Cross-Party Group Registration Form

Please read Section 6 of the Code of Conduct before completing this form.

Name of Cross-Party Group
Cross-Party Group on Scotch Whisky

Purpose of The Group and Proposed Discussion Topics

1. Please state the purpose of the Group.

The main purpose of the Cross Party Group on Scotch Whisky is to promote a better understanding of the Scotch Whisky industry to members of the Scottish Parliament. The industry plays a key role in Scotland with regard to the economy, exports, jobs, tourism, the environment and tackling alcohol misuse. This group will provide the forum to discuss these important issues with MSPs from all parties alongside key people from within the Scotch Whisky industry.

2. Please also provide a brief explanation of the purpose of the Group and why the purpose is in the public interest.

The CPG's purpose is in the public interest due to the Scotch Whisky industry's key role in the Scottish economy and communities throughout the country:

3. Scotch Whisky accounts for 72% of Scotland's food and drinks exports;
4. More than 41,000 people are supported by the Scotch Whisky industry in Scotland and a further 25,000 across the UK
5. There are 154 distilleries operating throughout the country, with the industry supportive of Scottish agriculture, seed producers, farmers, grain merchants and maltsters – all critical to the industry's success;
6. The industry's key role in promoting Scotland as a tourist destination. In 2024 there were 2.7 million visits to Scotch Whisky distilleries, making Scotch Whisky visitor centres collectively the popular tourist attraction in Scotland.
7. Scotch Whisky leading the way through its ambitious sustainability goals.

Please email this form and all other CPG enquiries to crosspartygroup@parliament.scot.

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8. Please also provide details of any overlaps with the purpose of existing Cross-Party Groups and an explanation of why, regardless of any such overlap, the Group should be established.

The CPG Scotch Whisky had no direct overlap with any other approved CPG in the Scottish Parliament. From time to time there may be an interest in providing a subject-specific joint CPG meeting. An example was a joint visit which was held last year at the James Hutton Institute with the Science and Technology CPG. Without the CPG Scotch Whisky, there would not be the full opportunity to address the full range of public interest issues pertinent to this sector and to the many people it employs.

9. Please also provide an indication of the topics which the Group anticipates discussing in the forthcoming 12 months.

- The industry's role in tourism and hospitality.
- The industry's Sustainability Strategy and work to decarbonise.
- Small and independent distilleries and how to support them.
- Looking at the outcomes of the Scottish Affairs Committee's inquiry into the Scotch Whisky sector and how they can be applied in Scotland.
- The importance of the Scotch Whisky supply chain in communities throughout Scotland.

MSP Members of the Group

Please provide names and party designation of all MSP members of the Group. In doing so please note:

- Section 6 of the Code of Conduct requires there be 5 members from the parties represented on the Parliamentary Bureau. The SPPA Committee agreed a waiver for this session that requires 5 MSP members from 5 parties represented on the Bureau;
- MSPs can be on no more than 10 CPGs of which fulfil no more than 3 office-bearer positions;
- If the group fails to comply with MSP membership requirements, the Convener must ensure this is resolved within 90 days.

MSP	Party

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Murdo Fraser	Scottish Conservatives
Laura Mitchell	SNP
Lloyd Melville	SNP
David Green	Scottish Liberal Democrats
Rachael Hamilton	Scottish Conservatives
Tim Eagle	Scottish Conservatives
Jackie Baillie	Scottish Labour
Donald MacKinnon	Scottish Labour
Max Bannerman	Reform UK
Kim Schmullian	Reform UK
Senga Beresford	Reform UK
Martyn Day	SNP
Emma Roddick	SNP
Andrew Baxter	Scottish Liberal Democrats
Michelle Campbell	SNP
Katie Hagmann	SNP
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	Michael Taylor Blair Bowman
Organisations	Interface GMB Heriot-Watt University The ABI Diageo Stolt Tank Containers

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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.

Please note:

- No more than 3 named contacts per CPG - the Convener, the Secretary and one other individual who can provide information to the Standards Clerks about the activities of the Group. The Convener of a Group must confirm the name of this individual.

Convener	Murdo Fraser MSP Laura Mitchell MSP
Deputy Convener	Lloyd Melville MSP Senga Beresford MSP
Secretary	Scotch Whisky Association
Named Contact	Ellie Carrington, Scotch Whisky Association

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

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includes donations, gifts, hospitality or visits and material assistance such as secretariat support.
The Scotch Whisky Association will provide the secretariat to the group (estimated to be equating to £250 annually) and pay for refreshment or lunches at the expected four annual meetings of the group. (Please note that half the meetings take place virtually and therefore no refreshments are provided. If we are able to take forward a site-visit, we expect this contribution to be in the region of £100-200.)
Subscription Charged by the Group Please provide details of the amount to be charged and the purpose for which the subscription is intended to be used.
N/A
Statement on Compliance with the Code of Conduct. Must be read and signed by the Convener.

Please read the following:
 	
• The Convener of a Group is primarily responsible for ensuring that the Group complies with the Code of Conduct;
• The Convener is solely responsible for providing Standards Clerks with:
  ○ The names of new MSP members of the CPG and changes to office-bearers;
  ○ Named contact details;
  ○ The registration form;
  ○ All minutes of meetings within 30 days of the meeting being held; **(Substantially verbatim minutes will not be accepted and will be returned)**
  ○ The AGM return (to be submitted within 30 days of the AGM to be held within 11 – 13 months of the initial meeting).
• Groups are required to have five MSPs from five of the parties represented on the Parliamentary Bureau;

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- CPGs must hold at least two formal meetings per year (not on the same day), where two MSPs members of the Group are present;
- CPGs must provide Standards Clerks with 10 calendar days' notice of all meetings;
- If a CPG meeting is cancelled or rearranged, notification must be provided to the Standards clerks by no later than the day after the meeting was originally scheduled to take place;
- If a Group fails to comply fully with the Code for more than one year in a row, the Committee will withdraw recognition from that Group.

I declare that I have read the above and that the Cross-Party Group on Scotch Whisky is constituted and will comply with the terms of Section 6 of the Code of Conduct for Members of the Scottish Parliament.

Signed (Convener)	
Date	12/10/2026

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