



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Standards, Procedures and Public Appointments Committee

MEETING DETAILS

1st meeting 2017, Session 5

Thursday 12 January 2017 at 10am 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:

26 January 2016

Future Meetings:

9 February 2017
23 February 2017
9 March 2017
23 March 2017
20 April 2017
4 May 2017
18 May 2017
1 June 2017
15 June 2017
29 June 2017



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

STANDARDS, PROCEDURES AND PUBLIC APPOINTMENTS COMMITTEE

AGENDA

1st Meeting, 2017 (Session 5)

Thursday 12 January 2017

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

1. **Decision on taking business in private:** The Committee will decide whether to take item 4 in private.
2. **Cross-Party Groups:** The Committee will consider applications for recognition from three Cross-Party Groups, and take evidence from—

Tavish Scott, Deputy-Convener of the proposed CPG on Brexit;

Kenneth Gibson, Co-Convener of the proposed CPG on Improving Scotland's Health: 2021 and Beyond;

Bill Kidd, Convener of the proposed CPG on Nuclear Disarmament.

3. **Cross-Party Group - approval:** The Committee will decide whether to accord recognition to the proposed Cross-Party Group on Brexit, the proposed Cross-Party Group on Improving Scotland's Health: 2021 and Beyond and the proposed CPG on Nuclear Disarmament.
4. **Gender Balance:** 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 2

Note by the clerk

SPPA/S5/17/1/1

Agenda item 4

DRAFT REPORT

SPPA/S5/17/1/2 (P)

Standards, Procedures and Public Appointments Committee

1st Meeting 2017 (Session 5), Thursday 12 January 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 BREXIT

4. The registration form submitted by the proposed CPG on BREXIT 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." The Convener of the Group, Alex Neil MSP, is not available to attend the Committee meeting so Tavish Scott MSP, who is the Deputy Convener, 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 Cross-Party Group on BREXIT is—
 - To act as a watchdog over the BREXIT process to ensure Scotland's needs and priorities are being met.
 - To provide a forum for debate and discussion on all aspects of BREXIT and its aftermath.
 - To make contact with other European countries and institutions to examine the best ways forward for Scotland and the UK, post BREXIT.

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 Conservative and Unionist Party
- 3 Scottish Labour Party
- 2 Scottish Liberal Democrat Party
- 1 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 no non-MSP members in the individual category and no in non-MSP member organisations. **Members may wish to ask the Deputy-Convenor if the Group intends to have members that are not MSPs.**

Office Bearers

11. Paragraph 6.4.3 requires one MSP to be Convenor of the Group and there to be at least one other MSP office bearer. The proposed Group meets this requirement: Alex Neil MSP is the Convenor, Johann Lamont MSP and Tavish Scott MSP are the Deputy-Convenors and Oliver Mundell MSP is the Secretary.

Financial Benefits and Subscription

12. The registration form indicates the Group will receive no financial benefits.

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

Proposed CPG on Improving Scotland's Health: 2021 and Beyond

14. The registration form submitted by the proposed CPG on Improving Scotland's Health: 2021 and Beyond is attached at Annexe B to this note.

Consideration by the Standards, Procedures and Public Appointments Committee

15. Kenneth Gibson MSP has been invited to the meeting to discuss registration of the proposed Group.

Purpose

16. The stated purpose of the proposed Cross-Party Group on Improving Scotland's Health: 2021 and Beyond is—

- To take a solutions-oriented focus on how to improve the health of the people of Scotland by reducing the health harms caused by alcohol, tobacco, poor diet and obesity and

- To join up knowledge and learning, and to identify positive ways forward, with a range of stakeholders committed to improving public health and to preventing and reducing non-communicable diseases for the next generation.

Membership

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

- 2 Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party
- 1 Scottish Green Party
- 1 Scottish Labour Party
- 2 Scottish Liberal Democrat Party
- 2 Scottish National Party

18. The proposed Group has listed no non-MSP members in the individual category and 22 in non-MSP member organisations.

Office Bearers

19. The proposed Group meets the requirement in relation to office bearers: Kenneth Gibson MSP and Jenny Marra MSP are the Co-Conveners.

