

## Cross-Party Group Annual Return

<b>Name of Cross-Party Group</b>
<b>Cross-Party Group on Nature and Climate</b>
<b>Date Group Established</b>
22 November 2022
<b>Date of Most Recent Annual General Meeting (AGM)</b>
13 September 2023
<b>Date Annual Return Submitted</b>
02 November 2023
<b>Date of Preceding AGM</b>
N/A
<b>Group Meetings and Activities</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>13 September 2023, 18:00-20:00 – Nature-Friendly Agriculture</b> This meeting focused on a vision for nature-and-climate-friendly agriculture. It welcomed the following speakers: WWF Scotland, Nourish Scotland, Middleton Croft, and Ethical Dairy. There was an opportunity for members of the CPG to participate in the discussion and ask questions [<a href="#">Agenda</a> and Minutes].  MSPs in Attendance: Mark Ruskell MSP (Scottish Green Party), Finlay Carson MSP (Scottish Conservative and Unionist party), Maurice Golden (Scottish Conservative and Unionist party), Mercedes Villalba MSP (Scottish Labour).</li></ul>

Non-MSPs in Attendance, included: WWF Scotland, Scottish Environment LINK, Nourish Scotland, Middleton Croft, Ethical Dairy, RSPB Scotland, Plantlife, Buglife, NFFN.

- **26 April 2023, 18:00-20:00 – Renewable Energy and Nature**  
This meeting focused on the relationship between renewable energy developments and nature, by discussing topics such as nature-positive offshore wind developments onshore and offshore. It welcomed the following speakers: Scottish Renewables, RSPB Scotland, Marine Scotland, John Muir Trust, and Scottish Power. There was an opportunity for members of the CPG to participate in the discussion and ask questions [[Agenda](#) and [Minutes](#)].

MSPs in Attendance: Mark Ruskell MSP (Scottish Green Party), Fiona Hyslop MSP (Scottish National Party), Beatrice Wishart (Scottish Liberal Democrats), Finlay Carson MSP (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party), Maurice Golden (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party).

Non-MSPs in Attendance, included: Keep Scotland Beautiful, Scottish Environment LINK, Woodland Trust Scotland, RSPB Scotland, Scottish Renewables, Stirling University, Marine Scotland, Scottish SPCA, SSEN, John Muir Trust, Mighty Earth, SEPA, SSE, National Trust for Scotland, Scottish Power, ARCUS, CIEEM, Scottish Wildlife Trust, Community Woodlands Association.

- **22 November 2022, 18:00-20:00 – Biodiversity Strategy**  
This meeting focused on a discussion about biodiversity policy in Scotland. It welcomed the following speakers: Minister for Green Skills, Circular Economy, and Biodiversity, Plantlife Scotland, Buglife, Marine Conservation Society. There was an opportunity for members of the CPG to participate in the discussion and ask questions [[Agenda](#) and [Minutes](#)].

MSPs in Attendance: Mark Ruskell MSP (Scottish Green Party), Ariane Burgess MSP (Scottish Green Party), Mercedes Villalba MSP (Scottish Labour), Monica Lennon MSP (Scottish Labour), Lorna Slater MSP (Scottish Green Party).

Non-MSPs in Attendance, included: Scottish Government, Froglife, Scottish Environment LINK, Scottish Badgers, Keep Scotland Beautiful, Buglife, CIEEM, Hebridean Whale and Dolphin Trust, Marine Conservation Society, Woodland Trust Scotland, Plantlife Scotland, RSPB Scotland, Scottish Wildlife Trust, Nourish Scotland, Scottish Seabird Centre, Bat Conservation Trust.

### **MSP Members of The Group**

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

Mark Ruskell MSP (Scottish Green Party), Finlay Carson MSP (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party), Meghan Gallacher MSP (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party), Maurice Golden (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party), Mercedes Villalba MSP (Scottish Labour), Monica Lennon (Scottish Labour), Beatrice Wishart (Scottish Liberal Democrats).

### **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.

<b>Individuals</b>	N/A
<b>Organisations</b>	Scottish Environment LINK, RSPB Scotland, WWF Scotland, John Muir Trust, Woodland Trust, Scottish Wildlife Trust, Plantlife Scotland, Buglife, Marine Conservation Society.

### **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-convener or multiple deputy conveners.

**Convener**

Mark Ruskell MSP (Scottish Green Party)

**Deputy Convener**

Finlay Carson MSP (Scottish Conservative and Unionist party)

**Secretary**

Scottish Environment LINK

**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

**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 Nature & Climate, 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

<p>Submitted an annual return form within 30 calendar days of the AGM</p> <p>[<u>Note from Convener</u>: Sincere apologies for the delay with submitting the annual return form. The delay was due to an administrative error, and we have made a note for it to ensure that this does not occur again].</p>	
<p>Provided Standards Clerks with 10 calendar days' notice of all meetings</p>	X
<p>Provided minutes of all meetings</p> <p>[<u>Note from Convener</u>: The minutes from the latest CPG meeting in 13 September 2023 will be shared with the clerks by the secretary as soon as possible].</p>	X
<p>Signed</p>	<p>Mark Ruskell MSP</p>
<p>Date</p>	<p>02 November 2023</p>