

CROSS-PARTY GROUP ANNUAL RETURN

NAME OF CROSS-PARTY GROUP

Cross-Party Group on The Caribbean

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.)

1st September 2011

DATE OF MOST RECENT AGM

10th June 2015

DATE OF PRECEDING AGM [this date is required to aid clerks in verifying that the most recent AGM has taken place within 12 months of the previous AGM]

11th June 2015

DATE ANNUAL RETURN SUBMITTED

1st July 2015

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.

5th November 2014

Prof. Sir Geoff Palmer reported to the Group on sub-group's progress. He has written to all the Caribbean High Commissioners to flag up the date in their diaries, and had positive responses from Belize, and Jamaica.

Full list of addresses to be forwarded to Margaret Mitchell MSP's office along with draft text for an invitation letter to go from her to the High Commissioners. Carol to forward address list, from notes from Sir Geoff.

Margaret Mitchell MSP repeated that she thought SE business links and CBI should be invited.

Presentation made by Dr Paul Sutton, a professor and academic expert on the Caribbean. He discussed links between Scotland and the Caribbean and mentioned that Dominica has an offshore medical school training USA doctors.

MSP's Attending: 2

Non MSPs: 9

19th March 2015

Stewart Maxwell MSP was elected as Vice Convener of the CPG. Margaret Mitchell MSP then explained that very few High Commissioners were able to take up our invitation to an event in the Scottish Parliament, so it had to be cancelled. A whisky tasting had been offered by the Scotch Whisky Society and Edrington distillers.

Ian Gittens offered to host a dinner for the High Commissioners in future, if required. Margaret Mitchell MSP suggested maybe a less ambitious agenda for us to organise next time if this event is repeated. Diane Abbott MP had been interested to attend.

Presentation to the CPG by Gerry McKenna who discussed his construction business in Jamaica. It consists of a social housing project. He credited Jampro at the last High Commissioner's event as being pivotal in how this project had developed.

MSP's Attending: 2

Non MSPs: 8

10th June 2015

This meeting also incorporated the AGM. The treasurer reported on the financial situation of the group and requested that members pay their annual subscription fees of £10 to cover refreshments at the meetings. The bank balance was £40.

The following office-bearers were elected:

Convener: Margaret Mitchell MSP

Vice Convener: Stewart Maxwell MSP

Secretary: Carol Anderson

Treasurer: Professor Sir Geoff Palmer

The work programme for 2015/16 was discussed. Prof. Sir Geoff mentioned an event planned during the Edinburgh Festival in the Scottish Parliament, with himself and Sir Tom Devine = "Slavery in the Caribbean".

Suggested speakers for future events included Chef Paul Wedgwood of Wedgwood the Restaurant in Royal Mile Edinburgh who has invested in business in Barbados. Louise Welsh of Empire Café event was suggested and committee member Michael Kane of

Isochon who does business in Jamaica as future speakers at events.

Agreed that Secretary would write to all the High Commissioners and invite them to join our meetings if they happen to be in Scotland at any time in the near future, or if they are planning a visit to Scotland for us to welcome them to a special meeting, individually.

Presentations from Iona McIntyre and Nicola Frith from the University of Edinburgh who talked about their work and the university links between the French and Spanish Caribbean. They also discussed a future event 5th – 7th Nov, Reparations about the past and the future. This event will touch on colonial history and slavery at the University of Edinburgh. This year is the 150th anniversary of the 13th Amendment in the USA.

The CPG congratulated Prof. Sir Geoff as he has been awarded an Honorary Degree from the University of the West Indies, which has come through his position as Emeritus Professor at Heriot Watt University.

MSP's Attending: 2

Non MSPs: 9

MSP MEMBERS OF THE GROUP

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

Margaret Mitchell (Scottish Conservative & Unionist Party)

Stewart Maxwell (SNP)

Linda Fabiani (SNP)

David Stewart (Scottish Labour)

Tavish Scott (Scottish Liberal Democrat)

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

Carol Anderson – secretary

Prof. Sir Geoff Palmer – treasurer

Ian Gittens

Janice Hogarth

Michael Kane

Alistair Stirling

	Victoria Lee Robin Irvine Bill Flockhart Duncan Turnbull Gerry McKenna
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Organisations	The Scotch Whisky Association The Caribbean Council Visit Barbados African and Caribbean Network Scottish Passenger Agents' Association
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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	Margaret Mitchell MSP
Deputy Convener	Stewart Maxwell MSP
Secretary	Carol Anderson
Treasurer	Professor Sir Geoff Palmer

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.

A subscription of £10 is charged to cover teas and coffees

CONVENER CONTACT DETAILS

Name	Margaret Mitchell MSP
Parliamentary address	M2.09, The Scottish Parliament Edinburgh
Telephone number	0131 348 5639