Financial Benefits and Subscription

20. The registration form indicates that the proposed Group will receive financial benefits from Alcohol Focus Scotland and Ash Scotland, who are the joint secretariat for the Group, as follows—

Based on an estimate of 4 meetings a year

Contribution of staff time from joint Secretariat - £3,768

Chief Executive contribution x 8 days = £2,464;
Administrative Support x 8 days = £1,304

Payment for Refreshments at meetings - £520

Estimated £130 per meeting;
2 paid for by Alcohol Focus Scotland - £260
2 paid for by ASH Scotland - £260

Total financial contribution: £4,288

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

Proposed CPG on Nuclear Disarmament

22. In Session 4 there was a CPG on Nuclear Disarmament. As members are aware all Groups from Session 4 that wished to re-register in the current Session had to do so by 30 October 2016. The proposed CPG on Nuclear Disarmament failed to meet this deadline and as such has to come to the Committee for consideration.

23. The proposed Group also failed to give the required notice period for its initial meeting.

24. The reason the proposed Group missed the deadline and did not give the required notice period for the meeting was due to the fact that the secretary to the previous Group was seriously ill.

25. The registration form submitted by the proposed CPG on Nuclear Disarmament is attached at Annexe C to this note.

Consideration by the Standards, Procedures and Public Appointments Committee

26. Bill Kidd MSP has been invited to the meeting to discuss registration of the proposed Group.

Purpose

27. The stated purpose of the proposed Cross-Party Group on Nuclear Disarmament is—

- To act as a policy forum for discussion and updating on how policy impacts on nuclear issues for Scotland.

Membership

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

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

29. The proposed Group has listed one non-MSP member in the individual category and one non-MSP member organisation.

Office Bearers

30. The proposed Group meets the requirement in relation to office bearers: Bill Kidd MSP is the Convener and Patrick Harvie MSP is the Deputy.

Financial Benefits and Subscription

31. The registration form indicates that the proposed Group will receive no financial benefits

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

Next Steps

33. At agenda item 2 the Committee is invited to discuss any aspects of the application for recognition of the proposed Cross-Party Group on BREXIT with Tavish Scott MSP, the proposed Cross-Party Group on Improving Scotland's Health: 2021 and Beyond with Kenneth Gibson MSP and the proposed CPG on Nuclear Disarmament with Bill Kidd MSP. The Committee will then discuss whether to accord recognition to the proposed Groups at agenda item 3.

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

CROSS-PARTY GROUP REGISTRATION FORM

NAME OF CROSS-PARTY GROUP
Cross-Party Group on BREXIT
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 remit of the Group, which will remain neutral on the issue of whether BREXIT should be supported or not, is: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To act as a watchdog over the BREXIT process to ensure Scotland's needs and priorities are being met 2. To provide a forum for debate and discussion on all aspects of BREXIT and its aftermath 3. To make contact with other European countries and institutions to examine the best ways forward for Scotland and the UK, post BREXIT 2. BREXIT is the single biggest political issue facing the Scottish people and the Scottish Parliament at present. Clearly the facilitation of debate, information dissemination and contact with key decision makers and influencers on this subject is essential. The cross party group is open to all MSP's who have an interest in the subject and to members of the public. It has a unique role in promoting the discussion and debate, without taking sides 3. The only potential overlap is with the official Committee of the Parliament. However, unlike the cross-party group, it is limited to the nominated members, provides only limited access for the public and doesn't have the facility which the Cross Party Group has to network with similar organisations throughout the rest of the UK and Europe 4. These would include the economics of BREXIT, the constitutional aspects of BREXIT, the implications for social and environmental policies, etc, the impact on relationships between Scotland and Europe and Scotland the other parts of the UK, etc
MSP MEMBERS OF THE GROUP

Please provide names and party designation of all MSP members of the Group.:	
To date the following MSP's who are joining include:	
<p>Alex Neil MSP, SNP</p> <p>Johann Lamont MSP, Labour</p> <p>Oliver Mundell MSP, Conservative</p> <p>Tavish Scott MSP, Liberal Democrat</p> <p>Neil Findlay MSP, Labour</p> <p>Pauline McNeil MSP, Labour</p> <p>Murdo Fraser MSP, Conservative</p> <p>Liam MacArthur MSP, Liberal Democrat</p>	
NON-MSP MEMBERS OF THE GROUP	
<p>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.</p> <p>To date we have not invited non-MSP's to join. We intend doing that when we receive formal approval to establish the Group</p>	
Individuals	
Organisations	
GROUP OFFICE BEARERS	
<p>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.</p>	
Convener	Alex Neil MSP
Deputy Convener	Johann Lamont MSP, Tavish Scott MSP
Secretary	Oliver Mundell MSP
Treasurer	To be appointed
FINANCIAL BENEFITS OR OTHER BENEFITS	
<p>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</p>	

