

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.)

30 September 2021

Date of Most Recent Annual General Meeting (AGM)

7 November 2024

Date Annual Return Submitted

5 November 2024

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]

9 November 2023

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 14 March 2024

2 MSP, 10 member and 3 guest attendees

Liz Smith MSP led a wide-ranging discussion on investment in outdoor education, the drivers, barriers and what is needed to meet the ambitions of universal provision. Presentations were delivered by:

- Nick March of AHOEC, who set the scene for the other speakers, providing an overview of the current building stock of the Scottish outdoor education estate which he described as the most significant investment challenge facing outdoor educators.
- Neil Baird, Head of Outdoor Education at Scouts Scotland, who gave an overview of the charity's investment model and the upkeep challenges it was facing.
- Avril Nicol, Head of Service for Communities, Wellbeing & Partnerships at Aberdeenshire Council, who discussed the opening of a new centre in the region and the investment journey that funded it.

Meeting 12 September 2024

2 MSP, 12 members and 7 guest attendees

Liz Smith led a discussion on best practice in including young people with Special Educational Needs in outdoor learning, with a view to harnessing this in delivering future universal provision. Presentations were delivered by:

- Iona McCroary the Principal Teacher of Etive House, on best practice in outdoor education provision for autistic children.
- Jamie Miller, the CEO of Scottish Outdoor Education Centres on meeting the needs of different types of disability groups at residential centres.
- Phil Thompson of Ardroy Outdoor Education Centre and Fiona Robertson of Denbeath Primary School, presenting their codesigned tool that helped one neuro-diverse pupil overcome anxiety ahead of a residential experience.
- Pete Moir, Scottish Operations Manager of Duke of Edinburgh, on supporting young people with additional support needs to participate in the Duke of Edinburgh programme.

AGM 7 November 2023

4 MSP, 12 member and 2 guest attendees

This was a short meeting primarily to ensure proper process in re-electing office bearers. Liz Smith MSP gave a brief update on recent committee evidence sessions pertaining to Outdoor Residential Education (Scotland) Bill.

Scouts Scotland then chaired the AGM.

- During the AGM Liz Smith was re-elected as the Group's convenor (Proposer: Brian Whittle MSP, Seconder: Beatrice Wishart MSP)
- Daniel Johnson was re-elected as the group's vice convenor (Proposer: Liz Smith MSP, Seconder: Beatrice Wishart MSP).
- The Association of Head of Outdoor Education Centres (AHOEC) were appointed to the secretariat role (Proposer: Liz Smith MSP, Seconder: Hazel Wiseman Ocean Youth Trust) with Scouts Scotland standing down.

MSP Members of The Group

Please provide names and party designation of all 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)
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	Professor Peter Higgins
Organisations	Scouts Scotland Duke of Edinburgh Award Scottish Advisory Panel for Outdoor Education (SAPOE) The Association of Heads of Outdoor Education Centres (AHOEC) Scottish Adventure Activities Forum (SAAF) Ardentinnny Outdoor Centre Ocean Youth Trust Scotland Paths for All Scottish Outdoor Education Centres (SOEC) The Outward Bound Trust Rock UK Craikhope Outdoor Centre Mountaineering Scotland Ardroy Outdoor Education Centre The Donaldson Trust SU Scotland The Teachers Union Outlet Play Resource
<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>	
Convener	Liz Smith MSP
Deputy Convener	Daniel Johnson MSP

Secretary	The Association of Head of Outdoor Education Centres (AHOEC)
Treasurer	None

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.


- Secretariat support from Scouts Scotland
- Occasional visits to outdoor education settings which may include transport, meals and/or light refreshments.

TO BE COMPLETED BY THE CONVENER

**COMPLIANCE WITH SECTION 6 OF THE CODE OF CONDUCT
(Please tick all boxes that apply)**

I, Convener of the Cross-Party Group on <X>, hereby declare that, in line with the requirements of Section 6 of the Code of Conduct, this CPG has:

5 MSP Members from 3 different political parties	X
Held at least 2 quorate meetings in the last 12 months	X
Held an AGM within 11-13months of the date of registration or the last AGM	X
Submitted an annual return form within 30 calendar days of the AGM	X

Provided Standards Clerks with 10 calendar days' notice of all meetings	X
Provided minutes of all meetings	X
Signed	
Date	05/12/2024