

CROSS-PARTY GROUP ANNUAL RETURN

NAME OF CROSS-PARTY GROUP

Cross-Party Group on Visual Impairment

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.)

13 September 2016

DATE OF MOST RECENT AGM

12 September 2017

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]

13 September 2016

DATE ANNUAL RETURN SUBMITTED

12 October 2017

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.

The Cross-Party Group on Visual Impairment draws together the blind and partially sighted sector in Scotland to identify issues competent to the Scottish Parliament and seeks, in a reasonable fashion, to influence policy, legislation and decision makers to better reflect the needs of blind and partially sighted people.

Meetings:

Tuesday 13 September – inaugural meeting and AGM

- Establishment of new Cross Party Group and Election of Office Bearers
- Official inauguration of new Cross Party Group by the newly elected Convenor
- -Priorities for next Parliamentary term –while collecting suggestions from members it was agreed to have a session on registration of the visually impaired and on social security with the Minister for Social Security, Jeane Freeman
- Present – 5 MSPs; 46 others

Tuesday 6 December

- 125th Anniversary of the Scottish Braille Press (Davine Shiell, Royal Blind)
- Mapping of Low Vision Services in Scotland, initial findings (Dr Helen Court and Gillian Mitchell, Sight Action)
- Closing the attainment gap for children and young people with visual impairment - the vital role of Qualified Teachers of the Visually Impaired (Anne Marie Fleming, RNIB Scotland) – withdrawn due to pending publication of a report by Professor John Ravenscroft
- Present – 3 MSPs; 27 others

Tuesday 7 February

- Registration and certification review (Professor Carrie MacEwan, Scottish Government)
- Waverley Station vehicle access: Miles Briggs MSP on the issue of allowing accessible vehicles to drop off/pick up inside the station
- CPG Secretariat: James Adams stepped down from his CPG Secretariat role due to his new position as Deputy Director of RNIB Scotland. Stuart McMillan expressed his thanks to James for his contribution in recent years and wished him every success in the new role he has with RNIB Scotland. Catriona Burness to undertake the role of Secretariat in place of James Adams.
- Followed by reception to mark 125th Anniversary of the Scottish Braille Press (Stuart McMillan MSP; Richard Hellewell, Royal Blind; and Jim McCafferty, Scottish Braille Press)

- Present – 4 MSPs; 35 others

Tuesday 16 May (inquorate)

- 'A Fairer Scotland for Disabled People - Our Delivery Plan to 2021 for the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities' (Donnie Jack, Scottish Government; and Layla Theiner, Disability Agenda Scotland (DAS))
- Update from Haggeye, the forum for blind and partially sighted young people in Scotland (Matthew Clarke and Claire Forde, Haggeye)
- Present – 1 MSP member (and 2 other MSPs who later joined the CPG but as only 1 MSP member present, meeting was inquorate; 33 others

Tuesday 12 September (AGM)

- AGM and Election of Office Bearers.
- CPG topics
- Accessible voting (Ken Reid and Colette Walker on making voting more accessible; with reaction from
- Update on legislation to ban parking on pavements (George Henry, Transport Scotland)
- Under AOB - Sandra Wilson raised the issue of accessible communications and the development of the new Scottish social security system; and Gillian Mitchell of Sight Action raised issue of standardisation relating to PIP assessments of low vision
- Present - 2 MSPs; 33 others

MSP MEMBERS OF THE GROUP

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

Stuart McMillan MSP (Scottish National Party)

Neil Bibby MSP (Scottish Labour)

Tom Arthur MSP (Scottish National Party)

Colin Beattie MSP (Scottish National Party)

Miles Briggs MSP (Scottish Conservative & Unionist Party)

Rhoda Grant MSP (Scottish Labour)

Colin Smyth 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

Hilary Davies
Mairi Graham
Mary Rasmussen
Rod Murchison
Susan Robinson
David McKerral
Ken Swa
Tracy Christie
Ian Clement
Cindy Godfrey-McKay
Iain MacKinnon
James Mowat
James O'Rourke
Margaret O'Rourke
Kirin Saeed
Allen Thurston
Mary Travers
Colette Walker

Organisations

RNIB Scotland – Secretary and treasurer
RNIB Connect Radio
Vision PK
Guide Dogs Scotland

SCOV
North Ayrshire Council
Dundee Blind & Partially Sighted Society
Sight Action
Royal Blind
North East Sensory Services
Optometry Scotland
Association of Scottish Talking Newspapers
Macular Society
SCOV
Scottish Sensory Centre
SITE
MACS
Scottish Vision Strategy
UK Vision Strategy
Scottish Government
Novartis Pharmaceuticals
Allergan
SITE
VISION 2020 UK
VISION 2020 UK Counselling and Emotional Support
Services Group
Haggeye
Optelec UK
City of Edinburgh Council - Libraries and Information
Services
Royal Blind School
Scottish Association for Visual Impairment Education

	NHS Forth Valley Angus Council Police Scotland Visibility Eyecare Scotland National Federation of the Blind Scotland Neatebox Princess Alexandra Eye Pavilion NHS Lothian
--	--

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	Stuart McMillan MSP (Scottish National Party)
Deputy Convener	Neil Bibby MSP (Scottish Labour)
Secretary	Catriona Burness, RNIB Scotland
Treasurer	Catriona Burness, RNIB Scotland

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).

The CPG has received the support outlined below from RNIB Scotland:

Secretariat

- J Adams (2 days) - £650
- C Burness (5 days) - £912
- C Howie (5 days) - £461
- **Total: £2023**

Catering costs for CPG

- Tuesday 13 September 2016 - £30.60
- Tuesday 6 December - £278.25
- Tuesday 7 February - £784.40
- Tuesday 16 May (inquorate) - £61.15
- Tuesday 12 September (AGM) - £185.50
- **Total: £1339.90**

OVERALL TOTAL: £3362.90

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	Stuart McMillan MSP
Parliamentary address	Scottish Parliament
Telephone number	0131 348 5000

