

Cross-Party Group Annual Return

Name of Cross-Party Group

Cross-Party Group on Credit Unions

Date Group Established (the date of establishment is the date in this parliamentary session that the Group held its initial meeting, where the office bearers were elected and not the date that the Group was accorded recognition. All Groups should hold their AGMs on, or before, the anniversary of this date.)

26th October 2021

Date of Most Recent Annual General Meeting (AGM)

17TH January 2024

Date Annual Return Submitted

7th February 2024

Date of Preceding AGM [this date is required to aid clerks in verifying that the most recent AGM has taken place within 11 to 13 months of the previous AGM]

19th December 2022

Group Meetings and Activities

Please provide details of each meeting of the Group including the date of the meeting, a brief description of the main subjects discussed and the MSP and non-MSP attendance figures.

Details of any other activities, such as visits undertaken by the Group or papers/report published by the Group should also be provided.

Meeting 29th March 2023:

- 27 total attendees. 3 MSPs in attendance and 24 attendees from the credit union sector (of which 7 were from credit union trade associations and 17 were invited guests from credit unions and Scottish Government)
- Meeting to discuss the cost-of-living crisis and survey conducted of the CPG members on what support would be helpful from Scottish Government including the promotion of the sector to help raise awareness and potential for funding opportunities.
- A Scottish Government official presented on Community Wealth Building and discussed how credit unions are key to the financial pillar.

Meeting 17th January 2024:

- 17 total attendees. 3 MSP's in attendance and 14 attendees from the credit union sector (of which 6 were from credit union trade associations and 8 were invited guests from the credit unions).
- CPG held AGM and annual election of office bearers. Remaining agenda focused on the priorities for the CPG in 2024, the expectations of the CPG and office bearers including secretariat. There was then a presentation on Artificial Intelligence in the financial sector to discuss the risk and opportunities available to the sector.

MSP Members of The Group

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

Tess White MSP (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party)

Paul Sweeney MSP (Scottish Labour and Co-operative Party)

John Mason MSP (SNP)

Stuart McMillan (SNP)

Graham Simpson MSP (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party)

Stephen Kerr 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

Association of British Credit Unions Ltd (Scotland)
Scottish League of Credit Unions

	ACE Credit Union Services UK Credit Unions Ltd National Credit Union Forum
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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	Tess White MSP
Deputy Convener	Paul Sweeney MSP
Secretary	Association of British Credit Unions Ltd.
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.

Association of British Credit Unions (Scotland) covers the cost of teas/coffees for in-person meetings. In the last session this cost £28.20 per meeting, so we anticipate a similar amount dependent on the cost of Scottish Parliament catering.

The CPG will have both in-person and online meetings in 2024 and anticipates two in-person meetings. ABCUL Scotland also provides secretariat support for approximately 8 days per year, at an estimated market value of £2,400.

In previous Parliamentary terms, the CPG has organised a reception in Parliament to mark International Credit Union Day, with financial support from CUNA Mutual for catering to the value of £2000. No arrangements are in place at this time to

hold a similar event over the next 12 months, but it is possible that the CPG may have a similar event at some point over the course of this Parliament.

TO BE COMPLETED BY THE CONVENER

COMPLIANCE WITH SECTION 6 OF THE CODE OF CONDUCT
(Please tick all boxes that apply)

I, Convener of the Cross-Party Group on <X>, hereby declare that, in line with the requirements of Section 6 of the Code of Conduct, this CPG has:

5 MSP Members from 3 different political parties	x
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Held at least 2 quorate meetings in the last 12 months	x
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Held an AGM within 11-13months of the date of registration or the last AGM	x
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Submitted an annual return form within 30 calendar days of the AGM	x
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Provided Standards Clerks with 10 calendar days' notice of all meetings	x
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Provided minutes of all meetings	x
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Signed	
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Date	15 th February 2024
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