

27 October 2022

Rural Affairs, Islands and Natural Environment Committee
Scottish Parliament
Holyrood
Edinburgh
EH99 1SP

Dear Committee,

I write to confirm that NFU Scotland supports The Rural Support (Simplification and Improvement) (Scotland) (No. 2) Regulations 2022 SSI 2022/279 which the Scottish Government laid on 22 September.

It means that some small areas of woodland created on farms and crofts will soon be eligible for inclusion in support claims following planned changes to legislation.

From November, small woodlands approved under the Scottish Rural Development Programme (SRDP) since 2015 can be utilised as Ecological Focus Areas (EFA) to support farmers' Greening payments. Claims can be made from the 2023 claim year.

NFU Scotland asked for this change to be considered, recognising the valuable contribution that woodlands can make to farms and crofts and we have been working with Scottish Government Rural Payment and Inspectorate Division (SGRPID) and Scottish Forestry to deliver this woodland option into the EFA options within Greening.

Yours sincerely,

Jonnie Hall

Director of Policy NFU Scotland

