

Cross-Party Group Annual Return

Name of Cross-Party Group

Cross-Party Group on Volunteering

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)

31st October 2024

Date Annual Return Submitted

11 November 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]

26th November 2023

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.

Meetings

27th March 2024

Chaired by Foysol Choudhury MSP and attended by Jeremy Balfour MSP. Also attended by 54 representatives from non-MSP member organisations.

This meeting explored solutions for the decline in volunteer participation. We heard from representatives at Volunteer Scotland about the most recent Scottish Household Survey data. We then heard an update on plans to launch a national volunteer recruitment campaign, and had the launch of Volunteers' Week plans. Finally, we heard from two young volunteers engaged through the YouthVIP programme.

31st October 2024: AGM

Chaired by Jeremy Balfour MSP and attended by Foysol Choudhury MSP. Attended by 35 representatives from non-MSP member organisations.

At this meeting we re-elected our office bearers, heard an update from Volunteer Scotland on proposals regarding PVG fees for volunteers, heard about further analysis of the 2022 Scottish Household survey results regarding volunteer hours contributed and the economic value of volunteering. We also heard an update about the National volunteer recruitment campaign, and two representatives from ACVO shared how they have promoted the Volunteer Charter with local community planning partners in Aberdeen.

Other Events/Actions

25th January 2024 (Not Quorate)

This meeting was chaired by Jeremy Balfour MSP and was attended by 37 non-MSP member representatives.

This meeting explored the relationship between volunteering, skills and employment. We heard from a representative at Volunteer Scotland about the benefits of volunteering for skills/employment. We then heard from Vikki Carpenter, CLD Standards Council, about volunteering in community learning and development (CLD). Finally, Kim Atkinson from the Scottish Sports Association led a discussion about what a 'Wellbeing Employer' model might look like for promoting volunteering.

PVG Fees Engagement with Minister for Children, Young People and Keeping the Promise

On the 7th May, the CPG sent an open letter to the Minister for Children, Young People and Keeping the Promise expressing concerns regarding the proposal to replace the current PVG fee waiver for volunteers in qualifying voluntary organisations with a fee discount. This letter can be viewed [here](#).

On the 19th September, representatives from 7 non-MSP members of the CPG attended a meeting with the Minister, chaired by Foysol Choudhury MSP to further express the potential impact of the proposal on volunteers, voluntary organisations, and vulnerable groups.

MSP Members of The Group

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

- Foysol Choudhury MSP: Co-Convener, Scottish Labour
- Jeremy Balfour MSP: Co-Convener, Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party
- Fulton MacGregor MSP: Member, Scottish National Party
- Alex Cole-Hamilton MSP: Member, Scottish Liberal Democrats
- Miles Briggs MSP: Member, Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party
- Paul O’Kane MSP: Member, Scottish Labour

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	David weir Helen Fleming
Organisations	Aberdeen Cyrenians Aberdeenshire Voluntary Action ACVO

Befriending Networks
Borders Pet Rescue
Breastfeeding Network
British Red Cross
Charity Retail Association
CHAS
Chest Heart and Stroke Scotland
Common Wheel
Community Leisure UK
Community Transport Association
Crossreach
Cruse Scotland
CVS Falkirk
CVS Inverclyde
Dyslexia Scotland
Edinburgh and Lothians Regional Equality Council
Edinburgh Children's Hospital Charity
Epilepsy Connections
Evangelical Alliance Scotland
Firsthand Lothian
Girlguiding Scotland
Healthcare Improvement Scotland
Highland TSI
Impact Funding Partners
Inclusive Skating
LifeCare Edinburgh
Macmillan
MaidSAFE Foundation
Marie Curie
NHS Tayside
Paths for All
Planning Aid Scotland
Rowan Alba
Royal Voluntary Service
Scottish Cycling
SCVO
Shetland Voluntary Action
SLCo
St John Scotland
Stroke Association
TACT
The Machan Trust
The Scottish Sports Association

	TSI Moray University of the West of Scotland VASLan Victim Support Scotland Vintage Vibes VoiceAbility Voluntary Action South Ayrshire Voluntary Health Scotland Volunteer East Lothian Volunteer Edinburgh Volunteer Glasgow Volunteer Scotland Volunteering Matters YouthLink Scotland 60 Organisation members
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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.

Co-Conveners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jeremy Balfour MSP: Co-Convener, Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party • Foysol Choudhury MSP: Co-Convener, Scottish Labour
Deputy Convener	N/A
Secretary	Sarah Latto, Volunteer Scotland
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.

No financial benefits

Convener Contact Details

Name	Jeremy Balfour MSP
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