

Standards, Procedures and Public Appointments Committee
Thursday 26 June 2025
12th Meeting, 2025 (Session 6)

Consideration of a change of purpose request for the Cross-Party Group on Deafness

Introduction

1. A request has been received from the CPG on Deafness to change its purpose.
2. The current purpose and the proposed new purpose are set out in the Annexe to this note.
3. The Convener of the CPG, Colin Beattie MSP explains in his letter of 6 June 2025:
 - In recent years, the CPG on Deafness has worked to support people who are Deaf and Deafblind. However, there is currently no mention of Deafblindness in our statement of purpose. We would like to amend our purpose to reflect our work more accurately and respect the preferred language of all our members.
 - In terms of key work centred on both Deafness and Deafblindness, we currently have two short life working groups operating across both areas – one developing a definition of Deafblindness for Scotland (launching this summer), and another centred on dementia and sensory care, including both Deafness and Deafblindness.
4. Under Section 6, paragraph 40 of the Code of Conduct, any such proposed change to the name or purpose of a Group must be drawn to the Standards, Procedures and Public Appointments Committee for it to decide if recognition should still be afforded to the Group.

Committee consideration

5. The Committee is required to decide whether, based on the information before it, is it content with the proposed changes and to continue to accord recognition to the Group.
6. In reaching a decision, the Committee may wish to be satisfied that the proposed purpose of the CPG Deafness is similar to the original purpose of the CPG.
7. The Committee is invited to consider whether to:
 - a) Approve the request;

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- b) Seek further information from the Convener of the Group, either in person or in writing; or
- c) Remove recognition from the Group and ask the Convener to submit a new CPG registration form.

Clerks to the Committee
June 2025

Annexe

Current purpose

Cross-Party Group on Deafness purpose:

To act as a channel of communication between the Scottish Parliament, individuals with deafness / hearing loss and organisations working or supporting individuals with deafness / hearing loss.

Proposed purpose

This Cross-party group's proposed purpose:

To act as a channel of communication between the Scottish Parliament, individuals with deafness / hearing loss / deafblindness and organisations working or supporting individuals with deafness / hearing loss / deafblindness.