



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Standards, Procedures and Public Appointments Committee

MEETING DETAILS

10th meeting 2019, Session 5

Thursday 6 June 2019 9.30am in the
Adam Smith Room (CR5)

COMMITTEE PAPERS

Agenda

Cross-Party Group application

Cross-Party Groups approval

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

[Meeting papers and Official Reports
from previous meetings](#)

NOTICES

Next meeting:

20 June 2019

Future Meetings:

26 June 2019 – informal session with Bill
Team

27 June 2019



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

STANDARDS, PROCEDURES AND PUBLIC APPOINTMENTS COMMITTEE

AGENDA

10th Meeting, 2019 (Session 5)

Thursday 6 June 2019

The Committee will meet at 9.30 am in the Adam Smith Room (CR5).

1. **Decision on taking business in private:** The Committee will decide whether to take items 4 and 5 in private.
2. **Cross-Party Group:** The Committee will consider an application for recognition from the proposed Cross-Party Group on Russia and take evidence from—

Andy Wightman, Convener of the proposed CPG on Russia.
3. **Cross-Party Group - approval:** The Committee will decide whether to accord recognition to the proposed Cross-Party Group on Russia and the proposed Cross-Party Group on USA.
4. **Work programme:** The Committee will consider its work programme.
5. **Correspondence:** The Committee will consider correspondence it has received.
6. **Sexual harassment and sexist behaviour (in private):** The Committee will consider the recommendations in the report from the Joint Working Group on sexual harassment and sexist behaviour.

Katy Orr
Clerk to the Standards, Procedures and Public Appointments Committee
Room Tower T3.40
The Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh
Tel: 0131 348 5239
Email: Katy.Orr@parliament.scot

The papers for this meeting are as follows—

Agenda item 2

Note by the clerk

SPPA/S5/19/10/1

Agenda item 3

Note by the clerk

SPPA/S5/19/10/2

Agenda item 4

PRIVATE PAPER

SPPA/S5/19/10/3 (P)

Agenda item 5

PRIVATE PAPER

SPPA/S5/19/10/4 (P)

Agenda item 6

PRIVATE PAPER

SPPA/S5/19/10/5 (P)

Standards, Procedures and Public Appointments Committee

10th Meeting 2019 (Session 5), Thursday 6 June 2019

Cross-Party Group Application

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 (the Committee) for its approval.
2. There is one proposed Group for the Committee's consideration.

Proposed CPG on Russia

3. The registration form submitted by the proposed Group is attached as and Annexe to this note.

Consideration by the Standards, Procedures and Public Appointments Committee

4. Paragraph 18 of Section 6 of the Code states "...one of the proposed Group's MSP office bearers (usually the Convener) will be invited to attend a meeting of the Committee to explain the justification for the proposed Group." Andy Wightman MSP has been invited to the meeting to discuss registration of the proposed Group.

Purpose

5. Paragraph 19 Section 6 of the Code states "the Committee will pay particular attention to a proposed Group's purpose. If the Committee considers that a proposed Group is not in the public interest but is intended, 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. If there is any overlap Groups are asked to provide justification as to why their aims could not effectively be achieved within an existing Group".

6. The stated purpose of the proposed Group is—
 - To foster and promote understanding between the peoples of Russia and Scotland at cultural, social, academic, political and economic levels and to increase economic and cultural exchanges between Russia and Scotland including the national and regional institutions of both countries.
7. The Group does not consider its remit overlaps with any other existing Group.

Membership

8. Paragraph 8 of Section 6 of the Code 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
- 1 Scottish Labour Party
- 1 Scottish Liberal Democrat
- 2 Scottish National Party

10. Paragraph 9 of Section 6 of the Code states that “Groups may also have members who are not MSPs” and that “any decisions about membership, including whether to limit the number of non-MSP members, are a matter for the Group itself.”. Members may wish to note that the proposed Group has listed no non-MSP members, Andy Wightman MSP, Co-Convener of the proposed Group, stated that—

- “Non-MSP members will be agreed at the first meeting should the CPG be approved.”

Office Bearers

11. Paragraph 10 of Section 6 of the Code 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: Andy Wightman MSP and Alex Cole-Hamilton MSP are the Co-Conveners of the Group.

Financial Benefits and Subscription

12. The registration form indicates that the Group will not receive any financial benefits.

13. The registration form also indicates that members will not be charged a subscription, although this is under review.

Further Information

14. The Committee may be aware that the Group did exist earlier in this session but disbanded in 2017.

15. The first iteration of the Group held its initial meeting on 26 October 2016. The meeting complied with the Code, in that two MSPs were present, the Group provided the registration form within the timescales and the Group provided minutes of that meeting.

16. The Group held another meeting on 9 February 2017, but this meeting was inquorate. The Group was required to hold another ordinary meeting and its AGM by 26 November 2017, which it failed to do.

17. The Group contacted standards clerks on 29 November 2017 to confirm that—

- “the Convener of the Group has decided not to continue the CPG due to lack of engagement from other MSPs and has informed the Secretariat

and other MSPs.”

