

Standards, Procedures and Public Appointments Committee

19th Meeting 2022 (Session 6), Thursday 6 October 2022

Cross-Party Group Application

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 is one proposed Group for the Committee's consideration.

Proposed CPG on the Scots Language

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." Emma Harper MSP and Jackie Dunbar MSP have 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 remit 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 —

- The purpose of the Group is to preserve, promote and encourage the use of the Scots Language amongst MSPs, the wider Scottish Parliament and Scottish Society and to help inform the Scottish Government in taking forward legislation relating to the Scots Language.
- The group will also serve to raise questions of the Scottish Government, with the aim of ensuring support is available to those who wish to use the Scots Language and ensuring that Scots is recognised equitably to Scotland's other main languages, such as Gaelic.

Membership

7. 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.

8. The MSP membership (by party) of the proposed Group is as follows—

- Emma Harper MSP (Scottish National Party)
- Jackie Dunbar MSP (Scottish National Party)
- Ariane Burgess MSP (Scottish Green Party)
- Sarah Boyack MSP (Scottish Labour)
- Audrey Nicoll MSP (Scottish National Party)

9. Paragraph 9 of Section 6 of the Code entitles groups to contain members from out with the Parliament. The proposed Group has listed a number of non-MSP members in the individual category and in the non-MSP member organisations.

Office Bearers

10. 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: Emma Harper MSP and Jackie Dunbar MSP are proposed Co-Conveners of this group.

Financial Benefits and Subscription

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

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

Next Steps

13. At agenda item 2 the Committee is invited to discuss any aspects of the application for recognition of the proposed Cross-Party Group on—

- Scots Language with Emma Harper MSP and Jackie Dunbar MSP

14. At agenda item 3 the Committee will discuss whether to accord recognition to the proposed Group.

15. Members may wish to note the original application date was June 2022. The application was returned due to the proposed group being inquorate. This has caused the delay in consideration.

Vicky Moyes
Support Manager
Standards, Procedures and Public Appointments Committee
October 2022

Cross-Party Group Registration Form

<p>Name of Cross-Party Group</p>
<p>Cross-Party Group on Scots Language</p>
<p>Purpose of The Group and Proposed Discussion Topics</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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.
<p>The purpose of the Group is to preserve, promote and encourage the use of the Scots Language amongst MSPs, the wider Scottish Parliament and Scottish Society and to help inform the Scottish Government in taking forward legislation relating to the Scots Language.</p> <p>The group will also serve to raise questions of the Scottish Government, with the aim of ensuring support is available to those who wish to use the Scots Language and ensuring that Scots is recognised equitably to Scotland's other main languages, such as Gaelic.</p> <p>All meetings will take place from 6-7.30pm, with Meetings 1 and 2 (at least) taking place online using Microsoft Teams. From September 2022 onwards, we hope that Group meetings can be held in a 'hybrid' way with in-person attendance at Parliament for those who wish/are able to travel and online attendance for those who do not wish to/cannot travel.</p>
<p>MSP Members of the Group</p> <p>Please provide names and party designation of all MSP members of the Group.</p>
<p>Emma Harper MSP (Scottish National Party) Jackie Dunbar MSP (Scottish National Party) Ariane Burgess MSP (Scottish Green Party) Sarah Boyack MSP (Scottish Labour)</p>

Audrey Nicoll 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	Surname	First Name
	Dr Alcorn	Rhona
	Alexander	Marc
	Allan	Alasdair
	Anderson	Diane
	Anderson	Diane
	Ansell	Mike
	Armitage	Charlotte
		Damien (his
	Barr	PA)
	Beck	Alan
	Best	Sam
	Bett	Alan
	Bold	Valentina
	Briggs	Susi
	Buchanan	Sarah
	Burnett	Peter
	Byrne	Steve
	Cairns	Pauline
	Campbell	Isleen
	Capener	Jack
	Clark	Sara
	Clark	Thomas
	Crozier	Ian
	De Luca	Christine
	Dempster	Michael
	Dempster	Michael
	Dick	Karen
	Doric Language Board	
	Douglas	Ashley
	Enstam	Gwen
	Eunson	Bruce
	Everson	Michael
	Fairbairn	Jamie
	Fitt	Matthew

