

Cross-Party Group Annual Return 2024-2025

Name of Cross-Party Group

Cross-Party Group on Scotch Whisky

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.)

21st September 2021

Date of Most Recent Annual General Meeting (AGM)

9th October 2025

Date Annual Return Submitted

15th October 2024

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]

26th September 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.

28th January 2025

Main subjects discussed: Minutes of previous meeting on 26th September were approved. Victor Brierley gave a presentation about Scotch Whisky tourism opportunities. Amanda Burke from Diageo gave a presentation on robotics in the whisky industry and how it was contributing to health and safety improvements. Ellie Carrington updated on US tariffs, emphasising that at this point nothing had been announced other than a review of trade actions.

MSP attendance: Gordon MacDonald MSP (Chairing), Murdo Fraser MSP, Colin Smyth MSP, Douglas Ross MSP, Emma Harper MSP

Non-MSP attendance: Blair Bowman (Whisky Consultant), Susanne Cameron-Nielsen (Scotch Whisky Association – Secretariat), Ellie Carrington (Scotch Whisky Association – Secretariat), Annie Hill (The International Centre for Brewing & Distilling), Michael Taylor (Solmaris), Orchid Ly (Chinese Times). Speakers: Amanda Burke (Diageo), Victor Brierley

17th March 2025

Joint visit with the Science and Technology CPG to the James Hutton Institute to learn about the newly opened Crop Innovation Centre and specifically the work of the International Barley Hub to improve the resilience and sustainability of barley crop production and mitigate the impacts of climate and environmental change.

MSP attendance: Gordon MacDonald MSP, Murdo Fraser MSP, Stephen Kerr MSP

Non-MSP attendance: Ellie Carrington (Scotch Whisky Association – Secretariat), Caroline de Rouffignac (Scotch Whisky Association), Fraser Gillan (Royal Society of Edinburgh – Science and Technology CPG secretariat), members of the Science and Technology CPG

9th October 2025 (please note later timing due to previously postponed/cancelled meetings accommodating parliamentary business)

Main subjects discussed: AGM - office bearers were re-elected.

MSP attendance: Murdo Fraser MSP (Chairing)
Gordon MacDonald MSP, Emma Harper MSP

Non-MSP attendance: Ellie Carrington (Scotch Whisky Association – Secretariat)

MSP Members of The Group

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

Jackie Baillie (Labour), Murdo Fraser (Conservatives), Rhoda Grant (Labour), Rachael Hamilton (Conservatives), Emma Harper (SNP) Gordon MacDonald (SNP), Liam McArthur (Liberal Democrat), Tim Eagle (Conservatives).

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	
	Blair Bowman, Whisky Consultant and Author Michael Taylor, Director, Solmaris
Organisations	Scotch Whisky Association (Secretariat), Chivas Brothers, Diageo, Edinburgh Distillery Company, Edrington, Gordon MacPhail, Perspectiva Consultants, Glasgow Distillery, GMB, Industrial Biotechnology Innovation Centre, Institute of Brewing and Distilling, Interface, SEPA, Scottish Distillers Association, Forth Ports, Portman Group, Stolt Tank Containers UK, Chinese Times, Unite, William Grant.

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		
	Murdo Fraser MSP	Gordon MacDonald MSP

Deputy Convener	Emma Harper MSP	
Secretary	Ellie Carrington, Scotch Whisky Association	
Treasurer	None	
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.		
N/A		
Convener Contact Details		
Name	Murdo Fraser MSP	Gordon MacDonald MSP
Parliamentary address		
Telephone number	0131 348 5293	0131 348 5741