



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Standards, Procedures and Public Appointments Committee

MEETING DETAILS

9th meeting 2017, Session 5

Thursday 20 April 2017 at 9.45am in the
James Clerk Maxwell Room (CR4).

COMMITTEE PAPERS

Agenda

Cross-Party Groups

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

**Meeting papers and Official Reports
from previous meetings**

NOTICES

Next meeting:

18 May 2017

Future Meetings:

1 June 2017

15 June 2017

29 June 2017



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

STANDARDS, PROCEDURES AND PUBLIC APPOINTMENTS COMMITTEE

AGENDA

9th Meeting, 2017 (Session 5)

Thursday 20 April 2017

The Committee will meet at 9.45 am in the James Clerk Maxwell Room (CR4).

1. **Declaration of interests:** Emma Harper will be invited to declare any relevant interests.
2. **Decision on taking business in private:** The Committee will decide whether its review of the format of the Code of Conduct for Members of the Scottish Parliament should be taken in private at future meetings.
3. **Cross-Party Groups:** The Committee will consider applications for recognition from three Cross-Party Groups, and take evidence from—
 - Richard Leonard, Co-Convener of the proposed CPG on WASPI (Women Against State Pension Inequality);
 - Colin Smyth, Member of the proposed CPG on Inflammatory Bowel Disease;
 - John Mason, Convener of the proposed CPG on Freedom of Religion or Belief..
4. **Commission on Parliamentary Reform:** The Committee will take evidence from—
 - John McCormick, Chair, and John Finnie, Commission member, Commission on Parliamentary Reform.
5. **Cross-Party Group - approval:** The Committee will decide whether to accord recognition to the proposed Cross-Party Groups on WASPI (Women Against State Pension Inequality), Inflammatory Bowel Disease and Freedom of Religion or Belief.
6. **Lobbying (Scotland) Act 2016 (in private):** The Committee will consider a draft report and draft Standing Order rule changes.

Douglas Wands
Clerk to the Standards, Procedures and Public Appointments Committee
Room TG.01
The Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh
Tel: 0131 348 5239
Email: douglas.wands@parliament.scot

The papers for this meeting are as follows—

Agenda item 3

Note by the clerk

SPPA/S5/17/9/1

Agenda item 4

PRIVATE PAPER

SPPA/S5/17/9/2 (P)

Agenda item 6

PRIVATE PAPER

SPPA/S5/17/9/3 (P)

Standards, Procedures and Public Appointments Committee

9th Meeting 2017 (Session 5), Thursday 20 April 2017

Cross-Party Group Applications

Introduction

1. In accordance with the provisions on Cross-Party Groups (CPGs) set out in section 6 of the Code of Conduct (the Code), proposals for the establishment of CPGs in the Scottish Parliament must be submitted to the Standards, Procedures and Public Appointments Committee for its approval.
2. The provisions referred to in this note relate to Volume 2, Section 6, of the Code of Conduct.
3. There are three proposed Groups for the Committee's consideration.

Proposed CPG on WASPI (Women Against State Pension Inequality)

4. The registration form submitted by the proposed Group is attached at Annexe A to this note.

Consideration by the Standards, Procedures and Public Appointments Committee

5. Paragraph 6.3.10 of the Code states "...As part of its consideration, the Standards, Procedures and Public Appointments Committee will invite one of the proposed Group's MSP office bearers (usually the Convener) to attend a meeting to explain the justification for the proposed Group." Richard Leonard MSP, who is one of the Co-Conveners for the Group, has been invited to the meeting to discuss registration of the proposed Group.

Purpose

6. Paragraph 6.3.11 of the Code states "the Committee will pay particular attention to a proposed Group's purpose. If the Committee considers that a Group is being proposed not in the public interest but, for example, to further particular commercial interests, the Group will not be accorded recognition. The Committee will also consider whether the purpose of a proposed Group overlaps the remit of an existing Group. The proposed Group has been asked to provide justification as to why its aim could not effectively be achieved within the existing Group".

7. The stated purpose of the proposed Group is—

- Campaigning about the changes to the state pension age for women as a result of the 1995 & 2011 Pensions acts and to raise awareness.

Membership

8. Paragraph 6.4.1 requires group membership to include at least five MSPs, with at least one MSP from each of the parties or groups represented on the Parliamentary Bureau. The Committee has previously agreed that there should be a general waiver of this Rule in the current Session and Groups are now required to

have five MSPs from the majority of parties represented on the Parliamentary Bureau. The proposed Group meets this requirement.

