

Trustee Information Pack (January 2024)



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About Scottish Rural Action

Scottish Rural Action has existed as a Company Ltd by Guarantee (SC461352) since 2013 and as a Scottish Charity (SC048086) since 2018. Our Board of Directors are accountable to our members.

Our vision is for vibrant and connected rural and island communities which have control over their future, and which contribute to building a society that is inclusive, just and sustainable.

Rural and island communities are experts in designing approaches to promoting wellbeing, enterprise and environmental sustainability that are uniquely tailored to their places and people. These approaches are delivered at a micro-level and are difficult to capture by large and centralised institutions, including local and national government. As a result, government policies are frequently blind to the potential within rural and island communities and create barriers to their development.

Scottish Rural Action aims to break down these barriers. **Our mission is to build a rural movement in Scotland** which:

- Connects rural and island communities of place and of interest, enabling them to share their expertise and ideas.
- Advance two-way dialogue between rural communities and decision-makers ensuring that policy at all levels of government is enacted in response to expert input from those living and working in rural and island places.

Rural movements exist in most countries of the world and SRA has especially strong links to rural movements in our neighbouring UK countries and across Europe.

Our small staff team is taking forward a programme of work which includes:

- Coordinating the biennial Scottish Rural & Islands Parliament (SRIP) and the Scottish Rural & Islands Youth Parliament.
- Collaborating with a range of public, private, third and community sector partners to strengthen networks across rural and island communities of place and of interest.
- Supporting grassroots-led research and campaigns on a variety of policy areas.

You can find more information on our website: www.sra.scot

Being a Trustee of Scottish Rural Action

Role	Non-executive Director and Trustee of Scottish Rural Action
Remuneration	Unpaid. All expenses are covered according to our Trustee Expenses Policy.
Hours	10hours per month for core business. Core business includes 10 Board meetings each year with email and phone communication in between. Optional involvement in specific areas of work, for example participation in meetings with the Scottish Government or involvement in the Scottish Rural & Islands Parliament, will be add to the core hours.
Location	SRA does not have an office and all staff and volunteers work remotely. Board meetings take place online via Teams, as do most external meetings and events. We hope to organise at least one in-person Board strategy day a year.

Scottish Rural Action (SRA) is a company limited by guarantee and a registered Scottish charity. Board members are both Company Directors and charity Trustees and we can use the terms interchangeably.

As a Director and charity Trustee, you set the Scottish Rural Action’s strategy and look after its assets. In line with charity law, all Trustees have equal status and are collectively responsible for the running of the organisation. The Board must always act in the best interests of SRA, exercising the same standard of duty of care that a prudent person would apply if looking after the affairs of someone for whom they have responsibility.

Each Trustee brings their own set of experience, skills and perspectives which are all uniquely valuable to the Board’s decision-making. You would join our current team of [nine Trustees](#) and work closely with our [staff team](#) and our [Honorary President](#) to achieve SRA’s vision.

We are currently recruiting for up to five new Trustees to serve on our Board.

What we are looking for

We are looking for people who:

- Are committed to and share our vision;
- Believe that rural and island communities have the expertise and assets to shape their own futures and are not 'problems' to be solved;
- Enjoy thinking creatively and working as part of a team

Previous experience of being a Trustee is not necessary and we will offer training and induction to support Board members to develop their knowledge of charity governance.

SRA's Board recently undertook a skills audit and identified areas where additional experience and capacity would be helpful. It is not necessary that you bring expertise in any of the following areas but if you do, we would love to hear about it:

- Finance and accounting
- Charity law and governance
- Human resources
- Marketing and communications including various social media platforms
- Fundraising
- Industry or sector policies and regulations in areas related to rural and island Scotland, including planning, net zero,
- Community activism.

Scottish Rural Action has a commitment to diversity and challenging all forms of inequality. We would be particularly keen to encourage applicants from Black Minority and Ethnic, LGBT, disabled, migrant and other backgrounds underrepresented within the rural and island development sector.

We would also welcome applications from people living in geographic areas that are not currently represented on the Board, specifically from the islands, central rural regions of Scotland, the Borders, and Caithness and Sutherland.

Application Process

Closing Date	Monday 29 th January 2024
Interviews	Week beginning 15 th February by Zoom

If you would like an informal chat about becoming a Trustee of Scottish Rural Action, please contact Artemis Pana, National Coordinator, on 0773 059 6842 or by email artemis@sra.scot.

To apply to join our Board as a Trustee please send a CV, the details of two referees and a short covering letter outlining your interest to artemis@sra.scot by 5pm Monday 29th January 2024.

Following the closing date, shortlisting will take place and candidates shortlisted will be invited to meet a panel including the Chair of SRA's Board and another Trustee.

Recommendations for appointment will then go to SRA's Board for approval.

Appointments will be formally ratified by our membership at our Annual General Meeting to be held on Thursday 21st March 2024.