

## Cross-Party Group Annual Return

### Name of Cross-Party Group

### Cross-Party Group on Funerals and Bereavement

**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.)

15<sup>th</sup> September 2021

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

12<sup>th</sup> October 2022

### Date Annual Return Submitted

26<sup>th</sup> October 2022

**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

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.

**September 21<sup>st</sup> 2022. Attendance: 4 MSPs, 11 non-MSPs, discussed issues around the Funeral Support Payment and funeral poverty. The group discussed progress on the introduction of alkaline hydrolysis.**

**March 3<sup>rd</sup> 2022. Attendance: 1 MSP. 17 non-MSPs. Evidence session to discuss lessons learned from the Covid-19 pandemic.**

**November 17<sup>th</sup> 2021. Attendance: 3 MSPs. 19 non-MSPs. Update around regulation and licensing of the sector, Competition and Markets Authority Funeral Investigation, concerns around local authority policies on funeral rituals**

**September 15<sup>th</sup> 2021. Attendance: 2 MSPs, 16 non-MSPs. Scope of work and speakers for new group, delays in death registration.**

**MSP Members of The Group** \*Confirmed by Jeremy Balfour MSP

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

<b>Jeremy Balfour MSP</b>	<b>Colin Beattie MSP*</b>
<b>Alexander Burnett MSP</b>	<b>Rhoda Grant MSP*</b>
<b>Graham Simpson MSP</b>	<b>Gillian Mackay MSP*</b>

**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>	
<b>Organisations</b>	National Association of Funeral Directors Society of Allies Independent Funeral Directors Co-operative Funeralcare Dignity Scotmid Funerals Thomas Cuthell & Sons funeral directors

	Golden Charter Resomation STUC Community Renewal Palliative Care Scotland Cruse Scotland Scottish Pensioners Forum Caledonia Cremation CHAS The Compassionate Friends
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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>	Jeremy Balfour MSP
<b>Deputy Convener</b>	Alexander Burnett MSP
<b>Secretary</b>	Nick Britten
<b>Treasurer</b>	N/A

### **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.**

**The National Association of Funeral Directors funds the Secretariat support of c.£4000 pa.**

**Convener Contact Details**

<b>Name</b>	Jeremy Balfour MSP
<b>Parliamentary address</b>	The Scottish Parliament Edinburgh EH99 1SP
<b>Telephone number</b>	0131 348 5961