9. The MSP membership (by party) of the proposed Group is as follows—

- 2 Scottish Green Party
- 3 Scottish Labour Party
- 4 Scottish National Party

10. Paragraph 6.4.2 entitles groups to contain members from outwith the Parliament, but states that the overall membership of the CPG should be Parliamentary in nature. The proposed Group has listed 19 non-MSP members in the individual category and no member organisations.

Office Bearers

11. Paragraph 6.4.3 requires one MSP to be Convener of the Group and there to be at least one other MSP office bearer. The proposed Group meets this requirement: Jackie Baillie MSP, Richard Leonard MSP and Sandra White MSP are the Co-Conveners of the Group.

Financial Benefits and Subscription

12. The registration form indicates that the Group will receive no financial benefits and that members will not be charged a subscription.

Proposed CPG on Inflammatory Bowel Disease (IBD)

13. The registration form submitted by the proposed Group is attached at Annexe B to this note.

Consideration by the Standards, Procedures and Public Appointments Committee

14. Colin Smyth MSP, who is a member of the Group, has been invited to the meeting to discuss registration of the proposed Group.

Purpose

15. The stated purpose of the proposed Group is—

- To raise awareness of the issues faced by people living with IBD and the impact of the condition on their lives among parliamentarians.
- To raise awareness of the high incidence of IBD in Scotland and the increasing incidence of childhood IBD
- To promote and monitor implementation of the National Blueprint for Inflammatory Bowel Disease in Scotland
- To be a stimulus to galvanise support from local and national policymakers
- To act as a conduit for sharing and dissemination of best practice.

Membership

16. The proposed Group meets the requirement in relation to MSP membership which is as follows —

- 2 Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party

- 4 Scottish Labour Party
- 1 Scottish Liberal Democrat Party
- 1 Scottish National Party.

17. The proposed Group has listed 16 non-MSP members in the individual category and seven in non-MSP member organisations.

Office Bearers

18. The proposed Group meets the requirement in relation to office bearers: Pauline McNeill MSP is the Convener of the proposed Group and Clare Adamson MSP is the Deputy-Convener.

Financial Benefits and Subscription

19. The registration form indicates that the proposed Group will receive the following financial benefits—

- Secretariat support to the group will be provided by Nancy Greig as part of her paid role as Health Policy and Public Affairs Officer with Crohn's and Colitis UK. This support is likely to be approximately 3 days per meeting.
- Financial support provided to the group by Crohn's and Colitis UK will be approximately £3955 including catering travel expenses and staff time.

20. The form also indicates that members of the Group will not be charged a subscription.

Proposed CPG on Freedom of Religion or Belief

21. The registration form submitted by the proposed Group is attached at Annexe C to this note.

22. As members are aware, all Groups are required to provide 10 calendar days' notice of all meetings. The proposed CPG failed to provide any meeting notification and the office of the Convener provided the following explanation for not providing the required meeting notification—

- "This was an oversight on my part as I had thought I had cc'd the cross party group mailbox into the invitation email, the email has since been added to the mailer so this will not be an issue in the future."

Consideration by the Standards, Procedures and Public Appointments Committee

23. John Mason MSP has been invited to the meeting to discuss registration of the proposed Group.

Purpose

24. The stated purpose of the proposed Group is—

- The Group will discuss and consider how to promote freedom of religion or belief for any and all.

Membership

25. The proposed Group meets the requirement in relation to MSP membership which is as follows —

- 4 Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party
- 1 Scottish Green Party
- 1 Scottish Labour Party
- 2 Scottish National Party.

26. The proposed Group has listed five non-MSP members in the individual category and 15 in non-MSP member organisations.

Office Bearers

27. The proposed Group meets the requirement in relation to office bearers: John Mason MSP is the Convener of the proposed Group and Murdo Fraser MSP is the Deputy-Convener.

Financial Benefits and Subscription

28. The registration form indicates that the financial benefits are not known at present as the Group has still to resolve who will provide the secretariat support.

29. The form also indicates that members of the Group will not be charged a subscription.

Next Steps

30. At agenda item 2 the Committee is invited to discuss any aspects of the application for recognition of the proposed Cross-Party Groups on—

- WASPI with Richard Leonard MSP;
- Inflammatory Bowel Disease with Colin Smyth MSP; and
- Freedom of Religion or Belief with John Mason MSP.

