

John

Thank you for the invitation to the Commission's event on 5 December. Unfortunately I'm not in the country at that time so I won't be able to participate.

When I was on the SPPA committee we went out and engaged with several groups about how they perceive the SP and how we can better communicate with the public, this included charities and volunteer groups. You may find the work we did at that time useful for your work. Stewart Stevenson MSP was the convener at the time. If I recall correctly the session I attended felt that communication should be in plain language, there was also a view that often groups could not respond because of time restrictions, eg a paper comes out but their group may not have a meeting planned (especially during holiday periods), so they can't discuss and then send in their views.

I wish you every success with your work.

Regards

Margaret McDougall