Standards, Procedures and Public Appointments Committee

4th Meeting 2021 (Session 6), Thursday 3 February 2022

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 (the Committee) for its approval.

2. There are four proposed Groups for the Committee's consideration.

Proposed CPG on Bangladesh

3. The registration form submitted by the proposed Group is attached at Annexe A 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." Foysol Choudhury 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 proposed Group will not be accorded recognition. The Committee will also consider whether the purpose of a proposed Group overlaps the purpose of an existing Group. If there is any overlap proposed 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 promote and enhance understanding between Scotland and Bangladesh at cultural, social, academic, political and economic levels.

7. The proposed Group does not consider its purpose 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—
 - One Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party
 - Two Scottish Labour Party
 - Two Scottish National Party

10. Paragraph 9 of Section 6 of the Code entitles groups to contain members from outwith the Parliament. The proposed Group has listed no non-MSP members in the individual category and 19 in non-MSP member organisations.

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: Foysol Choudhury MSP is the Convener of the proposed Group and Miles Briggs MSP is the Deputy-Convener.

Financial Benefits and Subscription

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

13. The registration form also indicates that members of the proposed Group will not be charged a subscription.

Proposed CPG on Changing Places Toilets

14. The registration form submitted by the proposed Group is attached at Annexe B to this note.

Consideration by the Standards, Procedures and Public Appointments Committee

15. Paul O'Kane MSP has been invited to the meeting to discuss registration of the proposed Group.

Purpose

16. The stated purpose of the proposed Group is-

- To raise awareness of the essential need of accessible toilets for all of Scotland's citizens.
- To investigate the feasibility of a Changing Places Toilets fund for local authorities and small community groups to access.

17. The proposed Group considers that "the CPG on Disability would be the closest overlap. Their CPG encompasses a huge brief on all aspects of disability. We would like to be separate to their group as we have one specific purpose of awareness".

Membership

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

- Two Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party
- Two Scottish Labour Party
- One Scottish National Party.

19. The proposed Group has listed one non-MSP member in the individual category and three in non-MSP member organisations.

Office Bearers

20. The proposed Group meets the requirement in relation to office bearers: Paul O'Kane MSP is the Convener of the proposed Group and Jeremy Balfour MSP is the Deputy-Convener.

Financial Benefits and Subscription

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

22. The registration form also indicates that members of the proposed Group will not be charged a subscription.

Proposed CPG on Migration

23. The registration form submitted by the proposed Group is attached at Annexe C to this note.

Consideration by the Standards, Procedures and Public Appointments Committee

24. Paul Sweeney MSP has been invited to the meeting to discuss registration of the proposed Group.

Purpose

25. The stated purpose of the proposed Group is—

• to provide a forum for stakeholders, policy-makers and those with lived experience to discuss any arising issues relating to migrants, refugees and those seeking asylum.

26. The proposed Group does not consider its purpose overlaps with any other existing Group.

Membership

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

- Three Scottish Green Party
- Three Scottish Labour Party
- Two Scottish National Party.

28. The proposed Group has listed no non-MSP members in the individual category and 11 in non-MSP member organisations.

Office Bearers

29. The proposed Group meets the requirement in relation to office bearers: Paul Sweeney MSP is the Convener of the proposed Group and Bob Doris MSP is the Deputy-Convener.

Financial Benefits and Subscription

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

31. The registration form also indicates that members of the proposed Group will not be charged a subscription.

Proposed CPG on People, Age and Ageing

32. The registration form submitted by the proposed Group is attached at Annexe D to this note.

Consideration by the Standards, Procedures and Public Appointments Committee

33. Jeremy Balfour MSP has been invited to the meeting to discuss registration of the proposed Group.

34. The Code requires all Groups to provide 10 calendars days' notice of all meetings, the proposed Group held its initial meeting on 19 January 2022 and only provided notification to standards clerks of the meeting 19 January 2022.

35. Standards clerks advised the proposed Group to re-schedule the initial meeting to ensure compliance with the Code.

36. The Group decided to go ahead with initial meeting on 19 January 2022.

Purpose

37. The stated purpose of the proposed Group is—

- Ensure that older people and the organisations supporting older people have opportunity to have their voices heard on issues that affect them.
- Ensure older people have an opportunity to participate in campaigns and policies that affect them.
- To ensure that rights and issues affecting older people are on the agenda in the Scottish Parliament.
- A space for those working in supporting older people to share resources, learning and events

38. The proposed Group does not consider its purpose overlaps with any other existing Group.

Membership

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

- One Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party
- Four Scottish Labour Party
- Two Scottish National Party.

