

PE1433/M

Agriculture, Food and Rural Communities Directorate
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LEGACY 2014
XX COMMONWEALTH GAMES
SCOTLAND

Your ref: PE1433/G

24th January 2013

Dear Mr Stewart (Convener)

Public Petitions Committee – Consideration of Petition PE1433

Thank you for your letter of 15th November 2012 that informed Scottish Government (SG) that the Public Petitions Committee had given further consideration to the above petition at its meeting on 11th December 2012. I understand that a specific query arose relating to the Scottish Rural Development Programme (SRDP); please find this information below.

The Committee requests that you provide a response to the issue of enabling land managers to consider planting fruit trees as part of a balance of planting types, and what the status of fruit trees is regarding the existing grant mechanisms.

SG's previous correspondence, of 15th November 2012, detailed the Government's position in relation to the existing SRDP. Unfortunately, given the stage we are now at with the current SRDP - the programme is designed to support rural Scotland from 2007 to 2013 - it is now too late to consider the petitioner's suggested modification.

Just to reiterate, the suggested modification *could* be considered as part of current work to develop proposals for the revised SRDP which is scheduled to run from 2014 onwards. In late Spring - early Summer this year SG will be launching a consultation to seek views on the revised SRDP and this is an opportunity to feed in suggested modifications or ideas. We are happy to pass on the petitioner's details to the relevant officials so that they may be included in their mailing list should they so wish.

To clarify, the SRDP (including the 'Woods In and Around Towns Programme') does not fund 'amenity trees'; this programme funds woodland creation and management.

I hope the above information was helpful and please feel free to contact me should you require any further information.

Yours sincerely

Dr Amanda Fox