

## Cross-Party Group Annual Return

### Name of Cross-Party Group

**Cross-Party Group on Autism**

**Date Group Established** (the date of establishment is the date in this parliamentary session that the Group held its initial meeting, where the office bearers were elected and not the date that the Group was accorded recognition. All Groups should hold their AGMs on, or before, the anniversary of this date.)

Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> May 2021

### Date of Most Recent Annual General Meeting (AGM)

Monday 24<sup>th</sup> November 2025

### Date Annual Return Submitted

Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2025

**Date of Preceding AGM** [this date is required to aid clerks in verifying that the most recent AGM has taken place within 11 to 13 months of the previous AGM]

Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> November 2024

### Group Meetings and Activities

Please provide details of each meeting of the Group including the date of the meeting, a brief description of the main subjects discussed and the MSP and non-MSP attendance figures.

Details of any other activities, such as visits undertaken by the Group or papers/report published by the Group should also be provided.

**12<sup>th</sup> May 2025**

**'Diagnosis'**

Attendance from: Alexander Burnett MSP, Annie Wells MSP.

Also attended by 80 non-MSP members, including secretariat and speakers.

Main discussion points:

- Service closures in Scotland
- New research on adult diagnosis

**1<sup>st</sup> September 2025**

**'Racialised Autistics'**

Attendance from: Alexander Burnett MSP and Annie Wells MSP.

Also attended by 51 total non-MSP members including secretariat and speakers.

Main discussion points:

- Experiences of racialised autistic people such as burn out, micro-aggressions, lack of cultural inclusion, the benefits of nature.

**24<sup>th</sup> November 2025**

**'Autism and Aging'**

Attendance from: Alexander Burnett MSP and Annie Wells MSP.

Also attended by 63 total non-MSP members including Secretariat and speakers.

Main discussion points:

- Research on autism and the menopause
- Research on autism and dementia
- The challenges with care for aging autistic adults.

**MSP Members of The Group**

Please provide names and party designation of all MSP members of the Group.

**Stephanie Callaghan, Scottish National Party**

**Finlay Carson, Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party**

**Fulton MacGregor, Scottish National Party**

**Carol Mochan, Scottish Labour**

**Oliver Mundell, Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party**

**Mark Ruskell, Scottish Green Party**

**Annie Wells, Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party**

## Non-MSP Members of The Group

For organisational members please provide only the name of the organisation, it is not necessary to provide the name(s) of individuals who may represent the organisation at meetings of the Group.

<b>Individuals</b>	Dr Catriona Stewart OBE, MCPP, FRSA, AID Scotland Ltd Sam Nicholson, Education Scotland Cllr John Grafton Callum McCrosson Ash Loydon Fiona Clarke Ailsa Lindsay David Weir William Rae Prof. Ben Paechter Kate Monahan Andrew Crosbie Michelle Graham Carrie Watts Trish Collins David Stewart
<b>Organisations</b>	National Autistic Society Scotland Scottish Autism Autistic Voices Advocating Together for Autonomous Rights (AVATAR) HOPE for Autism The Donaldson Trust Perth Autism Support PASDA Autism Rights Group Highland (ARGH)

	Edinburgh & Lothian Asperger Society (ELAS) Borders Additional Needs Group Centre for the Transformation of Work, Heriot Watt University AT-Autism Education Scotland University of Strathclyde SWAN Scotland Inspiring Scotland Into Work Aurora Autistic Consulting Play Scotland The Autism Network The Richmond Fellowship Scotland Autistic Knowledge Development CIC Autism Initiatives Autism Resources Coordination Hub (ARCH) South Lanarkshire Words That Carry On Aberdeenshire Health and Social Care Partnership Shared Lives Plus Autistic Flair NASUWT Autism International Development (AID) Scotland Ltd Learning Disability Group of Aberdeen & Aberdeenshire The Autism Network Govan Law Centre Central Advocacy Partners DiffandNet
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## **Group Office Bearers**

Please provide names for all office bearers. The minimum requirement is that two of the office bearers are MSPs and one of these is Convener – beyond this it is a matter for the Group to decide upon the office bearers it wishes to have. It is permissible to have more than one individual elected to each office, for example, co-conveners or multiple deputy conveners.

<b>Convener</b>	Alexander Burnett MSP
<b>Deputy Convener</b>	Jeremy Balfour MSP
<b>Secretary</b>	National Autistic Society, Scottish Autism, Marion McLaughlin.
<b>Treasurer</b>	None.

#### **Financial Benefits or Other Benefits**

**Please provide details of any financial or material benefit(s) the Group anticipates receiving from a single source in a calendar year which has a value, either singly or cumulatively, of more than £500. This includes donations, gifts, hospitality or visits and material assistance such as secretariat support.**

#### **TO BE COMPLETED BY THE CONVENER**

#### **COMPLIANCE WITH SECTION 6 OF THE CODE OF CONDUCT (Please tick all boxes that apply)**

**I, Convener of the Cross-Party Group on <X>, hereby declare that, in line with the requirements of Section 6 of the Code of Conduct, this CPG has:**

5 MSP Members from 3 different political parties	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Held at least 2 quorate meetings in the last 12 months	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Held an AGM within 11-13months of the date of registration or the last AGM	x
Submitted an annual return form within 30 calendar days of the AGM	x
Provided Standards Clerks with 10 calendar days' notice of all meetings	x
Provided minutes of all meetings	x
Signed	<i>Deanne Bennett</i>
Date	28/11/2025