40. The proposed Group has listed no non-MSP members in the individual category and 38 in non-MSP member organisations.

Office Bearers

41. The proposed Group meets the requirement in relation to office bearers: Jeremy Balfour MSP is the Convener of the proposed Group and Fulton MacGregor MSP is the Deputy-Convener.

Financial Benefits and Subscription

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

43. The form also indicates that members of the proposed Group will not be charged a subscription.

Next Steps

44. At agenda item 1 the Committee is invited to discuss any aspects of the application for recognition of the proposed Cross-Party Groups on—

- Bangladesh with Foysol Choudhury MSP;
- Changing Places Toilets with Paul O'Kane MSP;
- Migration with Paul Sweeney MSP; and
- Older People, Age and Ageing with Jeremy Balfour MSP.

45. At agenda item two the Committee will discuss whether to accord recognition to the proposed Groups.

Sam Currie Support Manager Standards, Procedures and Public Appointments Committee January 2022

Name of Cross-Party Group

Cross-Party Group on Bangladesh

Purpose of The Group and Proposed Discussion Topics

- 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.

To promote and enhance understanding between Scotland and Bangladesh at cultural, social, academic, political and economic levels.

Develop contact with the Bangladesh Parliament and other institutions including the Bangladesh consulate in Edinburgh and the Embassy in London. It will also be advancing mutual interests of Scotland and Bangladesh and represent the interest of people/organisations with Bangladesh background living and working in Scotland and act as a forum for the Community living in Scotland. To build a relationship with the All-Party Group on Bangladesh in the House of Commons and work on research and development for the growing Bangladeshi community in Scotland.

The CPG would be a new Group focused on Bangladesh and would not overlap any current CPGs.

Areas of topics will include investment/trade, tourism, travel, environment and education.

MSP Members of the Group

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

Foysol Choudhury MSP

Miles Briggs MSP

Sarah Boyack MSP

Evelyn Tweed MSP

Mercedes Villaba MSP

Non-MSP Members of the Group

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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	Edinburgh & Lothians Regional Equality Council (ELREC)
	Bangladesh Association Glasgow
	Bangladesh Samity Edinburgh
	Edinburgh Chamber of Commerce
	Edinburgh City Council
	Police Scotland
	Central Scotland Racial Equality Council
	Bangladesh High Commission
	Central Scotland Regional Equality Council
	Grampian Regional Equality Council
	West of Scotland Regional Equality Council
	East Lothian Council
	Midlothian Council
	West Lothian Council
	Lothian and Borders Police
	Lothian and Borders Fire and Rescue Service
	NHS Lothian
	Bangladesh Catering Association Scotland
	Edinburgh University South Asian Students Association – SASA

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	Foysol Choudhury MSP	
Deputy Convener	Miles Briggs MSP	
Secretary	Moumita Zeenat First Secretary Bangladesh High Commission in London	
Treasurer	NONE	

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	Foysol Choudhury MSP	
Parliamentary	M1.14	
address	The Scottish Parliament	
	Edinburgh	
	EH99 1SP	

Telephone	0131 348 6761
number	

Statement on Compliance with The Code Of Conduct

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

Signed	Foysol Choudhury MSP
Date	12/01/22

Name of Cross-Party Group

Cross-Party Group on CHANGING PLACES TOILETS

Purpose of The Group and Proposed Discussion Topics

- 5. Please state the purpose of the Group.
- 6. Please also provide a brief explanation of the purpose of the Group and why the purpose is in the public interest.
- 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.
- 8. Please also provide an indication of the topics which the Group anticipates discussing in the forthcoming 12 months.

1. The purpose of the Group is to raise awareness of the essential need of accessible toilets for all of Scotland's citizens.

To investigate the feasibility of a Changing Places Toilets fund for local authorities and small community groups to access.

2. Scottish disability charities and Scottish Changing Places Toilets Campaigners have been calling on the Scottish Government to recognise that not all Scotland's citizens are being treated equally. There is a section of our society that cannot access their basic human needs being met. Adults and children who have a disability are having their toileting care needs met by lying on a toilet floor with no privacy or dignity. This is due to lack of facilities. This can lead to a host of problems – infection, mental health issues due to not leaving their home and possibly hospitalisation.