31. At agenda item 5 the Committee will discuss whether to accord recognition to the proposed Groups.

Sam Currie
Support Manager
Standards, Procedures and Public Appointments Committee
April 2017

CROSS-PARTY GROUP REGISTRATION FORM

NAME OF CROSS-PARTY GROUP
Cross-Party Group on WASPI (Women Against State Pension Inequality)
PURPOSE OF THE GROUP AND PROPOSED DISCUSSION TOPICS
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Please state the purpose of the Group. 2. Please also provide a brief explanation of the purpose of the Group and why the purpose is in the public interest. 3. 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. 4. Please also provide an indication of the topics which the Group anticipates discussing in the forthcoming 12 months.
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Campaigning about the changes to the state pension age for women as a result of the 1995 & 2011 Pensions acts and to raise awareness. 2. In Scotland alone there are at least a quarter of a million women affected by the changes to the state pension for women born during the 1950s. There are over 2.5 million in the UK & this is having an adverse effect on individual's & their families. 3. There is no overlap with other CPGs 4. Support for WASPI women, awareness raising and campaigning.
MSP MEMBERS OF THE GROUP
Please provide names and party designation of all MSP members of the Group.
<p>Jackie Baillie MSP (Labour)</p> <p>Sandra White MSP (SNP)</p> <p>Richard Leonard MSP (Labour)</p> <p>Clare Haughey MSP (SNP)</p> <p>Iain Gray MSP (Labour)</p> <p>Gail Ross MSP (SNP)</p> <p>Stewart Stevenson MSP (SNP)</p> <p>Patrick Harvie MSP (Green Party)</p> <p>Alison Johnstone MSP (Green Party)</p>

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	Anne Potter Elizabeth McQuarrie Morag Bain Susan Beevers Jane Cowley Susan Fallon Andrea Gregory Lilian Cameron Lucinda Quinn Jane Rolling Joan Fraser Marina Shaw Anne Houghton Lesley Blacklaw Morag Duncan Kate Stewart Johann Hobson Ann Fraser Melia Dayley
Organisations	

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.

Co-Convener	Jackie Baillie MSP
Co-Convener	Sandra White MSP
Co-Convener	Richard Leonard MSP
Secretariat	Anne Potter

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 includes donations, gifts, hospitality or visits and material assistance such as secretariat support.

None

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.

No subscription will be charged

CONVENER CONTACT DETAILS

Name	Jackie Baillie MSP/Sandra White MSP/Richard Leonard MSP
Parliamentary address	M1.13 The Scottish Parliament/ M5.07 The Scottish Parliament/ M1.18 The Scottish Parliament
Telephone number	0131 3485905 0131 3485689 0131 3486465

STATEMENT ON COMPLIANCE WITH THE CODE OF CONDUCT

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

Signed	jackie.baillie.msp@parliament.scot
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Date	23 March 2017
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CROSS-PARTY GROUP REGISTRATION FORM

NAME OF CROSS-PARTY GROUP
Cross-Party Group on Inflammatory Bowel Disease (IBD)
PURPOSE OF THE GROUP AND PROPOSED DISCUSSION TOPICS
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Please state the purpose of the Group. 2. Please also provide a brief explanation of the purpose of the Group and why the purpose is in the public interest. 3. 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. 4. Please also provide an indication of the topics which the Group anticipates discussing in the forthcoming 12 months.
<p>The purpose of the group is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To raise awareness of the issues faced by people living with IBD and the impact of the condition on their lives among parliamentarians. - To raise awareness of the high incidence of IBD in Scotland and the increasing incidence of childhood IBD - To promote and monitor implementation of the National Blueprint for Inflammatory Bowel Disease in Scotland - To be a stimulus to galvanise support from local and national policymakers - To act as a conduit for sharing and dissemination of best practice. <p>This Cross Party Group is in the public interest as there is currently no other group in parliament looking at the issues faced by people with Inflammatory Bowel Disease which affects approximately in in 200 people in Scotland. The group will help to provide a focus and momentum for ongoing service improvement work carried out in Scotland with the support of the Scottish Government and key stakeholders in the IBD community.</p> <p>There are no overlaps with any existing Cross Party Groups and the Cross Party Group for IBD would work together with other groups on any issue of concern to more than one group.</p> <p>Topics the group anticipates discussing in the next 12 months include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Service redesign/ opening dialogue with Health Board Chief Executives/ /data and technology

- Children and young people, high incidence of IBD, age appropriate services
- Self-management/ psychological support (including IT developments e.g. patient portals and apps).

