

Visitor Safety Group - Irish Members Sub Group

Terms of Reference

Name

The group will be called the VSG Irish members' subgroup

Aim

The aim of the Irish members' subgroup is to provide a forum for Irish members to be able to discuss and share issues in relation to visitor safety in an Irish context.

Objectives

In doing this we will embrace the aims and objectives of the VSCG by:

- Identifying and sharing good practice;
- Promoting the application of consistent management principles;
- Developing a model approach to risk assessment that incorporates valuing benefits;
- Encouraging consistency in the choice and application of risk control measures;
- Seeking a balanced and pragmatic approach to the many, varied and conflicting, factors bearing on visitor safety management;
- Producing sound interpretation of legislative requirements and the implications of case law decisions.

In addition our specific objectives are to:

- Seek to expand the membership of the VSG in Ireland;
- Ensure that relevant Irish case law is brought to the attention of the group;
- Ensure that Irish case studies are forwarded to the Chairman for inclusion in relevant publications and website.
- To advise members and provide a forum for discussion on:
 - Visitor risk assessment
 - Visitor information and signage

Environments

The work of the Irish members' subgroup will not be limited to dealing with any particular visitor environment.

Membership

The Visitor Safety Group, Irish members' subgroup will consist of organisations who are members of the Visitor Safety Group who are based on the island of Ireland. These organisations can be based exclusively in the ROI or NI, cross border organisations or representatives of UK based organisations that have representatives based in either ROI or NI, e.g. RNLI.

Any member organisation based on the island of Ireland is welcome to attend meetings and be circulated with information by email. The sub group may invite the participation of non-members when it is judged beneficial or necessary to achieve our aims.

Current Active Members

- Office of Public Works
- Coillte
- Waterways Ireland
- State Claims Agency
- Dept of Culture Heritage and the Gaeltacht (including National Parks and Wildlife Service)
- Dept of Agriculture, Fisheries and the Marine
- Dept of Rural and Community Development
- Commissioners of Irish Lights
- Mountaineering Ireland
- Sport Ireland(incorporating Irish Trails)
- Inland Fisheries Ireland
- City and County Managers Association (CCMA)
- Outdoor Recreation NI
- Irish Landmark Trust
- Leave No Trace Ireland
- Marble Arch Caves UNESCO Global Geopark

VSG organisations with presence in Ireland (non –exhaustive):

- RNLI
- National Trust
- Centre Parks

Organisation

The Subgroup will have a Chairperson and Secretary who will normally be the Irish representatives on the management committee of the VSG.

Board Members

Their functions in relation to the Irish members' subgroup will be to:

- Organise meetings;
- Liaise with member organisations to host meetings;
- Bring back key points and learning's to Irish members who could not attend the main meeting in the UK;
- Ensure minutes of meetings are circulated promptly.

Timing

Meetings will normally be held on the Wednesday following the main VSG meeting in the UK, unless the main meeting is being hosted in Ireland, in which case no meeting will be held. Meetings may also be organised at other times as determined by the membership.

Member Organisation

- Member organisations will be asked to host meetings from time to time;
- Two or more member organisations may combine to host a meeting;
- Normally emails will be circulated to one single nominee contact per organisation who will cascade information internally but depending on the organisation, there may be more than one contact.
- Member organisations should indicate numbers attending meetings to the Secretary and host organisation in good time in order to allow for planning for seating and refreshments.

Meeting Structure

In most cases, the meeting structure will follow the following format:

- 1030: Meet and greet/ networking/tea and coffee
- 1100: Review of previous meeting and recent VSG main group meetings
- 1300: Light Lunch
- 1400: Site visit/tour (where possible)

However this structure can change depending on circumstances as agreed between the host organisation and the Secretary and Chairperson.

Site Visits

The purpose of the site visit will be to open to allow the host organisation to:

- Present solutions to visitor management issues which they feel are successful and
- To open to discussion issues that they have struggled to find solutions for.

The host organisation will be asked for their approval for the submission of a written case study based on the learning's of the site visit for inclusion in VSG publications/website.

Liaison with Administrators

Secretary will circulate notification, agenda and minutes of Irish meetings to VSG Administrator's, (ORNI) and Chairperson.