This, in the long run, affects the Public Purse.

3. The CPG on Disability would be the closest overlap. Their CPG encompasses a huge brief on all aspects of disability. We would like

to be separate to their group as we have one specific purpose of awareness.

4. To invite "We are purple" – to discuss with the disability charity about their work that highlights the need for retail and business to change their outlook on disability.

Their charity brings disabled people and business together to change the conversation from one of disadvantage and inequality to one about potential and value.

To invite Parents, Carers and SEN Teachers to join the CPG and give testimony of their lived experiences and what they would like the Group to take to the Scottish Government to consider.

Tourism

To invite Visit Scotland to give testimony about the opportunity of Scotland being the holiday destination of choice for families living with disability; confident that all family members are catered for if the correct investment and advertising was in place. To give parent/carers the opportunity to discuss their lived experience of holidaying abroad with medical and travel insurance being extremely expensive. To discuss if Government investment would assist Tourism that has suffered badly over the past two years with the pandemic.

Architects

We would propose to invite The Royal Incorporation of Architects Scotland to discuss the feasibility of change to the design of what a disability toilet should resemble to allow all citizens the right of choice. To continue the work that led to the Planning (Scotland) Act update which included Changing Places Toilets Regulations. (From the **18th May 2020**, planning applications for large, public buildings in Scotland are required to include a Changing Places toilet based on regulations laid before the Scottish Parliament on the 6th March 2020).

MSP Members of the Group

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

Jeremy Balfour – Scottish Conservatives

Pam Duncan-Glancy – Scottish Labour

Paul O'Kane MSP – Scottish Labour

Alexander Stewart – Scottish Conservatives

Elena Witham MSP – Scottish National 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	Angela Dulley (Campaigner)
Organisations	PAMIS
	Enable Scotland
	Capability Scotland

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	Paul O'Kane MSP
Deputy Convener	Jeremy Balfour MSP
Secretary	Angela Dulley (Campaigner)
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.

Do not anticipate any financial benefit of this CPG

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.

Not applicable	
Convener Contact Details	
Name	Paul O'Kane MSP
Parliamentary address	M1.09
Telephone number	0131 348 5942

Statement on Compliance with The Code Of Conduct	
I declare that the Cross-Party Group on Changing Places Toilets is constituted and will comply with the terms of Section 6 of the Code of Conduct for Members of the Scottish Parliament.	
Signed Paul O'Kane MSP	
Date	5 th of January 2022

Name of Cross-Party Group

Cross-Party Group on Migration

Purpose of The Group and Proposed Discussion Topics

- 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.
 - 1. The purpose of the CPG is to provide a forum for stakeholders, policy-makers and those with lived experience to discuss any arising issues relating to migrants, refugees and those seeking asylum.
 - 2. Whilst immigration is a reserved matter, the CPG will engage, consider and raise awareness of ways that we can make an impact on issues regarding immigration and migration, asylum and refugees within Scotland.

This is in the public interest as there is not currently a CPG focusing on this area despite thousands in Scotland being impacted by issues relating to migration, asylum and refugees. The creation of this CPG would be particularly beneficial given recent, significant and relevant events taking place such as the passing of the Nationality and Borders Bill by the UK Parliament and the crisis in Afghanistan.

3. No CPG's of similar objectives have been identified.

4. A discussion regarding potential areas of focus and interest to the CPG took place at the initial meeting to constitute the group. Some of the topics which are anticipated to discuss are:

- Current and topical issues impacting asylum seekers, refugees and migrants in Scotland (e.g. COVID-19, Brexit, Borders Bill, access to education, rural and remote migration, detention, destitution, hotel accommodation etc).

- The rights of those resident in Scotland who are going through the asylum process and have refugee status.

- Scottish Government strategies such as the New Scots strategy and the Ending Destitution Together Strategy.

- Updates from third sector organisations and possibly those working on asylum, refugees and migration in other countries.

