

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

29 October 2019

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]

30 October 2018

DATE ANNUAL RETURN SUBMITTED

19 November 2019

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 2018-19 were:

- Tuesday 30th October 2018: [Rural Economies and Innovation](#) (and AGM) (39 attendees, including 2 MSPs and 37 non-MSP participants)
- Wednesday 28th November 2018: [Delivering Public goods](#) (held in conjunction with the 'Rewarding the delivery of Public Goods: How to achieve this in practice' conference at Dynamic Earth) (101 attendees, including 3 MSPs and 98 non-MSP participants)
- Tuesday 12th March 2019: [Rural Poverty and Health Inequalities](#) (32 attendees, including 2 MSPs and 30 non-MSP participants)
- Tuesday 11th June 2019: [Transition to the Future](#) (51 attendees, including 5 MSPs and 46 non-MSP participants)

The Secretariat produced a detailed minute for each meeting, and along with the agenda and presentations, these are all made available online on the respective web page for each meeting (see links above).

MSP MEMBERS OF THE GROUP

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

- Finlay Carson MSP
- Peter Chapman MSP
- Alexander Burnett MSP
- Edward Mountain MSP
- Angus MacDonald MSP
- Rhoda Grant MSP
- Jackie Baillie MSP

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
- Drew Ratter
- Ian Mcdonald
- Michelle Mcdonald

Organisations

- Aberdeen University
- Angus Council
- Argyll and Bute Council
- Arthouse Galleries
- A Heart for Duns Development Trust
- Barnardos
- Borders Foundation for Rural Sustainability
- British Association of Landscape Industries
- Buccleuch Estates
- Built Environment Forum Scotland
- Cairngorms National Park Authority
- Community Land Scotland
- Citizens Advice Scotland
- College Development Network
- Crichton Carbon Centre
- Crofting Connections
- The Crown Estate Scotland
- DCM Heritage
- Community Transport Association
- Dormont Estate
- Dumfries and Galloway LEADER
- Forestry Commission Scotland
- Forth Valley & Lomond LEADER
- Federation of Small Businesses
- Glasgow Caledonian University
- Here We Are Project
- Heriot Watt University
- Highlands and Islands Enterprise
- James Hutton Institute
- John Muir Trust
- Keep Scotland Beautiful
- Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park
- Lothian Broadband Networks Limited
- Marine Scotland
- National Trust for Scotland
- Newcastle University
- Newington Communications
- North Highland Initiative
- NFUS
- PAS (formerly Planning Aid Scotland)
- RICS
- RSABI
- RSA Fellows Scotland
- RSPB Scotland
- Rural & Islands Housing Associations Forum
- SAOS
- SRUC/SAC Consulting

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scottish Association of Young Farmers • Scottish Borders Council • Scottish Churches Rural Group • Scottish Countryside Alliance • Scottish Crofting Federation • Scottish Enterprise • Scottish Environment Protection Agency • Scottish Land and Estates • Scottish Natural Heritage • Scottish Pilgrim Routes Forum • Scottish Rural Action • Southern Uplands Partnership • The Game and Wildlife Conservation Trust • The Horticultural Trades Association (HTA) • The James Hutton Institute • The Stove Network, Dumfries • University of Edinburgh • University of the Highlands and Islands • University of Stirling • University of West of Scotland • Upper Quartile • Urban Animation/Dhu Rural • Whitehill Design Studios • Whitmuir Community Farm Ltd/Whitmuir Organics • Woodland Trust Scotland • YouthBorders
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GROUP OFFICE BEARERS

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.

Convener	<p>The Group has four co-conveners:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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)
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Deputy Convener	
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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 was awarded a budget of approximately £23,500 to run the Group in 2018-19. This money is awarded to the RPC through an internal bidding process and is part of Scottish Funding Council Universities Innovation Fund money that SRUC receives on an annual basis.

The money covers SRUC RPC staff time (at Full Economic Cost) to organise meetings and produce the associated paperwork, 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	M3.21 The Scottish Parliament Edinburgh EH99 1SP

Telephone number	0131 348 5638
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