

Standards, Procedures and Public Appointments Committee
Thursday 10 September 2026
2nd Meeting, 2026 (Session 7)

Re-registration of Cross-Party Groups (CPGs)

Introduction

1. [Section 6 of the Code of Conduct](#) for MSPs allows CPGs registered last Session to re-register. The Code provides that standards clerks, in consultation with the Convener, will sift proposed re-registrations, highlighting applications to be referred to this Committee for further scrutiny; either through a paper to the Committee or an evidence session with the proposed CPG's Convener.
2. CPGs seeking to re-register that are found in the sift to have met all the requirements for re-registration can begin operating again without having to seek fresh recognition from the Committee.
3. Paragraph 6.4 of the Code lays out the criteria for re-registrations—
 - *Name and purpose of Cross-Party Group*: These must be the same as were registered in the previous Session.
 - *MSP membership*: There must be at least 5 MSP members and at least one MSP from each of the parties or groups represented on the Parliamentary Bureau. [In June](#), the Committee agreed a modification of the latter part of this rule so that CPGs must have MSPs from 5 of the 6 Groups represented on the Parliamentary Bureau. An MSP cannot belong to more than 10 CPGs.
 - *Office-Bearers*: There must be at least 2 MSP office-bearers per CPG and one of them must be the CPG's Convener. An MSP can convene no more than 3 CPGs.
 - *Non-MSP membership*: There are two categories of membership, individual and organisational. For organisational members, it is the organisation that is the member and not the individuals that attend from that organisation. An individual or organisation is not a member of a Group until Standards Clerks have been informed.
 - *Financial Benefits*: Value and source of any financial benefit must be given. In the first instance, the Group will be contacted and asked to provide more information.
 - *Contact*: Must be the Convener of the Group.

Cross-Party Groups that have been re-registered

4. For information, these CPGs meet all the above criteria and have been re-registered:
 - Armed Forces and Veterans
 - Housing

- India
- Ukraine
- Beer and Pubs (subject to providing express confirmation of 3 named contacts)

Cross-Party Groups that require further scrutiny

5. The proposed CPG on Science and Technology has submitted a registration form for Session 7. This CPG was not compliant with the Code at the end of Session 6: it had held its AGM late and had not submitted an Annual Return.
6. At its meeting on [5 March 2026](#), the Session 6 Standards, Procedures and Public Appointments Committee agreed that:
 - *... any Cross-Party Groups which had not held an AGM or submitted an Annual Return, or had been late in doing so, should be referred to its successor Committee for a decision in Session 7 should they seek to re-register and to write to the Cross-Party Groups to which this would apply.*
7. In this session, Standards Clerks have encountered difficulties having the Registration Form and the Minute of the initial meeting submitted by the proposed Convener and not anyone else, as is an express requirement of the Code of Conduct (paragraph 6.24), although this was in the end achieved. In addition, there has been a breach:
 - Paragraph 6.30 of Code: All meetings, including the initial meeting, must be notified to the Standards Clerks at least 10 calendar days before the meeting. Clerks were notified on 16 June that the initial meeting would be held on 23 June. Clerks advised that this would be a breach and advised rescheduling.

Decision on CPG recognition

8. On 10 September, the Committee will have a brief evidence session from Clare Adamson MSP, prospective Convener of the proposed CPG on Science and Technology, to discuss the compliance with the rules on CPGs. The Committee will then consider under agenda item 3 whether to grant recognition to the proposed CPG. The Committee can:
 - Accord recognition;
 - Not accord recognition;
 - Accord recognition but conditionally: for instance, that no further breaches of the Code of Conduct occur within the next 6 or 12 months, in which case the Committee would withdraw recognition.

Clerks

Standards, Procedures and Public Appointments Committee