

## CROSS-PARTY GROUP ANNUAL RETURN

### NAME OF CROSS-PARTY GROUP

Cross-Party Group in the Scottish Parliament on Rural Policy

**DATE GROUP ESTABLISHED** (the date of establishment is the date in this parliamentary session that the Group held its initial meeting, where the office bearers were elected and not the date that the Group was accorded recognition. All Groups should hold their AGMs on, or before, the anniversary of this date.)

26 September 2016

### DATE OF MOST RECENT AGM

30 October 2018

### DATE ANNUAL RETURN SUBMITTED

29 November 2018

**DATE OF PRECEDING AGM [this date is required to aid clerks in verifying that the most recent AGM has taken place within 11-13 months of the previous AGM]**

4 October 2017

### GROUP MEETINGS AND ACTIVITIES

Please provide details of each meeting of the Group including the date of the meeting, a brief description of the main subjects discussed and the MSP and non-MSP attendance figures.

Details of any other activities, such as visits undertaken by the Group or papers/report published by the Group should also be provided.

The purpose of the Group is to inform MSPs and the wider Scottish Parliament about issues relating to rural policies and policy-making in Scotland.

The agreed topics and meeting dates for the Group in 2017-18 were:

- Wed 4th October 2017: [Diverse rural economies](#) (and AGM) (3 MSPs attending and 44 non-MSPs attending)
- Tues 5th December 2017: [The rural workforce](#) (4 MSPs attending and 57 non-MSPs attending)
- Tues 6th March 2018: [Policing in rural Scotland](#) (3 MSPs attending and non 27 non-MSPs attending)
- Tues 5th June 2018: [Technology and rural communities](#) (3 MSPs attending and 39 non-MSPs attending)

The Secretariat produced a minute and a summary briefing for each meeting, and along with the agenda and presentations these are all made available online [here](https://www.sruc.ac.uk/info/120706/group_meetings_2017-18) ([https://www.sruc.ac.uk/info/120706/group\\_meetings\\_2017-18](https://www.sruc.ac.uk/info/120706/group_meetings_2017-18)).

### **MSP MEMBERS OF THE GROUP**

Please provide names and party designation of all MSP members of the Group.

John Scott MSP (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party)  
Emma Harper MSP (Scottish National Party)  
Colin Smyth MSP (Scottish Labour)  
Mark Ruskell MSP (Scottish Green Party)  
Edward Mountain MSP (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party)  
Rhoda Grant MSP (Scottish Labour)  
Alexander Burnett MSP (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party)  
Peter Chapman MSP (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party)  
Angus MacDonald MSP (Scottish National Party)  
Finlay Carson MSP (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party)  
Jackie Baillie MSP (Scottish Labour)

### **NON-MSP MEMBERS OF THE GROUP**

For organisational members please provide only the name of the organisation, it is not necessary to provide the name(s) of individuals who may represent the organisation at meetings of the Group.

