

Cross-Party Group Registration Form

Name of Cross-Party Group
Cross-Party Group on Rural Policy
Purpose of The Group and Proposed Discussion Topics
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Please state the purpose of the Group.2. Please also provide a brief explanation of the purpose of the Group and why the purpose is in the public interest.3. Please also provide details of any overlaps with the purpose of existing Cross-Party Groups and an explanation of why, regardless of any such overlap, the Group should be established.4. Please also provide an indication of the topics which the Group anticipates discussing in the forthcoming 12 months.
<p>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.</p> <p>The Group focuses on discussing topics of current and future relevance to the sustainability and wellbeing of Scotland's rural communities. This Group is strongly in the public interest given that rural areas make up 98% of the landmass of Scotland and 17% of the population (approximately 1 million people). Improving knowledge and understanding of the persistent challenges facing rural areas (e.g. depopulation, digital connectivity, etc.) and how to maximise the emerging opportunities (e.g. to sequester carbon, to develop innovative ways of delivering services, etc.) is critical to achieving a sustainable, just and inclusive Scotland.</p> <p>We do not anticipate any overlaps with other Cross Party Groups. However, we are aware of the existence of several Cross Party Groups in related topics (e.g. Food, Towns and Town Centres, Crofting, Housing, etc.) and we will seek to engage with these Groups where appropriate (e.g. through attending their meetings, sharing information about our upcoming meetings with them, etc.).</p>

Four meetings of the Cross Party Group on Rural Policy will be held in 2021-22:

- Meeting 1: Tuesday 5th October 2021: Re-registering the Group, electing office bearers and Scotland's Climate Assembly Report and its implications for Rural Scotland
- Meeting 2: Tuesday 7th December 2021: Achieving sustainable rural tourism after the Covid-19 pandemic
- Meeting 3: Tuesday 8th March 2022: Topic TBC
- Meeting 4: Tuesday 7th June 2022: Topic TBC

All meetings will take place from 6-7.30pm with Meetings 1 and 2 (at least) taking place online using Microsoft Teams. From 2022 onwards, we hope that Group meetings can be held in a 'hybrid' way with in-person attendance at Parliament for those who wish/are able to travel and online attendance for those who do not wish to/cannot travel.

MSP Members of the Group

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

Emma Harper MSP (Scottish National Party)

Edward Mountain MSP (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party)

Jenni Minto MSP (Scottish National Party)

Finlay Carson MSP (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party)

Brian Whittle MSP (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party)

Jamie Halcro Johnston MSP (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party)

Ariane Burgess MSP (Scottish Green Party)

Mercedes Villalba MSP (Scottish Labour)

Colin Smyth 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
Organisations	A Heart for Duns Development Trust Aberdeen University Angus Council Argyll and Bute Council Arthouse Galleries Barnardos BIG Lottery British Association of Landscape Industries Buccleuch Estates Built Environment Forum Scotland Cairngorms National Park Authority Centre for Rural Health (UHI) Citizens Advice Scotland Community Transport Association Crichton Carbon Centre Crofting Connections DCM Heritage Dormont Estate Dot Rural (Aberdeen University) Dumfries and Galloway LEADER East Lothian Council Forth Valley & Lomond LEADER Federation of Small Businesses Here We Are Project Heriot Watt University

	<p>HIE</p> <p>Historic Scotland</p> <p>Landmaps Ltd.</p> <p>Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park</p> <p>MAKAR Ltd.</p> <p>Marine Scotland</p> <p>Newington Communications</p> <p>PAS (formerly Planning Aid Scotland)</p> <p>Peebles Can</p> <p>Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors (RICS)</p> <p>RSABI</p> <p>RSPB Scotland</p> <p>Rural & Islands Housing Associations Forum</p> <p>Rural Matters</p> <p>SAOS</p> <p>SRUC/SAC Consulting</p> <p>Scotland Food and Drink Federation</p> <p>Scottish Association of Young Farmers</p> <p>Scottish Borders Council</p> <p>Scottish Churches Rural Group</p> <p>Scottish Crofting Federation</p> <p>Scottish Enterprise</p> <p>Scottish Environment Protection Agency</p> <p>Scottish Government</p> <p>Scottish Land and Estates</p> <p>Scottish Natural Heritage</p> <p>Scottish Pilgrim Routes Forum</p> <p>Scottish Rural Action</p>
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	<p>Scottish Wildlife Trust</p> <p>Skills Development Scotland</p> <p>Soil Association Scotland</p> <p>South Ayrshire Council</p> <p>Support in Mind Scotland</p> <p>University of Stirling</p> <p>the University of the Highlands and Islands</p> <p>The Agricultural Industries Confederation (AIC)</p> <p>The Horticultural Trades Association (HTA)</p> <p>The James Hutton Institute</p> <p>The Stove Network</p> <p>Dumfries</p> <p>The University of Edinburgh</p> <p>University of West of Scotland</p> <p>Urban Animation</p> <p>Whitehill Design Studios</p> <p>Whitmuir Community Farm Ltd</p> <p>Woodland Trust Scotland</p> <p>Youth Connect Borders</p>
<p>Group Office Bearers</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>Co-Conveners</p>	<p>Emma Harper MSP (Scottish National Party)</p> <p>Edward Mountain MSP (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party)</p>

Deputy Convener	
Secretary	Rural Policy Centre, SRUC (Scotland's Rural College)
Treasurer	
<p>Financial Benefits or Other Benefits</p> <p>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.</p>	
<p>SRUC's Rural Policy Centre (RPC) has a budget of approximately £20,000 to run the Group in 2021-22. The funding is from the Scottish Funding Council's Universities Innovation Fund money (awarded to SRUC and for which the RPC submitted an internal funding bid) which covers SRUC RPC staff time (at Full Economic Cost) and speakers expenses (including travel, accommodation etc. if required) and catering for attendees at meetings, if/when we return to in-person meetings.</p>	
<p>Subscription Charged by the Group</p> <p>Please provide details of the amount to be charged and the purpose for which the subscription is intended to be used.</p>	
None	
<p>Convener Contact Details</p>	
Name	Edward Mountain MSP
Parliamentary address	The Scottish Parliament Edinburgh EH99 1SP
Telephone number	0131 348 6143

Statement on Compliance with The Code Of Conduct	
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I declare that the Cross-Party Group on Rural Policy is constituted and will comply with the terms of Section 6 of the Code of Conduct for Members of the Scottish Parliament.	
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Signed	
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Date	
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