

The National Outdoor Recreation Forum

Role Title:	Chairperson for the National Outdoor recreation Forum (NORF)
Remuneration	Voluntary role with reasonable expenses payable in accordance with Sport NI expenses policy.
Responsible to:	Forum members
Duration:	3-year term with potential for extension of 1 further 3-year term.
<p>Background:</p> <p>The National Outdoor Recreation Forum was established in 2014 as a key output from the Outdoor Recreation Action Plan for Northern Ireland (Action 1B).</p> <p>The purpose of the National Outdoor Recreation Forum shall be to provide a mechanism for representatives from local forums, governing bodies of sport and other key stakeholders from NGO's to have an effective and united voice for the development of outdoor recreation.</p> <p>The National Outdoor Recreation Forum acknowledges that outdoor recreation users generally use the natural environment or someone else's land for their activities. Therefore, any such forum must take cognisance of the inter-relationship between usage and the environment as well as the social, cultural and economic well-being of the communities who reside and work in the areas used.</p> <p>The Forum will therefore aim to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To facilitate positive relationships amongst all stakeholders and mutual support for the needs of users, land/water managers and owners and the environment. • To advise and lobby Ministers, Departments and Agencies on the development and implementation of policy and strategy. • To advise on the sustainable development of outdoor recreation in Northern Ireland. • To monitor the effectiveness of and hold to account the Strategic Group in the delivery of the Outdoor Recreation Action Plan. • To share knowledge, issues and best practice amongst the group. 	
<p>Overall purpose of role:</p> <p>To act as an independent chair for the NORF which normally meets between 2 and 4 times per annum.</p> <p>To represent the forum as required at the Strategic Outdoor Recreation Group and/or other governmental working groups.</p>	

Duties and Responsibilities:

- To plan, in partnership with the secretariat (ORNI), and manage forum meetings in accordance with the Terms of reference.
- To ensure agendas for meetings reflect the needs of the sector.
- To provide impartiality and objectivity to meetings and decision-making.
- To facilitate discussions and working groups on key topics as required.
- To review and report on members views of the implementation of the outdoor recreation action plan for N. Ireland.
- To collate feedback and provide responses to appropriate consultations from the forum as required.

Person Specification

Essential Criteria

- Educated to degree level or equivalent.
- Five years' experience, full time, part time or as a volunteer of working in the outdoor recreation sector.
- Substantial board experience (min 5 years), ideally at chair or other senior level in the public, private or voluntary sector, or substantial board experience as a member of a national governing body of sport or a charitable trust.
- Demonstrable experience of working in partnership with other organisations both within and across sectors.
- Demonstrable experience of representing an organisation to senior figures at national and/or international level.
- An ability to commit to a minimum of 1 day per month to facilitate any working groups or to represent the forum on other groups and to commit to (normally) 2 forum meetings in a year.
- An ability to be involved in meetings during normal working hours, evenings and/or at weekends and occasionally at short notice.
- Access to a form of transport that will permit the post holder to meet the requirements of the post. The role will involve being able to travel to meetings mostly within Northern Ireland but on occasions outside of Northern Ireland to represent the forum

Desirable Criteria

- Experience of working with ministers, government departments and non-departmental public bodies or public authorities.
- Experience of having responsibility for making and managing strategic decisions.