



The Scottish Parliament  
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

# Standards, Procedures and Public Appointments Committee

## MEETING DETAILS

13th meeting 2017, Session 5

**Thursday 29 June 2017** at 10am in the  
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:**

7 September 2017

### **Future Meetings:**

21 September 2017

5 October 2017

2 November 2017

16 November 2017

30 November 2017

15 December 2017



The Scottish Parliament  
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

**STANDARDS, PROCEDURES AND PUBLIC APPOINTMENTS COMMITTEE**

**AGENDA**

**13th Meeting, 2017 (Session 5)**

**Thursday 29 June 2017**

The Committee will meet at 10.00 am in the James Clerk Maxwell Room (CR4).

1. **Cross-Party Group:** The Committee will consider an application for recognition from the proposed Cross-Party Group on Women's Health, and take evidence from—

Monica Lennon, Convener of the proposed CPG on Women's Health.

2. **Cross-Party Group - approval:** The Committee will decide whether to accord recognition to the proposed Cross-Party Group on Women's Health.
3. **Work programme (in private):** The Committee will consider its work programme.
4. **Lobbying (Scotland) Act 2016 (in private):** The Committee will consider a background briefing from the Lobbying Registrar.

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Clerk to the Standards, Procedures and Public Appointments Committee  
Room TG.01  
The Scottish Parliament  
Edinburgh  
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The papers for this meeting are as follows—

**Agenda item 1**

Note by the clerk

SPPA/S5/17/13/1

**Agenda item 3**

PRIVATE PAPER

SPPA/S5/17/13/2 (P)

**Agenda item 4**

PRIVATE PAPER

SPPA/S5/17/13/3 (P)

**Standards, Procedures and Public Appointments Committee**

**13th Meeting 2017 (Session 5), Thursday 29 June 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 is one proposed Group for the Committee's consideration.

**Proposed CPG on Women's Health**

4. The registration form submitted by the proposed Group is attached as an annexe 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." Monica Lennon MSP 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—
  - ... to inform Parliament and policymakers on a range of health issues which only, predominantly or disproportionately affect women; to consider the impact which gender and inequalities has on women's health and their ability to access healthcare and treatment and to empower women to make informed choices about their health and ensure they are treated with dignity and respect.

*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—

- 1 Scottish Green Party
- 3 Scottish Labour Party
- 1 Scottish Liberal Democrat Party
- 2 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 two non-MSP members in the individual category and 21 in non-MSP 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: Monica Lennon MSP is the Convener of the Group and Alison Johnstone MSP is the Deputy-Convener.

*Financial Benefits and Subscription*

12. The registration form indicates that the financial benefits the Group receives will not exceed £500.

13. The registration form also indicates that members will not be charged a subscription.

**Next Steps**

14. At agenda item 1 the Committee is invited to discuss any aspects of the application for recognition of the proposed Cross-Party Group on Women's Health with Monica Lennon MSP and agenda item 2 the Committee will discuss whether to accord recognition to the proposed Groups.

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

## CROSS-PARTY GROUP REGISTRATION FORM

<b>NAME OF CROSS-PARTY GROUP</b>
Cross-Party Group on Women's Health
<b>PURPOSE OF THE GROUP AND PROPOSED DISCUSSION TOPICS</b>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Please state the purpose of the Group.</li> <li>2. Please also provide a brief explanation of the purpose of the Group and why the purpose is in the public interest.</li> <li>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.</li> <li>4. Please also provide an indication of the topics which the Group anticipates discussing in the forthcoming 12 months.</li> </ol>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The purpose of the CPG is to inform Parliament and policymakers on a range of health issues which only, predominantly or disproportionately affect women; to consider the impact which gender and inequalities has on women's health and their ability to access healthcare and treatment and to empower women to make informed choices about their health and ensure they are treated with dignity and respect.</li> <li>2. It's in the public interest to highlight the impact of gender and inequality on women's health so that these issues can be brought to the attention of policymakers and areas for policy change can be identified.</li> <li>3. It could be considered that there may be an overlap between the CPG on Health Inequalities. Regardless of this potential overlap, the CPG on Women's Health should still be established because the consideration of health conditions which predominately or only affect women, and the particular impact of gender, requires a broader forum. The purpose of the CPG on Women's Health is aimed at specifically considering the impact of gender and inequalities on women's access and experience of healthcare and treatment. This is not fully covered by existing CPGs.</li> <li>4. At the initial meeting, it was discussed that the following topics could be discussed over the next year: better awareness of the symptoms of endometriosis, disabled women and reproductive health and rights, structural gender inequalities impact on women's health (including caring responsibilities, domestic abuse), improving smear test attendance, increased awareness of and access to sanitary and incontinence products. These key topics are not an exhaustive of the full list of topics suggested at the initial meeting, with several other suggestions being provided as possible topics for consideration over the course of the Parliament.</li> </ol>

**MSP MEMBERS OF THE GROUP**

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

Monica Lennon MSP, Labour  
 Alison Johnstone MSP, Green  
 Gillian Martin MSP, SNP  
 Kenneth Gibson MSP, SNP  
 Anas Sarwar MSP, Labour  
 Alex Cole-Hamilton MSP, Liberal Democrat  
 Neil Findlay 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

Kate Sang (Researcher, Herriot Watt University)  
 Liita Cairney (Kalitasha)

Organisations

Engender,  
 Target Ovarian Cancer,  
 Royal College of General Practitioners,  
 British Medical Association,  
 Royal College of Nurses,  
 Chartered Society of Physiotherapists,  
 Endometriosis UK,  
 Royal College of Midwives,  
 Scottish Circle,  
 Jo's Cervical Cancer Trust,  
 NHS Health Scotland,  
 Girlguiding Scotland,  
 South Lanarkshire College,  
 City of Glasgow College,  
 Cancer Research UK,  
 Breast Cancer Care,  
 Rape Crisis Scotland,  
 British Menopause Society,  
 Breast Cancer Now,

	The Homeless Period, Simon Community Scotland
<b>GROUP OFFICE BEARERS</b>	
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	Monica Lennon MSP
Deputy Convener	Alison Johnstone MSP
Secretary	Nina Strathie (Chartered Society of Physiotherapists)
Treasurer	
<b>FINANCIAL BENEFITS OR OTHER BENEFITS</b>	
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.	
Financial benefits will not exceed £500	
<b>SUBSCRIPTION CHARGED BY THE GROUP</b>	
Please provide details of the amount to be charged and the purpose for which the subscription is intended to be used.	
<b>CONVENER CONTACT DETAILS</b>	
Name	Monica Lennon
Parliamentary address	M1.19, Scottish Parliament, Edinburgh, EH99 1SP
Telephone number	0131 348 6484

**STATEMENT ON COMPLIANCE WITH THE CODE OF CONDUCT**

I declare that the Cross-Party Group on Women's Health is constituted and will comply with the terms of Section 6 of the Code of Conduct for Members of the

Scottish Parliament.	
Signed	
Date	7 June 2017