18. Members may wish to consider what steps will be taken by the Group, if it is approved, to ensure that it complies with the rules in the Code of Conduct.

Next Steps

19. At agenda item 2 the Committee is invited to discuss any aspects of the application for recognition of the proposed Cross-Party Group on Russia with Andy Wightman MSP.

20. At agenda item 3 the Committee will discuss whether to accord recognition to the proposed Group.

**Sam Currie
Support Manager
Standards, Procedures and Public Appointments Committee
June 2019**

CROSS-PARTY GROUP REGISTRATION FORM

NAME OF CROSS-PARTY GROUP
Cross-Party Group on Russia
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. To foster and promote understanding between the peoples of Russia and Scotland at cultural, social, academic, political and economic levels and to increase economic and cultural exchanges between Russia and Scotland including the national and regional institutions of both countries. 2. The purpose of the Group is designed to provide opportunities for MSPs to share information, ideas and analyses on Russia within the context of a changing Europe and the security, economic, environmental, political and cultural issues that arise as a consequence. 3. None. 4. Propaganda and disinformation, education and culture, environment and business, trade and commerce
MSP MEMBERS OF THE GROUP
Please provide names and party designation of all MSP members of the Group.
<p>Andy Wightman MSP (Scottish Green)</p> <p>Alex Cole-Hamilton MSP (Liberal Democrat)</p> <p>Alex Neil MSP (Scottish National Party)</p> <p>Pauline McNeill MSP (Scottish Labour Party)</p> <p>Richard Lyle MSP (Scottish National 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	
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.	
Convener	Alex Cole-Hamilton
Convener	Andy Wightman
Secretary	Office of Andy Wightman MSP
Treasurer	
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.	
n/a	
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	
CONVENER CONTACT DETAILS	
Name	Andy Wightman MSP
Parliamentary address	MG.20
Telephone number	0131 348 6368

STATEMENT ON COMPLIANCE WITH THE CODE OF CONDUCT

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

Signed

Date

Standards, Procedures and Public Appointments Committee

10th Meeting 2019 (Session 5), Thursday 6 June 2019

Cross-Party Group Approval

Introduction

1. At its meeting on 16 May 2019 the Committee considered an application for recognition from the proposed CPG on USA, at that meeting the Committee agreed it wished to seek further information from Dean Lockhart MSP before approving the Group. The registration form for the Group is attached at Annexe A of this note. A copy of the letter from the Convener to Dean Lockhart and Dean Lockhart's response is attached at Annexe B to this letter.

Purpose of the Group

2. Paragraph 19 Section 6 of the Code states “the Committee will pay particular attention to a proposed Group’s purpose. If the Committee considers that a proposed Group is not in the public interest but is intended, 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. If there is any overlap Groups are asked to provide justification as to why their aims could not effectively be achieved within an existing Group”.

3. The Committee asked Dean Lockhart to provide further information on the public interest in establishing the CPG in light of the discussion held at the meeting on 16 May 2019. In the response from Dean Lockhart he confirms that he “believes there are a number of areas in which the CPG can increase the links between Scotland and America” and that Principal Officer Ellen Wong, US Consulate identified the following opportunities—

- ‘It would provide a forum for a cultural and historical exchange that would strengthen our historic relationship with Scotland, as well as offer the potential to share the story of Scotland and America with a wider and more diverse audience. It would also provide a space to discuss the economic and trade opportunities available through closer Scottish-U.S. ties. The U.S. Consulate General Edinburgh would welcome the opportunity to facilitate speakers from the U.S. Embassy in London, as well the Department for Commerce, which could highlight the benefits of greater economic cooperation and investment between our two countries. The Cross-Party Group would undoubtedly allow us to engage more directly with more MSPs from a range of parties, and conversely would give MSPs of all political stripes the chance to engage with the U.S. The Consulate General in Edinburgh itself stands ready to actively engage with the Cross-Party Group on cultural, trade, security and political links as soon it is formed, and we would welcome the opportunity for this further engagement with the Scottish Parliament.’

Membership of the Group

4. Whilst paragraph 9 of Section 6 of the Code states that “Groups may also have members who are not MSPs” and that “any decisions about membership, including whether to limit the number of non-MSP members, are a matter for the Group itself” Members of the Committee asked for further information on the level of interest from stakeholders in supporting and becoming members of the proposed Group. The response from Dean Lockhart MSP confirmed that the following organisations wish to become members of the Group, should it be approved—

- Principal Officer Ellen Wong, US Consulate
- The Scottish North American Business
- Carnegie UK Trust
- Scotch Whisky Association
- Scotland Food & Drink
- Scottish Life Sciences Association
- Scottish Chambers of Commerce
- Glasgow Chambers of Commerce and Aberdeen Chambers of Commerce (Invited but TBC)
- Oil and Gas UK
- Entrepreneurial Scotland
- I have also had positive discussions with the following organisations:
- Edinburgh Chambers of Commerce - who have now kindly agreed to act as the Secretariat for the CPG moving forward (this will be confirmed at the first meeting).
- Scottish Business Network
- Stirling University
- Edinburgh University
- Asia Scotland Institute