Individuals

- Barbara Kelly
- Pat Neeson
- Vanessa Halhead
- Norman MacAskill
- Roger Turner

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Drew Ratter</li> </ul>
Organisations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Aberdeen University</li> <li>• Angus Council</li> <li>• Argyll and Bute Council</li> <li>• Arthouse Galleries</li> <li>• Barnardos</li> <li>• Borders Foundation for Rural Sustainability</li> <li>• British Association of Landscape Industries</li> <li>• Buccleuch Estates</li> <li>• Built Environment Forum Scotland</li> <li>• Cairngorms National Park Authority</li> <li>• Community Land Scotland</li> <li>• Citizens Advice Scotland</li> <li>• College Development Network</li> <li>• Crichton Carbon Centre</li> <li>• Crofting Connections</li> <li>• The Crown Estate Scotland</li> <li>• DCM Heritage</li> <li>• Community Transport Association</li> <li>• Dormont Estate</li> <li>• Dumfries and Galloway LEADER</li> <li>• Forestry Commission Scotland</li> <li>• Forth Valley &amp; Lomond LEADER</li> <li>• Federation of Small Businesses</li> <li>• Glasgow Caledonian University</li> <li>• Here We Are Project</li> <li>• Heriot Watt University</li> <li>• Highlands and Islands Enterprise</li> <li>• James Hutton Institute</li> <li>• John Muir Trust</li> <li>• Keep Scotland Beautiful</li> <li>• Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park</li> <li>• Lothian Broadband Networks Limited</li> <li>• Marine Scotland</li> <li>• National Trust for Scotland</li> <li>• Newcastle University</li> <li>• Newington Communications</li> <li>• North Highland Initiative</li> <li>• NFUS</li> <li>• PAS (formerly Planning Aid Scotland)</li> <li>• RICS</li> <li>• RSABI</li> <li>• RSA Fellows Scotland</li> <li>• RSPB Scotland</li> <li>• Rural &amp; Islands Housing Associations Forum</li> <li>• Rural Policy Centre (RPC)</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SAOS</li> <li>• SRUC/SAC Consulting</li> <li>• Scottish Association of Young Farmers</li> <li>• Scottish Borders Council</li> <li>• Scottish Churches Rural Group</li> <li>• Scottish Countryside Alliance</li> <li>• Scottish Crofting Federation</li> <li>• Scottish Enterprise</li> <li>• Scottish Environment Protection Agency</li> <li>• Scottish Land and Estates</li> <li>• Scottish Natural Heritage</li> <li>• Scottish Pilgrim Routes Forum</li> <li>• Scottish Rural Action</li> <li>• Southern Uplands Partnership</li> <li>• The Game and Wildlife Conservation Trust</li> <li>• The Horticultural Trades Association (HTA)</li> <li>• The James Hutton Institute</li> <li>• The Stove Network, Dumfries</li> <li>• University of Edinburgh</li> <li>• University of the Highlands and Islands</li> <li>• University of Stirling</li> <li>• University of West of Scotland</li> <li>• Upper Quartile</li> <li>• Urban Animation/Dhu Rural</li> <li>• Whitehill Design Studios</li> <li>• Whitmuir Community Farm Ltd/Whitmuir Organics</li> <li>• Woodland Trust Scotland</li> <li>• YouthBorders</li> </ul>
<p><b>GROUP OFFICE BEARERS</b></p> <p>Please provide names for all office bearers. The minimum requirement is that two of the office bearers are MSPs and one of these is Convener – beyond this it is a matter for the Group to decide upon the office bearers it wishes to have. It is permissible to have more than one individual elected to each office, for example, co-conveners or multiple deputy conveners.</p>	
<p>Convener</p>	<p>The Group has four co-conveners:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• John Scott MSP (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party)</li> <li>• Emma Harper MSP (Scottish National Party)</li> <li>• Colin Smyth MSP (Scottish Labour)</li> <li>• Mark Ruskell MSP (Scottish Green Party)</li> </ul>

Deputy Convener	
Secretary	Rural Policy Centre (RPC), Scotland's Rural College (SRUC)
Treasurer	

**FINANCIAL BENEFITS OR OTHER BENEFITS RECEIVED BY THE GROUP**

Please provide details of any financial or material benefit(s) received from a single source in a calendar year which has a value, either singly or cumulatively, of more than £500. This includes donations, gifts, hospitality or visits and material assistance such as secretariat support.

Details of material support should include the name of the individual providing support, the value of this support over the year, an estimate of the time spent providing this support and the name of the organisation that this individual is employed by / affiliated to in providing this support.

Groups should provide details of the date on which the benefit was received, the value of the benefit and a brief description of the benefit.

The RPC had a budget of approximately £23,000 to run the Group in 2017-18. This is Scottish Funding Council Universities Innovation Fund money for which the RPC submitted an internal funding bid. The money covers SRUC RPC staff time (at Full Economic Cost), speakers expenses (including travel, accommodation etc. if required) and catering for attendees at meetings.

**SUBSCRIPTION CHARGED BY THE GROUP**

Please provide details of the amount charged and the purpose for which the subscription is intended to be used.

None

**CONVENER CONTACT DETAILS**

Name	John Scott MSP
Parliamentary address	

Telephone number	0131 348 5638
------------------	---------------