Question 7:

The Rules on All-Party Groups at Westminster require that, where secretariat services are provided by a consultancy or by a charity/not-for-profit organisation, the relevant organisation must agree to make certain information available on request. The information for a consultancy firm is its full client list and for a charity/not-for profit organisation is a list of any commercial company which has made a donation or donations of more than £5,000 in the twelve months prior to the request being made.

Should a similar requirement be introduced for CPGs?

YES. Composition of Secretariat should also be addressed in review.

Operation of Cross-Party Groups

Question 9: The Code states that “to maintain and guarantee the Parliamentary nature of CPG meetings, at least 2 MSP members of a Group must be present at every meeting”. Is the 2 MSP quorum sufficient to ensure the Parliamentary nature of CPG meetings? Should there be a requirement that the MSPs present should represent more than one of the political parties represented on the Group?

Unless CPGs representing similar interests eg HEALTH, are held on different dates, this will be a problem.

Question 16: Do you have any other comments on the operation of the CPG system in the Scottish Parliament?

It should be ensured that there is not a conflict of interest re the members of any CPG and their outside interests.

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