



Images above: Community Showcase/Royal Highland Show; Celebrating Village Halls campaign; the Cross Party Group on Islands; the Scottish Rural & Islands Youth Parliament in 2023.

Trustee information pack

We are looking for new voices from our membership to strengthen our connection to communities and widen our perspective.

About Scottish Rural Action (SRA)

98% of Scotland's land is rural with 89 inhabited islands and 17% of the population. Rural and island communities are often profiled as being remote from the centre, yet for those who live and work here, the picture is quite different. Our communities sit at the intersection of some of the most pressing challenges of our time: the climate and biodiversity emergencies, population change, food, energy and water security. Far from being peripheral, rural communities are developing place-based solutions to these challenges, building the conditions for Scotland's economic resilience, cultural continuity, and environmental sustainability.

Scottish Rural Action exists to connect rural and island communities across Scotland to celebrate and share learning, and shine a light on place-based solutions. We deliver the Scottish Rural & Islands Parliament and the Scottish Rural & Islands Youth Parliament. We develop networks and services to support some of the foundations of rural and island life including youth leadership, village halls, water systems, community empowerment and enterprise, and we are a member of the European Rural Community Alliance and of the European Rural Parliament.

Our work helps build a strong rural movement and ensures rural expertise and voices of experience directly shapes government policy and legislation.

The Trustee role

Scottish Rural Action is a member-led organisation, with hundreds of individual and organisational members from across rural and island Scotland. Our Trustees come from our membership and oversee the work of Scottish Rural Action, setting strategy and ensuring we operate in accordance with our Memorandum of Association. Trustees are advocates for rural and island places, bringing lived expertise from their own communities, work or volunteering.



Images above: The 6th European Rural Parliament brought together over 400 delegates representing 40 countries to celebrate, learn and debate in northeast Scotland.

As a Trustee you would join our Board and work closely with our staff team to ensure the success of the organisation, primarily through advice and guidance at regular Board meetings. Trustees are also welcome to become hands-on involved in events such as the Scottish Rural & Islands Parliament if they wish.

The role carries a suggested time commitment of 7-10 hours per month for core business. Core business is usually eight online Board meetings per year, one in-person strategy day, and email and phone communications in between. Additional involvement may include meetings with the Scottish Government, campaign work, or the Scottish Rural & Islands Parliament.

Trustees are not paid a fee or salary, but all expenses associated with the role are covered, including relevant training.

Who can apply

You can apply if you are aged 16 or over, and you are not disqualified to act as a Director or Trustee under the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 or the Companies Act 2006. You must live and/or work in rural or island Scotland, and be fully committed to promoting equality and inclusion, as well as to platforming rural and island voices. You might have specific expertise of a particular sector like healthcare or land management, or you might be a generalist and a wearer-of-many-hats who knows your local community well.

To build on our existing collective expertise, we are particularly interested in hearing from applicants with experience in:

- experience of agriculture and/or land management;
- youth-led advocacy;
- financial management;
- fundraising and sponsorship;
- in depth understanding of government policy-making.

If you have any experience in any of these areas, do let us know!

Previous experience of being a Trustee is not necessary – we will offer induction and ongoing support to enable Board members to develop their knowledge of charity governance, as well as their advocacy skills.



Images above: Learning Exchange on the Isle of Arran, 2025
Royal Highland Show, Islands Economy Showcase
at the Scottish Parliament

The application and appointment process

To apply to join SRA's Board as a Trustee please send a CV and a short covering letter outlining your interest to info@sra.scot by **Friday 17th July 2026**.

Please use this cover letter to confirm that you are not disqualified to act as a Director or Trustee under the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 or the Companies Act 2006.

After we receive your CV and letter, our Chair or another Board member will be in touch to invite you to an informal meeting to chat through the role and answer any questions you might have. Subject to timings, you may be invited to attend an SRA event or Board meeting if you are interested in seeing how we work before committing to the next stage of the appointment process.

In the next stage, your appointment is subject to a vote by SRA's members. This takes place online by confidential survey which is emailed to our membership. Once our members approve your appointment, we will ask you for details of two referees. Your full appointment is then subject to SRA receiving satisfactory references. Once received, you are eligible to serve as a Trustee for up to six years.

Your appointment will be formally announced at our 2026 Annual General Meeting. This will take place in September 2026, with an exact date to be confirmed subject to the availability of the new Cabinet Secretary who will hold the rural and islands portfolio.

We wish to thank you for your interest!

If you want a quick chat about SRA or about being a Trustee on our Board before sending us your CV and letter, you can get in touch with our National Coordinator:

Artemis Pana (she/her)
artemis@sra.scot
0773 059 6842