

Convenor of National Access Forum: the job and the skills

The job

The role of the Convenor is to:

- provide leadership to the National Access Forum and its work;
- work closely with the Secretary to agree agendas, advise on papers and comment on draft minutes;
- chair meetings and ensure that representatives are able to have a full and equal say on the issues being raised and discussed;
- encourage member bodies and their representatives to reach collective views on issues and how best to address them; and
- represent the National Access Forum externally, including contact with the media as required.

The forum meets 3 to 4 times a year and conducts most of its work through a number of sub-groups. The time commitment required for the role will be a minimum of one day per month. SNH will meet all travel and accommodation expenses reasonably incurred by the Convenor in the course of this work.

The person

It is essential that the Convenor can command the respect of all the main interests on the Forum through a combination of his/her experience and interest in and understanding of recreation and land management. The ideal Convenor would have:

- experience of chairing multi-interest forums or groups;
- a proven track record of encouraging consensus amongst differing interests;
- excellent communication and advocacy skills;
- a good understanding of the access provisions in the Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003 and of the Scottish Outdoor Access Code, and a strong commitment to making these work on the ground;
- a good understanding of the needs and interests of those taking part in outdoor recreation and of land managers;
- a good understanding of the work of public bodies and how best to engage with them and influence their work