MSP MEMBERS OF THE GROUP

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

Pauline McNeill MSP (Labour)
 Clare Adamson MSP (SNP)
 Jamie Greene MSP (Conservative)
 Liam McArthur MSP (Lib Dem)
 Neil Findlay MSP (Labour)
 Iain Gray MSP (Labour)
 Miles Briggs MSP (Conservative)
 Colin Smyth MSP (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	Kirsty Gibson, Paul Johnson, Angus McLean, Claire Davidson, Edmund Murray, Janice Taylor, Dr Daniel Gaya, Dr Ian Arnott, Dr Richard Russell, Dr Graeme Naismith, Dr Jonathan MacDonald, Prof Angus Watson, Vikki Garrick, Seth Squires, Pam Rogers, Prof David Wilson
Organisations	Crohn's and Colitis UK,

	Scottish Society of Gastroenterology, Royal College of Nurses (IBD Nurses Network Scotland), Crohn's in Childhood Research Association (CICRA), Scottish Society of Paediatric Gastroenterology, Hepatology and Nutrition (SSPGHAN), Health and Social Care Alliance Scotland (the ALLIANCE), Abbvie
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	Pauline McNeil
Deputy Convener	Clare Adamson
Deputy Convener	Dr Ian Arnott
Secretary	Crohn's and Colitis UK
Treasurer	None
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 includes donations, gifts, hospitality or visits and material assistance such as secretariat support.	
Secretariat support to the group will be provided by Nancy Greig as part of her paid role as Health Policy and Public Affairs Officer with Crohn's and Colitis UK. This support is likely to be approximately 3 days per meeting. Financial support provided to the group by Crohn's and Colitis UK will be approximately £3955 including catering travel expenses and staff time.	
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.	
None	
CONVENER CONTACT DETAILS	

Name	Pauline McNeill MSP
Parliamentary address	M1.14 The Scottish Parliament Edinburgh EH99 1SP
Telephone number	0131 348 6475

STATEMENT ON COMPLIANCE WITH THE CODE OF CONDUCT

I declare that the Cross-Party Group on <SUBJECT> is constituted and will comply with the terms of Section 6 of the Code of Conduct for Members of the Scottish Parliament.

Signed	
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Date	
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CROSS-PARTY GROUP REGISTRATION FORM

NAME OF CROSS-PARTY GROUP
Cross-Party Group on Freedom of Religion or Belief
PURPOSE OF THE GROUP AND PROPOSED DISCUSSION TOPICS
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Please state the purpose of the Group. 2. Please also provide a brief explanation of the purpose of the Group and why the purpose is in the public interest. 3. 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. 4. Please also provide an indication of the topics which the Group anticipates discussing in the forthcoming 12 months.
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Group will discuss and consider how to promote freedom of religion or belief for any and all. 2. In the last Parliament there was a Cross Party Group on Religious Freedom and while this is a new group, there are similarities with the previous one. One specific difference this time is that the purpose will be Freedom of Religion or Belief while the previous group was only for Freedom of Religion. No other CPG focusses specifically on religion or belief yet this is one of the protected characteristics in the 2010 Equality Act. The intention is primarily to take an interest in the position of religious people overseas but we have left it open that we could also look at issues in Scotland and the UK. 3. There is no other CPG dealing with religion. There are country specific CPGs which might also be of interest to this CPG in relation to freedom of religion or belief, e.g. China, Pakistan. International Development or Racial Equality might also have some connection. However, overall I consider that there would be minimal overlap. 4. At the inaugural meeting we had a speaker who gave an overview of the situations facing Christians around the world. The intention over the next few meetings would be to do a similar exercise with overviews in relation to Jews, Muslims, Baha'i, possibly Muslim minority groups, etc.
MSP MEMBERS OF THE GROUP
Please provide names and party designation of all MSP members of the Group.
John Mason (SNP), Murdo Fraser (Conservative),

Gordon Lindhurst (Conservative), Jeremy R Balfour (Conservative), Elaine Smith (Labour), Kate Forbes (SNP), Ross Greer (Green), Alex Cole-Hamilton (Conservative)	
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	Brian Miller, David Bradwell, Martin Dore, Bill Wishart, Ray Kelly
Organisations	Open Doors, Church of Scotland, Aid to the Church in Need, Scottish Council of Jewish Communities, Scottish Council of Muslims, Free Church of Scotland, Christian Solidarity Worldwide, SOLAS Centre for Public Christianity, Release International, Bahá'í Community, Iona Community, Steadfast Global, Scottish Churches Parliamentary Office, Evangelical Alliance, Catholic Parliamentary Office
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	John Mason MSP
Deputy Convener	Murdo Fraser MSP
Secretary	TBC
Treasurer	NA
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 includes donations, gifts, hospitality or visits and material assistance such as secretariat support.	
None known at present. We have still to resolve secretarial support.	
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.	
No Subscriptions	
CONVENER CONTACT DETAILS	
Name	John Mason MSP
Parliamentary address	john.mason.msp@parliament.scot
Telephone number	07879 430 877

STATEMENT ON COMPLIANCE WITH THE CODE OF CONDUCT	
I declare that the Cross-Party Group on Religious Freedom is constituted and will comply with the terms of Section 6 of the Code of Conduct for Members of the Scottish Parliament.	
Signed	
Date	16/03/17