MSP Members of the Group

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

- Paul Sweeney MSP Scottish Labour and Co-operative
- Bob Doris MSP Scottish National Party
- Emma Roddick MSP Scottish National Party
- Maggie Chapman MSP Scottish Green Party
- Ross Greer MSP Scottish Green Party
- Mercedes Villalba MSP Scottish Labour and Co-operative
- Katy Clark MSP Scottish Labour and Co-operative
- Mark Ruskell MSP Scottish Green 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	N/A
Organisations	Maryhill Integration Network VOICES Network

Safe in	Scotland
British I	Red Cross
UNESC	0
Scottish	n Detainee Visitors
JustRig	ht Scotland
Positive	e Action in Housing
Migratio	on Policy Scotland
Refuge	es for Justice
Govan	Community Project

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	Paul Sweeney MSP
Deputy Convener	Bob Doris MSP
Secretary	Maryhill Integration Network
Treasurer	N/A

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	Paul Sweeney MSP
Parliamentary address	MG.05, The Scottish Parliament, Edinburgh, EH99 1SP
Telephone number	0131 34 86388

Statement on Compliance with The Code Of Conduct	
I declare that the Cross-Party Group on Migration is constituted and will comply with the terms of Section 6 of the Code of Conduct for Members of the Scottish Parliament.	
Signed	Int
Date	21 December 2021

Name of Cross-Party Group

Cross-Party Group on Older People, Age & Ageing

Purpose of The Group and Proposed Discussion Topics

- 5. Please state the purpose of the Group.
- 6. Please also provide a brief explanation of the purpose of the Group and why the purpose is in the public interest.
- 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.
- 8. Please also provide an indication of the topics which the Group anticipates discussing in the forthcoming 12 months.

The purpose of the group is to:

- Ensure that older people and the organisations supporting older people have opportunity to have their voices heard on issues that affect them.
- Ensure older people have an opportunity to participate in campaigns and policies that affect them.
- To ensure that rights and issues affecting older people are on the agenda in the Scottish Parliament.
- A space for those working in supporting older people to share resources, learning and events.

Topic that the group anticipates discussing are:

- The National Care Service legislation
- Care at home provision
- Winter Fuel benefits
- Employment & retraining for people aged over 50
- Appropriate housing for older people
- 20 minute neighbourhoods

- Ways to increase the influence of older people in Scotland and potential benefits of promoting the Champion role/network and a Commissioner role
- Funerals and bereavement
- Chronic pain
- Mental health
- More engagement with the First Minister's Advisory Group on Women and Girls
- Social Renewals Advisory Board recommendations
- Anne's Law
- Public transport and the net zero agenda

Issue affecting older people are an important issue and relate to many aspects of the Parliament's business. The Group does not overlap with other CPGs. It follows on from the previous Group on Older People, Age and Ageing.

MSP Members of the Group

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

Jeremy Balfour MSP – Scottish Conservative & Unionist Party

Fulton Macgregor MSP – Scottish National Party

Christine Grahame MSP – Scottish National Party

Richard Leonard MSP – Scottish Labour Party

Monica Lennon MSP – Scottish Labour Party

Rhoda Grant MSP – Scottish Labour Party

Katy Clark MSP – Scottish Labour 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	Age Scotland

Scottish Older Peoples Assembly
Scottish Pensioners Forum
Outside the Box
Food Train
Independent Age
Action on Elder Abuse Scotland
Action on Hearing Loss
Alzheimer Scotland
Befriending Network
British Geriatric Society
Camphill Communities
Campaign to end loneliness
Care Inspectorate
Centre for Cognitive Ageing, University of Edinburgh
Faith in Older People
Generations Working Together
Intergenerational Network
LGBT Health and Wellbeing
Life Changes Trust
Luminate
Mental Health Foundation
Places for People Care and Support
Roar – Connections for Life
Royal College of Psychiatrists
Royal College of Speech and Language Therapy
RoSPA – Royal Society for Prevention of Accidents
Scottish Borders Social Enterprise Chamber (SBSEC)
TIDE – Together in dementia everyday
Life Care – Vintage Vibes
Living Streets Scotland
1

Vegetarian for Life
Scottish Association of Social Work
Royal Voluntary Service
Scottish Ambulance Service
Scottish Fire & Rescue
Agile Scotland
Voluntary Centre East Ayrshire

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	Jeremy Balfour MSP
Deputy Convener	Fulton Macgregor MSP
Secretary	Christine Ryder – Outside the Box
Treasurer	No appointment as the group has no funds

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	Jeremy Balfour MSP
Parliamentary address	M 3.12, The Scottish Parliament, Edinburgh, EH99 1SP
Telephone number	0131 348 5960

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.</subject>	
Signed	JEREMY BALFOUR MSP
Date	25 January 2022