

CROSS-PARTY GROUP ANNUAL RETURN

NAME OF CROSS-PARTY GROUP
Cross-Party Group on Malawi
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.)
28 October 2021
DATE OF MOST RECENT AGM
07 October 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]
25 September 2024
DATE ANNUAL RETURN SUBMITTED
5 November 2025
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.
On 17 September '25 three MSPs, fifteen in-person non-MSP attendees and twenty-two online participants heard from MalDent leads, Dr Peter Chimimba, in Malawi and Prof Jeremy Bagg in Scotland, Architects, Mr Patrick Calisse, in Malawi and Peter Lee, Architect of John McAslan + Partners in Scotland. The Scottish Government-funded MalDent project has successfully created the first Bachelor of

Dental Surgery (BDS) degree programme in Malawi, responding to there being only approximately fifty dentists in malawi for a population of 21m people.

During this meeting, members of the academic, healthcare, design and construction teams provided the background to the innovative MalDent project and an update on its status and progress.

To date, clinical dental training has been delivered in the Ministry of Health Dental Departments at Kamuzu Central Hospital in Lilongwe and the Queen Elizabeth Central Hospital in Blantyre. However, it was clear from the outset that a purpose-built teaching facility was required to make the BDS course sustainable.

A significant component of the Scottish Government MalDent Project grant has funded the design work for the new clinical dental teaching facility, which also incorporates generic teaching space for other healthcare disciplines taught at Kamuzu University of Health Sciences (KUHeS) in Blantyre, Malawi. The success of the funded design programme has facilitated leverage of \$5.2m from the World Bank to support construction of the building, which is now underway.

Both the design and construction phases of the building are underpinned by a consortium of architects, engineers and surveyors from Scotland and Malawi, led by John McAslan + Partners. This represents an exciting fusion of international partnership working across healthcare, education and building construction in Malawi.

On 07 October 2025, four MSPs, twenty-two in-person non MSPs and 3 online participants heard from Olivia Giles, Founder & CEO of 500 miles.

In a fluent and naturally delivered account, Olivia Giles shared a fascinating ‘warts and all’ account of the past 17 years and 500 miles’ transformational achievements, challenges, impact, frustrations, learning and steps towards sustainability.

500 miles supports the development and delivery of Prosthetic and Orthotic services in Malawi. They help people with impaired mobility of all kinds to get moving, as well and as independently as possible, by helping them to get access to and to be able to afford Prostheses and Orthoses.

In addition to the phenomenal achievements in improving the lives of so many people, despite the challenges described, the complexity of the whole story Olivia shared and reflected upon was useful and fascinating and provided a learning experience for all.

This meeting also included the CPG AGM.

Videos of Malawi CPG meetings are on the Scotland Malawi Partnership’s website listed under Past Events.

MSP MEMBERS OF THE GROUP

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

Liam McArthur MSP (Scottish Liberal Democrats)
 Alexander Stewart MSP (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party)
 Dr Alasdair Allan MSP (Scottish National Party)
 Sarah Boyack MSP (Scottish Labour Party)
 Rhoda Grant MSP (Scottish Labour)
 Colin Smyth (Independent)
 Stephanie Callaghan (Scottish National Party)
 Kenneth Gibson MSP (Scottish National Party)
 Kevin Stewart MSP (Scottish National Party)
 Paul O'Kane MSP (Scottish Labour)
 Miles Briggs MSP (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party)
 Katy Clark MSP (Scottish Labour)

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	Alan Laverock Alison Campbell Amy Blake Benjamin Carey Blanka Bartkowiak Brian Kerr Calum Fisher (Neil Bibby) Cameron Smith Carol Finlay Cecily Borgstein Charles Howie, Chimwemwe Chisembe Chrissie Hirst, Colin Reilly Dan Gunn David Bone David Clarke
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	Dr Ann Phoya Dr Barry Klaassen Dr Charles Leyman Kachitsa Dr Kathleen Breslin Dr Peter West, Honorary Consul for Malawi Dr Rachel Phillips Dr Thorsten Koenig Duwa Kandoje, Malawi HC First Secretary Emma Wood, Enock Bamusi, Eve Hartswood Fatou Drammeh, Frances Guy, Gertrude Chirambo Gertrude Rood, H.E. Dr. Thomas Bisika, Malawi High Commission, London Hayley Street, Hazel McCorrisken Ian Mitchell, Jane Bristow Jane Forster, Joyce Nicoll Karen Downard Katie Hagmann, SNP National Women Convenor and Elected Member Kevin Simpson Laurel Kilgore Lewis Ryder-Jones, Linda Dembo, MaSP Liz Chalmers Lorna Bell Louise Honeybul Magdalene Sacranie Mick McMillan Moir Dunworth
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	Ninette Premdas Pam Wilson Patrick Carrigan Patrick Grady Prof Heather Cubie Prof Jeremy Bagg, Chair of Board SMP Prof Tracy Morse Prof. Edward Duncan Prof. Iain Woodhouse Prof. Liz Grant Rebecca Foster Rev Dr Ken Jeffrey Ricci Downard Robin MacGregor Roselyn Dzanja Ross Macnab Sarah Black, Sarah Gibson Sheila Brookes Stephanie Sharkey Steve Mannion Sue Kevan, Thomson Chirwa Winfred Bunihizi,
Organisations	AMS Balerno Fair Trade GroupBananabox Trust Beath Malawi Partnership Changing Lives Malawi Co-operative College Corra Foundation Formidable Joy Malawi Fruits Mamie Martin Fund

	Oxfam Scotland SIDA Soko Fund STEKA The Challenges Group The Raven Trust UNICEF UK University of Dundee
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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	Co-Conveners: Liam McArthur MSP, Alexander Stewart MSP, Dr Alasdair Allan MSP
Deputy Convener	Sarah Boyack MSP
Secretary	Stuart Brown, CEO of the Scotland Malawi Partnership
Treasurer	none

FINANCIAL BENEFITS OR OTHER BENEFITS RECEIVED BY THE GROUP

Please provide details of any financial or material benefit(s) received 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.

Details of material support should include the name of the individual providing support, the value of this support over the year, an estimate of the time spent providing this support and the name of the organisation that this individual is employed by / affiliated to in providing this support.

Groups should provide details of the date on which the benefit was received, the value of the benefit and a brief description of the benefit.

If the Group is not disclosing any financial information please tick the box to confirm that the Group has considered the support received, but concluded it totalled under the threshold for disclosure (£500).



SUBSCRIPTION CHARGED BY THE GROUP

Please provide details of the amount charged and the purpose for which the subscription is intended to be used.

CONVENER CONTACT DETAILS

Name

Liam McArthur, MSP

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