

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.)

28 September 2016

DATE OF MOST RECENT AGM

4 October 2017

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]

DATE ANNUAL RETURN SUBMITTED

26 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 2016-17 were:

- Wednesday 28th September 2016: Group re-registration and the potential implications of Brexit for rural Scotland (2 MSPs, 67 attendees)
- Tuesday 13th December 2016: Shortening the supply chain (5 MSPs, 43 attendees)
- Tuesday 7th March 2017: Tackling mental health issues in rural Scotland (4 MSPs, 40 attendees)
- Tuesday 6th June 2017: Successful policy and delivery for rural Scotland: Learning from elsewhere? (7 MSPs, 61 attendees)

The Secretariat produces a minute and a summary briefing for each meeting, and these are made available online [here](https://www.sruc.ac.uk/info/120294/cross_party_group_on_rural_policy) (https://www.sruc.ac.uk/info/120294/cross_party_group_on_rural_policy) with the agenda and presentations.

MSP MEMBERS OF THE GROUP

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

Graeme Dey MSP (Scottish National Party)

John Scott MSP (Scottish Conservative and Unionist 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)

Kate Forbes 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

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Norman MacAskill • Roger Turner • Drew Ratter
Organisations	<p>Aberdeen University</p> <p>Angus Council</p> <p>Archaeology Scotland</p> <p>Argyll and Bute Council</p> <p>Arthouse Galleries</p> <p>Barnardos</p> <p>BIG Lottery</p> <p>Borders Foundation for Rural Sustainability</p> <p>British Association of Landscape Industries</p> <p>Buccleuch Estates</p> <p>Built Environment Forum Scotland</p> <p>Cairngorms National Park Authority</p> <p>Carnegie UK Trust</p> <p>CADISPA, Community Land Scotland</p> <p>North Highland Initiative</p> <p>RSA Fellows Scotland</p> <p>Citizens Advice Scotland</p> <p>Crichton Carbon Centre</p> <p>Crichton Institute</p> <p>Crofting Connections</p> <p>Crown Estate Scotland</p> <p>DCM Heritage</p> <p>Community Transport Association</p> <p>Dormont Estate</p> <p>Dumfries and Galloway LEADER</p> <p>Forestry Commission Scotland</p> <p>Forth Valley & Lomond LEADER</p> <p>Federation of Small Businesses</p> <p>Glasgow Caledonian University</p> <p>Here We Are Project</p> <p>Heriot Watt University</p> <p>Highlands and Islands Enterprise</p>

	<p>Historic Scotland James Hutton Institute John Muir Trust Keep Scotland Beautiful RSPB Scotland Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park Marine Scotland National Trust for Scotland Newington Communications NFUS PAS (formerly Planning Aid Scotland) Newcastle University RSABI Rural & Islands Housing Associations Forum SAOS SRUC/SAC Consulting 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 Rural Action Scottish Youth Parliament SCVO Skills Development Scotland Southern Uplands Partnership University of Stirling University of the Highlands and Islands The Crown Estate The Game and Wildlife Conservation Trust The Horticultural Trades Association (HTA)</p>
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	<p>The James Hutton Institute</p> <p>The Stove Network</p> <p>Dumfries</p> <p>University of Edinburgh</p> <p>University of West of Scotland</p> <p>Upper Quartile</p> <p>Urban Animation</p> <p>Whitehill Design Studios</p> <p>Whitmuir Community Farm Ltd</p> <p>Woodland Trust Scotland</p> <p>YouthBorders</p>
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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"> • Graeme Dey MSP (Scottish National Party) • John Scott MSP (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party) • Colin Smyth MSP (Scottish Labour) • Mark Ruskell MSP (Scottish Green Party)
Deputy Convener	
Secretary	Rural Policy Centre, 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.

SRUC's Rural Policy Centre had a budget of approximately £20,000 to run the Group in 2016-17. 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	M3.21 The Scottish Parliament Edinburgh
Telephone number	0131 348 5664