure incurred before your contract has been approved will not be eligible for payment.

Timing of claims

Your claim year is the year you apply to carry out your capital works. We fund these activities from our financial year's budget of 1 April in the claim year to the 31 March in the year following your claim year.

Claims for capital items must be submitted by the end of February of the following calendar year, of the year stipulated in your contract.

So, if you have a claim year of 2016 in your contract, your works must be initiated in 2016 and your claim must be submitted when the works have been completed and before 28 February, 2017. If you finish your works in 2016 before our financial year begins (i.e. in January through March 2016), then you may submit your claim (provided you have a signed Forestry Grant Scheme contract) but please be aware that we will be unable to authorise your payment until April 2016.

Currently, we are running a manual capital claims process. You must submit a manual claim form to a Forestry Commission Scotland conservancy office. There is a Standard Costs Capital Items Claim Form with guidance and an Actual Costs Capital Items Claim Form with guidance available below.



[Standard Costs Capital Items Claim Form \(PDF, Size: 210.0 kB\)](#)

doc_external_url: <https://www.ruralpayments.org/media/resources/FGS-Standard-Costs-Capital-Items-Claim-form.pdf>



[Standard Costs Capital Items Claim Form – guidance notes \(PDF, Size: 141.6 kB\)](#)

doc_external_url: <https://www.ruralpayments.org/media/resources/FGS-Standard-Costs-Capital-Items-Claim-form-Guidance-notes.pdf>



[Actual Costs Capital Items Claim Form \(PDF, Size: 264.7 kB\)](#)

doc_external_url: <https://www.ruralpayments.org/media/resources/FGS-Actual-Costs-Capital-Items-Claim-form.pdf>



[Actual Costs Capital Items Claim Form – guidance notes \(PDF, Size: 253.5 kB\)](#)

doc_external_url: <https://www.ruralpayments.org/media/resources/FGS-Actual-Costs-Capital-Items-Claim-form-Guidance-notes-2.pdf>

It is your responsibility to ensure that you submit your claim by the deadline set out in this guidance. We will not write to you in advance of the closing date to remind you.

If you submit a claim after that period it will not be accepted unless there are extenuating circumstances that prevented your claim being submitted.

If you are unable to undertake the work in the year designated in your contract then you must write to us requesting a variation.

Supporting documents

Refer to the individual option guidance web pages or capital item specification web pages you have approved for information on the supporting documents you will have to submit with your capital claim.

If you fail to submit your supporting documents we will not process your claim for payment.

Annual management claims

Sustainable Management of Forests options all have annual management grants and Woodland Creation options have an annual maintenance grant. You must claim all of these grants on your Single Application Form. To make a claim for the annual management approved in your contract you must declare the land on which you carry out these options on the Single Application Form using the Permanent Land Data Sheets (IACS 3).

The Single Application Form can be submitted online by [registering and logging in to Rural Payments and Services](#).

If you choose to complete the Single Application Form on paper, it should be submitted to your local Rural Payments and Inspections Division area office and not to your local Forestry Commission Scotland conservancy office.

The deadline for the receipt of a Single Application Form is 16 May each calendar year.

We will still accept your form up to 25 calendar days after the closing date but will reduce your payments for all schemes covered by the Single Application Form, including this scheme, by one per cent for each working day your form is late during the 25 calendar day period.

We cannot accept your form if we receive it more than 25 calendar days after 16 May.

If you fail to declare your management options on your Single Application Form you will not receive payment for your management options for the year in question.

It is your responsibility to complete the Single Application Form correctly with your management options declared, even if you employ an accountable person to act on your behalf.

Supporting documents

Refer to the individual option guidance web pages for the Sustainable Management of Forests and / or Woodland Creation options you have approved for information on:

- the supporting documents you will have to submit with your Single Application Form

- what supporting documents you must retain
- what supporting documents you must submit to us at the end of the calendar year

If you fail to submit your supporting documents within the required timescale you will not receive payment for your management options for the year in question.

Payments

Payments will be made as follows:

Capital items

These will be paid upon receipt of a valid claim with any relevant supporting documentation. A valid claim is a claim that is wholly completed and signed, and encloses all supporting documentation as required.

Management grants

These are paid annually in the spring of the year following submission of your Single Application Form. For example, if you submit a claim in 2016, your management payment will be paid in the spring of 2017 once all the inspections for annual management measures have been completed.

Inspections

Payments will only be made once all administrative checks have been carried out on the claim to ensure that the work claimed is suitable, matches what is in your approved contract and that the claim has been completed correctly.

If your claim has been selected for inspection, your claim will only be paid once the inspection has been carried out and the inspection result is satisfactory.

It is a condition of the scheme that you must allow us to inspect your holding to check that the scheme rules are being met.

[More information on inspections](#)

You will receive payment by BACS into your nominated bank account. All payments will be made in sterling. We aim to have your payment into your bank account within 10 days from the date we authorise the payment.

If you change your bank account you must inform us as soon as possible by completing [PF03 - Register your bank details - Sterling form](#) to avoid payments being issued to your closed account

Recent changes

Section	Change	Previous text	New text
Claim years available	New section added	n/a	
Making a claim: Timing of claims	Clarification of guidance.	<p>Claims for capital items must be submitted by the end of February of the following calendar year, of the year stipulated in your contract.</p> <p>So, if you have a claim year of 2016 in your contract, your claim must be submitted before 28 February, 2017.</p>	<p>Your claim year is the year you apply to carry out your capital works. We fund these activities from our financial year's budget of 1 April in the claim year to the 31 March in the year following your claim year.</p> <p>Claims for capital items must be submitted by the end of February of the following calendar year, of the year stipulated in your contract.</p> <p>So, if you have a claim year of 2016 in your contract, your works must be initiated in 2016 and your claim must be submitted when the works have been completed and before 28 February, 2017. If you finish your works in 2016 before our financial year</p>

			begins (i.e. in January through March 2016), then you may submit your claim (provided you have a signed Forestry Grant Scheme contract) but please be aware that we will be unable to authorise your payment until April 2016.
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