

Thu 04/06/26

Dear Colleagues,

Impact Report 2025

Our Impact Report for 2025 - which includes a foreword by our Patron - has been uploaded and you [can see it here](#). It was beautifully designed by Anna Cosgrove and lots of staff from teams across the charity get involved in its production each year. I have received a special mention for the Regional Administrators. They were key in ensuring that all subsidised learners were correctly logged onto Cinolla. This involved working with centre admin teams and going back through months of bookings to ensure everything from Bat Walks to Beach Cleans were correctly recorded and a system put in place going forward. It was a mammoth but worthwhile task. Thank you.

Help shape our use of AI

You may be aware that the AI working group has recently been set up to understand and develop the charity's use of AI as a tool to support staff in their area of work, adding real value and benefit. A few meetings have taken place already and part of these discussions have been about creating a staff survey to collate responses on use and understanding of AI in our workplaces.

The survey will come from Carina's email on Monday 8 June with a return date for responses by Friday 19 June. It should only take 5-10 minutes and all responses will be treated in confidence. Your help with this would be much appreciated even if you don't use AI in your work at the moment.

Policy update

We are continuing to get a good number of positive responses from newly elected MSs and MSPs - mostly along the lines of being very keen to visit as soon as they get their offices and office staff in place, but responses none the less.

Despite a degree of turmoil in Westminster, the work of government is carrying on although not always as smoothly as we would like. So far this year we have responded to consultations and supplied evidence to a wide range of inquiries, all of which have allowed us to make the case for better outdoor learning for all. Two have related to child poverty - one in Wales and one in England. In Scotland we have responded to consultations on the Scottish Climate Change Plan and Schools Premises Regulations. In England our work has covered post 16 pathways, SEND provision and the proposed Visitor Levy.

New Mileage Allowance

Following a recent HMRC announcement regarding new approved mileage rates, it has been agreed that the Field Studies Council mileage allowance for the first 10,000 business miles will increase from 45p to 55p per mile, for mileage undertaken on or after 1 June 2026.  [Section 09. Expenses Policy.pdf](#) in the Staff Handbook has therefore been updated to reflect this change.

The full [Staff Handbook](#) can be found on the [Employee Hub](#) and each of the individual sections can also be accessed direct from links within the  [Staff Handbook Contents.pdf](#).

New Bank Notes

You may have seen in the news that British wildlife is to feature on the new bank notes. There is a public consultation exercise to help decide which species. You can make your choice [here](#).

Final Call – Pulse Survey Closes Soon

The deadline to complete the Staff Pulse Survey is tomorrow. You can take part using the link in your email or by scanning one of the QR codes displayed in workplaces. The survey closes at **noon** – don't miss your chance to have your say.

Welcome to Field Studies Council

Sid Laing has joined the team at Millport as Education Support Assistant.

Best Regards

Mark