

Cross-Party Group Annual Return

Name of Cross-Party Group
Cross-Party Group on Deafness
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.)
21 September 2021. The Office Bearers were elected online. Meetings are held online, which improves attendance from across Scotland.
Date of Most Recent Annual General Meeting (AGM)
10 September 2025
Date Annual Return Submitted
16 September 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]
1 October 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.

11 December 2024

Substantive items:

- Cancellation of See Hear Strategy refresh
- Termination notice for Contact Scotland BSL service
- Education (Scotland) Bill – call for inclusion of BSL
- BSL National Plan implementation

Working groups:

Three working groups in operation: one developing and campaigning for a definition of Deafblindness for Scotland (joint membership with CPG on Visual Impairment); one on Qualified Teachers of the Deaf and improving attainment for Deaf children and young people; one newly formed group on dementia and sensory care (joint membership with CPG on Visual Impairment).

MSP attendees: 5

Non-MSP Attendees: 33

(Excluding Communication Support Professionals: 4)

19 December 2024

Members of the CPGD attended [First Minister's Questions on 19 December 2024](#), to see/hear the response to Mark Griffin's question, "To ask the First Minister what consideration the Scottish Government has given to what the potential impact might be on Deaf and Deafblind people of the termination of its contract with Contact Scotland BSL."

5 February 2025

Substantive items:

- Continuation of Contact Scotland BSL service
- Education (Scotland) Bill – BSL amendments
- Audiology – update from Paula Spiers (NHS Scotland)

- Key findings from SLWG on dementia and sensory care: research into dementia assessments

The three working groups reported on progress.

Report published on [dementia assessments for people with Deafness, Deafblindness or Visual Impairment](#) (SLWG on dementia and sensory care). Update also given to CPGVI members.

SLWG agreed and published a proposed [definition of Deafblindness](#) for Scotland. Update also given to CPGVI members.

Any other business raised future topics for CPGD work across 2025 - 2026.

MSP attendees: 2

Non-MSP attendees: 30

(Excluding Communication Support Professionals: 4)

7 February 2025

Members of the CPGD and CPGVI visited Parliament to support the [members' business debate from Rona Mackay on Deafblindness](#), and call for the Scottish Government to accept the proposed [definition of Deafblindness](#) for Scotland.

28 May 2025

Substantive items:

- Contact Scotland BSL service
- National Audiology Improvement Programme (Jenni Minto MSP)
- [Inclusion of BSL within the Education \(Scotland\) Bill amendments - all proposals accepted.](#)

SLWG on attainment published research report on falling numbers of Teachers of the Deaf. This report received a [cross-party motion of support on 15 May 2025](#).

SLWG on dementia and sensory care research mentioned in [a debate in Chamber on the importance of audiology services](#) (28 May 2025).

SLWG on definition of Deafblindness planned launch of definition for 22-28 June 2025. Proposal to reform thereafter as SWLG on Deafblindness.

Any other business included updating members on See Hear Strategy responses, letters on Disability Equality Plan, and the inquiry by the EHRCJ Committee into [impact of the BSL \(Scotland\) Act 2015](#).

MSP Attendees: 4 (3 MSP members and one Minister as invited guest)

Non-MSP Attendees: 28

(Excluding Communication Support Professionals: 4)

10 September 2024

Substantive items:

- AGM business
- Disability Equality Plan (Kaukab Stewart MSP)
- BSL updates – national plan, Contact Scotland BSL
- Two-year anniversary of Audiology review

SLWG on dementia and sensory care in discussions to alter the [SIGN 168 national clinical guideline on dementia](#). Update given to CPGVI members.

SLWG on definition of Deafblindness [accepted by Scottish Government on 27th June 2025](#). Now reformed as SWLG on Deafblindness, focusing on workforce. Update given to CPGVI members.

Any other business included an update on the launch of [Lipread Scotland](#), campaign work on inclusive communication ("[More than Words: Communication for All](#)") and discussion of future priority areas for CPGD.

