Cross-Party Group on Life Sciences

Friday 25 September 2026, 2.00pm, Microsoft Teams

Minute

Present

MSPs

Graham Simpson MSP
Patricia Gibson MSP
Jackie Baillie MSP
Julie MacDougall MSP

Invited guests

None

Non-MSP Group Members

Sandra Auld
Dr Barbara Blaney (University of Edinburgh)
Lornie Blake (AstraZeneca)
Mark Cook
Professor Frank Gunn-Moore
Steven Gunningham (Pfizer)
Sonja Hart (Burness Paull LLP)
Alison Hughes (Scottish Universities Life Sciences Alliance)
Steve Kerr (Department for Business and Trade)
Damien McMullan (Pfizer)
Andrew Turnbull (Amgen)

Apologies

Miles Briggs MSP
Paul Sweeney MSP
Craig Hoy MSP

Agenda item 1: Welcome

Graham Simpson MSP welcomed members to the initial meeting following the Scottish Parliament election. The meeting considered the information required to re-register the Group.

Agenda item 2: Name and purpose

Members agreed to retain the name Cross-Party Group on Life Sciences and the purpose registered in the previous parliamentary session: “Act as a channel for communications and information between the Scottish Parliament and people within organisations working in the life sciences sector in Scotland, including industry, academia, research and manufacturing.”

Agenda item 3: MSP membership

The following MSPs had agreed to support the Group: Graham Simpson (Reform UK), Patricia Gibson (Scottish National Party), Adam Harley (Scottish Liberal Democrats), Craig Hoy (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party), Jackie Baillie (Scottish Labour), Miles Briggs (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party), Michael Marra (Scottish Labour), Julie MacDougall (Reform UK), Joe Long (Scottish Labour), Fulton MacGregor (Scottish National Party) and Paul Sweeney (Scottish Labour). This meets the requirement for at least five MSP members representing five parties on the Parliamentary Bureau.

Agenda item 4: Election of office bearers

Patricia Gibson MSP proposed Graham Simpson MSP as Convener. Julie MacDougall MSP seconded the nomination, and members agreed. Jackie Baillie MSP proposed Patricia Gibson MSP as Deputy Convener. Graham Simpson MSP seconded the nomination, and members agreed. Members agreed that Claire Headspeath, ABPI Scotland, would act as Secretary.

Agenda item 5: Non-MSP membership and secretariat

Members agreed that individual and organisational members who had confirmed their wish to continue would be included on the re-registration form. Members agreed to appoint ABPI Scotland as the Group’s secretariat.

Agenda item 6: Future meetings and re-registration

Suggestions for future meetings included clinical genomics, brain health, new medicines developed in Scotland and innovative life sciences companies. Members were invited to send further ideas to the secretariat. The Convener will submit this minute and the registration form to the Standards Clerks within 30 days of the meeting. The Group will arrange its next formal meeting following re-registration.