

Cross-Party Group Annual Return

Name of Cross-Party Group

Cross-Party Group on Outdoor Education

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.)

30th September 2021

Date of Most Recent Annual General Meeting (AGM)

10th November 2022

Date Annual Return Submitted

17th November 2022

Date of Preceding AGM [this date is required to aid clerks in verifying that the most recent AGM has taken place within 11 to 13 months of the previous AGM]

N/A

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.

Meeting on 2 February 2022

Present

3 MSPs, 20 Non MSPs

The meeting discussed the following:

- The lack of alignment of local authority alignment advice on residentialials during covid
- Additional funding for the outdoor learning sector from the Scottish Government
- Short-term funding issues including insurance, refunds and ability to trade
- Summary of current policy landscape for Outdoor Education and Learning for Sustainability - a presentation by Professor Pete Higgins

Meeting 31st May 2022

Present 2 MSPs, 1 invited guest, 17 non MSPs

The group discussed the following:

- An update from Nick March, Martin Davidson and Dave Spence on the use of the government funding for the sector, and plans for a private member's bill for outdoor learning residentialials.
- A presentation from John Low (previously of the John Muir Trust and ex Head of Perth Grammar School) about what he had found worked well in getting more young people involved in outdoor education and what challenges remain

Meeting 20th September 2022

Present 1 MSP, 17 non MSPs

The group discussed the following

- An update on the progress of the proposed private members bill on outdoor residentialials for all Scottish school pupils.
- An update from SAPOE followed by a general discussion on the way in which the cost of living crisis is impacting on bookings and centre operations.
- A new strategy from Mountaineering Scotland

AGM Meeting 10th November 2022

Present:3 MSPs, 14 MSPs

The group:

- Elected the office bearers- Liz Smith MSP as Convenor, Daniel Johnson MSP as Deputy, Field Studies Council and Scouts Scotland as secretariat.
- Updated and agreed the membership list
- Set the provisional date for the next meeting for 12th January 2023.

MSP Members of The Group

Liz Smith MSP (Scottish Conservatives)
Brian Whittle MSP (Scottish Conservatives)
Rachael Hamilton MSP (Scottish Conservatives)
Daniel Johnson MSP (Scottish Labour)
Beatrice Wishart MSP (Scottish Liberal Democrats)
Mark Ruskell (Scottish Greens)
Fulton MacGregor MSP (Scottish National Party)

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

Keir Bloomer
Mike Harvey
Rob Bushby
Professor Peter Higgins

Organisations

Scouts Scotland - secretary
Field Studies Council Scotland - secretary
Duke of Edinburgh Award
Education Scotland-stood down Sept 2022
Scottish Advisory Panel for Outdoor Education (SAPOE)
Youthlink
The Association of Heads of Outdoor Education Centres (AHOEC)
Scottish Adventure Activities Forum (SAAF)

	John Muir Trust Ardentinny Ocean Youth Trust Scotland Scottish Outdoor Education Centres The Outward Bound Trust Rock UK Craikhope Outdoor Centre Mountaineering Scotland Scripture Union (SU) Scotland Munro Society OutLET Public Health Scotland
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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	Liz Smith MSP
Deputy Convener	Daniel Johnson MSP
Secretary	The Field Studies Council and Scouts Scotland
Treasurer	N/A

Financial Benefits or Other Benefits

Please provide details of any financial or material benefit(s) the Group anticipates receiving 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.

N/A

Convener Contact Details

Name

Liz Smith MSP

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