Next Steps

5. **Members are invited to confirm whether to accord recognition to the proposed CPG on USA.**

Sam Currie
Support Manager
Standards, Procedures and Public Appointments Committee
June 2019

CROSS-PARTY GROUP REGISTRATION FORM

NAME OF CROSS-PARTY GROUP
Cross-Party Group on USA
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 Cross-Party Group on USA seeks to promote relations between Scotland and the USA.</p> <p>The Group seeks to work with organisations and authorities to increase cultural, educational and economic exchange between the two countries, to engage with the Consulate General of USA in Edinburgh and other interested organisations.</p> <p>Topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Educational exchanges - Inspiring young people in Scotland to engage with the USA - Cultural Exchanges - Exploring joint initiatives in Life Sciences and Technology, increasing economic exchanges. <p>The Group does not consider there to be any overlap with any other group.</p>
MSP MEMBERS OF THE GROUP
Please provide names and party designation of all MSP members of the Group.
<p>Dean Lockhart MSP Conservative</p> <p>Anas Sarwar MSP Labour</p> <p>Rachael Hamilton MSP Conservative</p> <p>Alexander Burnett MSP Conservative</p> <p>Willie Rennie MSP Liberal Democrat</p> <p>Kezia Dugdale MSP Labour</p> <p>Murdo Fraser MSP Conservative</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	Lesley-Anne Campbell Julia McIntyre Thomas Heald William Stirling
Organisations	Edinburgh Chambers of Commerce Edinburgh University Stirling University Carnegie Institute
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	Dean Lockhart MSP
Deputy Convener	Anas Sarwar MSP/Alexander Burnett MSP
Secretary	Lesley-Anne Campbell
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	
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	Dean Lockhart MSP
Parliamentary address	Room M2.12, The Scottish Parliament, Edinburgh, EH99 1SP
Telephone number	0131 348 5993

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	Dean Lockhart MSP
Date	24/04/2019

Standards, Procedures and Public Appointments Committee

Room CG.07
EDINBURGH
EH99 1SP

Tel (Clerk): 0131 348 5239
e-mail: sppaccommittee@parliament.scot

21 May 2019

Dear Mr Lockhart,

Thank you for attending the Standards, Procedures and Public Appointments Committee on 16 May to answer questions about the proposed CPG on USA.

In order to aid the Committee in its decision on whether to accord recognition to the proposed CPG, I would be grateful if you could provide further information on the public interest in establishing the CPG in light of the discussion that took place at the Committee. The [Official Report](#) from the Committee is now available.

If you were able to respond by 31 May, this would allow the Committee to consider according recognition to the CPG at its meeting on 6 June.

Yours sincerely

Bill Kidd MSP
Convener
Standards, Procedures and Public Appointments Committee

Bill Kidd MSP
Convener
Standards, Procedures and Public Appointments Committee
The Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh
EH99 1SP

29th May 2019

Dear Convener

I am writing to follow-up on the Standards Committee meeting which took place on Thursday 16th May 2019, at which some MSPs requested additional background on the proposed CPG on USA and the level of interest from stakeholders in supporting and becoming members.

Further to those requests, please find attached correspondence from the following organisations to confirm that they want to become Members and will support the CPG. They are as follows:

- Principal Officer Ellen Wong, US Consulate
- The Scottish North American Business
- Carnegie UK Trust
- Scotch Whisky Association
- Scotland Food & Drink
- Scottish Life Sciences Association
- Scottish Chambers of Commerce
- Glasgow Chambers of Commerce and Aberdeen Chambers of Commerce (Invited but TBC)
- Oil and Gas UK
- Entrepreneurial Scotland
- I have also had positive discussions with the following organisations:
- Edinburgh Chambers of Commerce - who have now kindly agreed to act as the Secretariat for the CPG moving forward (this will be confirmed at the first meeting).
- Scottish Business Network
- Stirling University
- Edinburgh University
- Asia Scotland Institute

As set out in the letter from the US Consulate, I believe there are a number of areas in which the CPG can increase links between Scotland America. Ellen Wong has identified the following opportunities:

'It would provide a forum for a cultural and historical exchange that would strengthen our historic relationship with Scotland, as well as offer the potential to share the story of Scotland and America with a wider and more diverse audience. It would also provide a space to discuss the economic and trade opportunities available through closer Scottish-U.S. ties. The U.S. Consulate General Edinburgh would welcome the

opportunity to facilitate speakers from the U.S. Embassy in London, as well the Department for Commerce, which could highlight the benefits of greater economic cooperation and investment between our two countries. The Cross-Party Group would undoubtedly allow us to engage more directly with more MSPs from a range of parties, and conversely would give MSPs of all political stripes the chance to engage with the U.S. The Consulate General in Edinburgh itself stands ready to actively engage with the Cross-Party Group on cultural, trade, security and political links as soon it is formed, and we would welcome the opportunity for this further engagement with the Scottish Parliament.'

I trust the information held within assists the Committee in their considerations.

Yours sincerely,

Dean Lockhart MSP