France	Peter
Fyfe	Iona
Gardiner	Hazel
Gibson	Rob
Gilliland	David
Gilmour Anderson	Jean
Godley	Janey
Green	Laura
Hall	Simon
Hance	Michael
Harvey	Andy
Harvey	Tracy
Heather	Alistair
Heddle	Donna
Hendry	Joy
Hershaw	William
Heywood	Alice
Hodgart	John
Horsbroch	Dauvit
Hubbard	Tom
Jones	Duncan
Kay	Billy
Khan	Asif
Kidd	Mairi
Kirk	Neil
Kopaczyk	Joanna
Kumar	Jenny
Lavery	Hannah
Lambert	Marc
Lowing	Karen
Leslie	Dawn
Lucas	Katrina
Lucas	Katrina
Maguire	Warren
Mackie	Matthew
Maley	Willie
Martin	Neil
Mason	Sarah
McAulay-Griffiths	Linda
McClure	Alan
McClure	Derrick
McDonald	Hamish
McDonald	James
McFarlane	Ishbel
McKean	Thomas

Miller	Alison
Morrison	Antonia
Morrison	Frieda
Mulholland	Alex
McNab	Fiona
Needler	Claire Louise
Nimmo White	Ian
Niven	Liz
Paterson	Stuart
Pescodd	Stuart
Prof Carruthers	Gerard
Prof Cowan	Ted
Prof Freeman	Fred
Prof Millar	Robert
Prof Purdie	David
Prof Purdie	Rhiannon
Publishing Scotland	
Rennie	Susan
Riach	Alan
Robertson	James
Robson	Frances
Ross	Jackie
Dr Royan	Nicola
Scobbie	James
Sherland	Marc
Shetland for Wirlds	
Smith	Donald
Smith	Donald
Smith	Jamie
Smith	Jennifer
Strachan	Kirsty
Thoumire	Simon
Tinker	Fiona
Todd	Jim
Tucker	Joanna
Turnbull	Rory
Uri	Antonia
Waddell	Christopher
Ward	Rosemary
Warnecke	Sylvia
Waters	Marilyn
Watson	Lori
Watt	George
West	Gary
Williamson	Christie

	<p>Wilson Wilson Yeoman</p> <p>Colin Rab Louise</p>
Organisations	<p>Organisation Scots Language Dictionaries</p> <p>Robert Burns World Federation</p> <p>Scottish Government</p> <p>Oor Vyce</p> <p>Ulster Scots Agency The National Newspaper</p> <p>Scots Language Centre</p> <p>Banff Academy, Doric Institute</p> <p>Scots Hoose</p> <p>Association for Scottish Literary Studies</p> <p>Scottish Poetry Library Creative Scotland</p> <p>East Ayrshire Council Scots Language Society</p>

	<p>Elphinstone Institute Scots Language Radio University of Glasgow</p> <p>Burns Bachelors Club</p> <p>Scottish Text Society Scottish Storytelling Centre Traditional Arts Culture Scotland Hands up for TRAD Robert Burns Birthplace Museum Scottish Book Trust</p>
<p>Group Office Bearers</p> <p>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.</p>	
Co-Conveners	<p>Emma Harper MSP (Scottish National Party) Jackie Dunbar MSP (Scottish National party)</p>
Deputy Convener	
Secretary	Scots Language Centre
Treasurer	
<p>Financial Benefits or Other Benefits</p> <p>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.</p>	

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	Emma Harper MSP
Parliamentary address	The Scottish Parliament Edinburgh EH99 1SP
Telephone number	0131 348 6143

Statement on Compliance with The Code Of Conduct	
I declare that the Cross-Party Group on Rural Policy is constituted and will comply with the terms of Section 6 of the Code of Conduct for Members of the Scottish Parliament.	
Signed	Emma Harper MSP
Date	06/06/22