Convenors and Secretariat of CPGD and CPGVI (Colin Beattie MSP, Stuart McMillan MSP, the ALLIANCE and RNIB) met to discuss areas

of common interest and agreed to continuing joint working and support where appropriate.

MSP Attendees: 5 (4 MSP members and one Minister as invited guest)

Non-MSP Attendees: 29

(Excluding Communication Support Professionals: 4)

MSP Members of The Group

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

Convenor: Colin Beattie MSP (SNP)

Vice Convenor: Roz McCall MSP (Conservative)

Vice Convenor: Carol Mochan MSP (Labour)

Karen Adam MSP (SNP)

Annabelle Ewing MSP (SNP)

Mark Griffin (Labour)

Douglas Lumsden MSP (Conservative)

Jeremy Balfour MSP (Conservative until August 2025; currently Independent)

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.

Individuals

Donald Richards
Danny Sweeney
Janis McDonald

	Kieron McMullan
Organisations	<p>Association of Sign Language Interpreters (ASLI)</p> <p>Association of Teachers of Lipreading to Adults (ATLA)</p> <p>Auditory Verbal UK (AVUK)</p> <p>British Association of Teachers of the Deaf (BATOD)</p> <p>British Deaf Association Scotland (BDA Scotland)</p> <p>Deaf Action</p> <p>Deaf Links</p> <p>Deafblind Scotland</p> <p>DEAF South Lanarkshire</p> <p>Disability Agenda Scotland</p> <p>Dumfries and Galloway Hard of Hearing Group</p> <p>Edinburgh Napier University</p> <p>Educational Institute for Scotland (EIS)</p> <p>Forth Valley Sensory Centre</p> <p>Hayfield</p> <p>Health in Mind</p> <p>Hearing Link/Hearing Dogs for the Deaf</p> <p>Heriot Watt University</p> <p>Highland Blindcraft Sensory Services</p> <p>Lipread Scotland</p> <p>Lothian Children's Deaf Club</p> <p>National Deaf Children's Society (NDCS)</p> <p>NHS Audiology Heads of Service (Adults)</p> <p>NHS Audiology (Paediatrics)</p> <p>NHS Highland Deaf Services</p> <p>North East Sensory Services (NESS)</p> <p>Police Scotland</p> <p>Queen Margaret University</p> <p>Respect Me</p>


	RNID Royal College of Speech and Language Therapy (RCSLT) Sense Scotland Scottish Mental Health Services for Deaf People Scottish Sensory Centre, University of Edinburgh Scottish Register of Language Professionals with the Deaf Community (SRLPDC) Sensory Impairment Support Group Ayrshire (SISG) Signature Sign Languages Interactions (SLI) Skills Development Scotland Tayside Deaf Forum The Donaldson Trust The Health and Social Care Alliance Scotland (the ALLIANCE) West of Scotland Deaf Children's Society (WDCS)
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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.

Convener	Colin Beattie MSP
Deputy Convener	Roz McCall MSP Carol Mochan MSP
Secretary	Hannah Tweed (the ALLIANCE)

Treasurer	N/A	
Financial Benefits or Other Benefits		
<p>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.</p>		
<p>No income is raised by the group.</p> <p>The ALLIANCE provides Secretariat support and covers the costs for the Communication Support Professionals required at approx. £570 per meeting, max £2500 per annum. Communication costs were £2280 approx. for this year, with the remainder of the funds going towards the costs of translating reports from SLWGs into BSL.</p> <p>The ALLIANCE received £2500 from the Meikle Trust towards the costs of their work supporting the CPGD.</p>		
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 Deafness, 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	Yes	
Held at least 2 quorate meetings in the last 12 months	Yes	
Held an AGM within 11-13months of the date of registration or the last AGM	Yes	
Submitted an annual return form within 30 calendar days of the AGM	Yes	
Provided Standards Clerks with 10 calendar days' notice of all meetings	Yes	

Provided minutes of all meetings		Yes
Signed		
Date	16/09/2025	