

Trustees' Annual Report – Mid Ulster Red Squirrel Group

Report for the year ended 31 March 2024

The trustees present their report with the financial statements of the charity for the period 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024

The trustees have adopted the provisions of Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019).

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

The purposes of this charity continue to be:

1. To monitor and study red squirrels in the Mid Ulster area.
2. To liaise with government bodies and conservation groups regarding the red squirrel population.
3. To raise public and community awareness regarding the threat to the native red squirrel and outline measures on how to protect their natural habitat.
4. To help with the sustainable growth of the red squirrel population in the Mid Ulster area.

PUBLIC BENEFIT

Summary of the charity's main activities to further its purposes for the public benefit

Public Benefits

The charity has purchased new infrared camera equipment and other monitoring equipment to help study the local red squirrel population. We report Analytical data through feedback to regional and national conservation bodies. We have informed the local community through our posters, flyers and talks on promoting awareness of how to protect the red squirrel and ensure their natural habitats are conserved. We have had a great response from the local community and we have already seen improvements in our work. (Benefits have flowed directly from purposes 1-3. No harm flowed from either of these purposes)

Aims

We will continue to monitor and survey the red squirrel and we hope to see an increase in red squirrel numbers in the near future. We hope to have more members on board and purchase more equipment. We hope to obtain more funding and apply for more grants.

There continues to be no private gain to any individual member.

In setting our objectives and planning our activities for the year the trustees have given careful consideration to the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland's guidance on public benefit to ensure that the activities have helped to achieve the charity's purposes and provide a benefit to the beneficiaries.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Financial position

The financial statements show a surplus for the year of £516. (Deficit £408 31.03.23) Net assets/funds £1,028 (31.03.23 £512).

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Risk management

The trustees have a duty to identify and review the risks to which the charity is exposed and to ensure appropriate controls are in place to provide reasonable assurance against fraud and error.

Group meetings are held to plan the flow of work and progression. Feedback is provided to the full group members. Quarterly meetings of the trustees take place to discuss the direction of the organisation, finances, funding, risks and other issues.

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Registered Charity number

109009

Principal address

Mid Ulster Red Squirrel Group
30 Sandygrove
Magherafelt
Co. Derry
BT45 6PU

Trustees

Shamus McQuillan
Nicola Donnelly

Chairperson

Nicola Donnelly

Independent Examiner

W MCGILLIAN & CO LTD
Unit A2, Workspace
5-7 Tobermore Road
Draperstown
Derry
BT45 7AG

Bankers

The Co-operative Bank p.l.c
PO Box 101
1 Balloon Street
Manchester
M60 4EP

Approved by order of the board of trustees on 29 November 2024 and signed on its behalf by:


Shamus McQuillan - Trustee

Date: 21/12/24