

## Cross-Party Group Annual Return

**Name of Cross-Party Group**

**Cross-Party Group on France**

**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.)

25 November 2024

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

11 February 2026

**Date Annual Return Submitted**

2 March 2026

**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]

N/A

## **Group Meetings and Activities**

### **Thursday 24 April 2025**

The Group focused on Scotland-France trade and economic links, with discussion on how to sustain and grow commercial, investment and skills connections post-Brexit. Members heard perspectives from business and sector stakeholders on barriers and opportunities, including talent mobility, SME trade readiness, and practical delivery issues affecting investment and projects.

Other activity: The Consul General of France in Edinburgh, working with the Secretariat, convened a business roundtable (5 December 2025, Edinburgh) bringing together Scottish business stakeholders and senior economic diplomats from the Embassy of France to the UK, to explore practical barriers and opportunities in the UK-EU trading relationship and identify where Franco-Scottish collaboration could be strengthened.

Other activity: The Secretary, representing the Cross-Party Group, attended the 730th anniversary Auld Alliance celebrations at St Giles 'Cathedral (October 2025).

### **Wednesday 11 February 2026 (AGM and ordinary meeting combined)**

The AGM confirmed the Group's office-bearer and secretariat arrangements for the year ahead. Members then heard an update from the Consul General on the 730th anniversary of the Auld Alliance and related activity, before discussing how to strengthen French language learning and cultural links between Scotland and France. Discussion covered practical steps to support language uptake and quality, including school partnerships, teacher pipeline and support (including language assistants), and a forthcoming Education Scotland policy round table, alongside opportunities to promote exchange and visibility through planned cultural and education activity across 2026 (including Tour de France themed education resources, the proposed return of Erasmus+, the French Institute's 80th anniversary programme, and business/tourism links such as the Fête Franco-Écosse).

## **MSP Members of The Group**

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

Daniel Johnson MSP (Scottish Labour)  
 Jamie Greene MSP (Scottish Liberal Democrats)  
 Liam Kerr MSP (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party)  
 Paul Sweeney MSP (Scottish Labour)  
 Elena Whitham MSP (Scottish National 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>	Stéphane Pailler Archippus Sturrock Dr Rogelia Pastor-Castro Jean Roman-Samaké Kieran Watson Neil McCallum Luke Carroll Michael Sturrock Sarah Lachhab
<b>Organisations</b>	Institut français d'Écosse Consulat général de France à Edimbourg et Glasgow

**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>	Daniel Johnson MSP
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<b>Deputy Convener</b>	Jamie Greene MSP
<b>Secretary</b>	Archippus Sturrock
<b>Treasurer</b>	-

**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.

Secretarial support provided by Archippus Sturrock. Estimated value does not exceed £500.

**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 France, 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	✓
Held at least 2 quorate meetings in the last 12 months	✓

Held an AGM within 11-13months of the date of registration or the last AGM (Overdue by two weeks due to scheduling issues.)	X
Submitted an annual return form within 30 calendar days of the AGM	✓
Provided Standards Clerks with 10 calendar days' notice of all meetings	✓
Provided minutes of all meetings	✓
<b>Signed</b>  <b>Date 05/03/26</b>	