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.	
At this stage we do not see the need for a subscription	
CONVENER CONTACT DETAILS	
Name	Alex Neil MSP
Parliamentary address	Room M3.09
Telephone number	0131 348 5703

STATEMENT ON COMPLIANCE WITH THE CODE OF CONDUCT	
I declare that the Cross-Party Group on BREXIT is constituted and will comply with the terms of Section 6 of the Code of Conduct for Members of the Scottish Parliament.	
Signed	Alex Neil MSP
Date	30 th November 2016

CROSS-PARTY GROUP REGISTRATION FORM

NAME OF CROSS-PARTY GROUP
CROSS PARTY GROUP ON IMPROVING SCOTLAND'S HEALTH: 2021 AND BEYOND
PURPOSE OF THE GROUP AND PROPOSED DISCUSSION TOPICS
<p>5. Please state the purpose of the Group.</p> <p>6. Please also provide a brief explanation of the purpose of the Group and why the purpose is in the public interest.</p> <p>7. 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.</p> <p>8. Please also provide an indication of the topics which the Group anticipates discussing in the forthcoming 12 months.</p>
<p>The purpose of the Group is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To take a solutions-oriented focus on how to improve the health of the people of Scotland by reducing the health harms caused by alcohol, tobacco, poor diet and obesity and • To join up knowledge and learning, and to identify positive ways forward, with a range of stakeholders committed to improving public health and to preventing and reducing non-communicable diseases for the next generation. <p>Background: ASH Scotland consulted on whether to seek to re-establish the CPG on Tobacco. Recognising the demands on MSPs' time, Willie Rennie MSP had suggested a new CPG with a broader public health/prevention focus. ASH Scotland, Alcohol Focus Scotland (AFS), Scottish Health Action on Alcohol Problems (SHAAP) and Obesity Action Scotland (OAS) formed a coalition to take this forward. The Drug & Alcohol Misuse CPG will continue with a stronger focus on care and services, and this group further proposes to join up thinking and experience in tackling health-harming commodities.</p> <p>Topics to be discussed in the forthcoming 12 months: It is proposed to hold around three or four meetings per year. Topic areas may include marketing and promotions; supply; reducing modifiable risk factors; economic impacts; societal levers for change. Priorities will be discussed with members.</p>
MSP MEMBERS OF THE GROUP
Please provide names and party designation of all MSP members of the Group.
Miles Briggs MSP – Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party

Alex-Cole Hamilton MSP – Scottish Liberal Democrats
 Alison Johnstone MSP – Scottish Green Party
 Ivan McKee MSP – Scottish National Party
 Willie Rennie MSP – Scottish Liberal Democrats
 Anas Sarwar MSP – Scottish Labour
 Maree Todd MSP – Scottish National Party
 Brian Whittle MSP – Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party

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

ALCOHOL FOCUS SCOTLAND
 ASH SCOTLAND
 OBESITY ACTION SCOTLAND
 SHAAP (Scottish Health Action on Alcohol Problems).

ADDACTION
 BRITISH HEART FOUNDATION SCOTLAND
 BRITISH LUNG FOUNDATION SCOTLAND AND
 NORTHERN IRELAND
 BRITISH MEDICAL ASSOCIATION
 CANCER RESEARCH UK
 CHEST, HEART & STROKE SCOTLAND
 FAMILIES OUTSIDE
 MACMILLAN CANCER SUPPORT
 MRC/CSO SOCIAL AND PUBLIC HEALTH SCIENCES
 UNIT, UNIVERSITY OF GLASGOW
 NHS HEALTH SCOTLAND
 PFIZER UK LTD
 THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS OF EDINBURGH
 THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF PSYCHIATRISTS
 SCOTTISH FAMILIES AFFECTED BY ALCOHOL AND
 DRUGS
 THE STROKE ASSOCIATION
 THE UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH

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	Two Co-Conveners:- Jenny Marra MSP – Scottish Labour Kenneth Gibson MSP – Scottish National Party
Deputy Convener	n/a
Secretary	Joint Secretariat between Alcohol Focus Scotland (Alison Douglas) and ASH Scotland (Sheila Duffy) Contact for Scottish Parliament website: Valerie Smith, Senior Executive Officer, ASH Scotland. Tel: 0131 220 9487; vsmith@ashscotland.org.uk
Treasurer	n/a
<p>FINANCIAL BENEFITS OR OTHER BENEFITS</p> <p>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.</p>	
<p>Based on an estimate of 4 meetings a year</p> <p><u>Contribution of staff time from joint Secretariat - £3,768</u></p> <p>(Chief Executive contribution x 8 days = £2,464; Administrative Support x 8 days = £1,304)</p> <p><u>Payment for Refreshments at meetings - £520</u></p> <p>(Estimated £130 per meeting; 2 paid for by Alcohol Focus Scotland - £260 2 paid for by ASH Scotland - £260)</p> <p>Total financial contribution: £4,288</p>	
<p>SUBSCRIPTION CHARGED BY THE GROUP</p> <p>Please provide details of the amount to be charged and the purpose for which the subscription is intended to be used.</p>	
n/a	
<p>CONVENER CONTACT DETAILS</p>	
Name	Jenny Marra MSP
Parliamentary address	M1.05 The Scottish Parliament Edinburgh

	EH99 1SP
Telephone number	0131 348 6427
Name	Kenneth Gibson MSP
Parliamentary address	M4.08 The Scottish Parliament Edinburgh EH99 1SP
Telephone number	0131 348 6536

STATEMENT ON COMPLIANCE WITH THE CODE OF CONDUCT

I declare that the Cross-Party Group on Improving Scotland's Health: 2021 and beyond is constituted and will comply with the terms of Section 6 of the Code of Conduct for Members of the Scottish Parliament.
--

Signed	
--------	--

Date	
------	--

CROSS-PARTY GROUP REGISTRATION FORM

NAME OF CROSS-PARTY GROUP
Cross-Party Group on Nuclear Disarmament
PURPOSE OF THE GROUP AND PROPOSED DISCUSSION TOPICS
<p>9. Please state the purpose of the Group.</p> <p>10. Please also provide a brief explanation of the purpose of the Group and why the purpose is in the public interest.</p> <p>11. 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.</p> <p>12. Please also provide an indication of the topics which the Group anticipates discussing in the forthcoming 12 months.</p>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To act as a policy forum for discussion and updating on how policy impacts on nuclear issues for Scotland. 2. To share information and expertise on nuclear issues for Scotland between MSPs, maximise information and expertise from external sources, including Scottish CND and other statutory, public and voluntary organisations which support the aims of this group. This group aligns with the public interest, embodied in the associated charitable organisations, due primarily to the humanitarian risks of hosting nuclear weapons and the need to talk about solutions whereby this risk can be minimised or eradicated. 3. NA 4. United Nations 2017 Conference on the Treaty to ban Nuclear Weapons on the grounds of humanitarian impact, as is the case with all other Weapons of Mass Destruction.
MSP MEMBERS OF THE GROUP
Please provide names and party designation of all MSP members of the Group.
<p>Bill Kidd SNP</p> <p>Patrick Harvie Green</p> <p>Claudia Beamish Labour</p> <p>Neil Findlay Labour</p> <p>John Finnie Green</p> <p>Ross Greer Green</p> <p>Mark Ruskell Green</p>

Elaine Smith Labour	
Sandra White SNP	
Andy Whiteman Green	
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	Janet Fenton
Organisations	Scottish Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament
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	Bill Kidd
Deputy Convener	Patrick Harvie
Secretary	Janet Fenton
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.	
NA	
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.	
NA	
CONVENER CONTACT DETAILS	
Name	Bill Kidd MSP

Parliamentary address	M3.01A, Scottish Parliament
Telephone number	0131 348 6591

STATEMENT ON COMPLIANCE WITH THE CODE OF CONDUCT

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

Signed	Bill Kidd MSP
Date	13.12.2016