

Standards, Procedures and Public Appointments Committee

21st Meeting 2023 (Session 6), Thursday 12 December 2023

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 Civil Nuclear Industry

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." Oliver Mundell 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 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 CPG will be the forum for Members of the Scottish Parliament (MSPs), stakeholders and interested parties to engage directly with each other in order to raise awareness of the opportunities and challenges facing nuclear decommissioning and the existing associated civil nuclear footprint, workforce, and supply chain in Scotland and to better inform the development of policy in this important area.
- We believe this is an important policy area with significant economic, social and environmental impact which at present receives limited parliamentary consideration due to political differences on energy policy. By bringing MSPs and stakeholders together the Group aims to ensure those employed in the Civil Nuclear Industry in Scotland and who live in the communities with close links to the industry have their voices heard in the Scottish Parliament. We are keen to explore issues such as skill shortages, opportunities for the Scottish nuclear supply chain and ensuring communities are involved in shaping future plans for existing sites. Given the current and planned increase in decommissioning activity, we feel it is important to explore in greater detail the opportunities and challenges this presents.
- The specific issues intended to be covered by the CPG are not currently catered for and that's why support for creating it exists among colleagues.
- In the next twelve months the CPG anticipates discussing:
 - Nuclear decommissioning work in Scotland
 - Activity at existing nuclear sites
 - Skill shortages, training opportunities and career paths
 - Opportunities for the supply chain in Scotland
 - Socio-economic and environmental benefits/impacts.

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—

- Oliver Mundell MSP – Scottish Conservative & Unionist Party
- Colin Smyth MSP – Scottish Labour Party
- Emma Harper MSP – Scottish National Party
- Paul Sweeney MSP – Scottish Labour Party
- Douglas Lumsden MSP – Scottish Conservative & Unionist Party
- Craig Hoy MSP – Scottish Conservative & Unionist Party
- Finlay Carson MSP – Scottish Conservative & Unionist Party
- Jamie Halcro-Johnson – Scottish Conservative & Unionist Party

9. 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 member in the individual category and one in the non-MSP member organisations. The proposed Group advise that a number of individuals and organisations have expressed an interest in joining the group and will seek to finalise this information once the group is established.

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: Oliver Mundell MSP and Colin Smyth MSP are the proposed Co-Conveners with Emma Harper MSP as proposed Deputy-Convener of this group.

Financial Benefits and Subscription

11. The registration form indicates that the Group anticipates secretariat support from the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority with an estimated value of £2,000.

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

Next Steps

12. At agenda item 2 the Committee is invited to discuss any aspects of the application for recognition of the proposed Cross-Party Group on Civil Nuclear Industry with Oliver Mundell MSP.

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

**Clerks
Standards, Procedures and Public Appointments Committee
December 2023**


Annexe A

Cross-Party Group Registration Form

Name of Cross-Party Group
Cross-Party Group on the Civil Nuclear Industry
Purpose of The Group and Proposed Discussion Topics
<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.
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The CPG will be the forum for Members of the Scottish Parliament (MSPs), stakeholders and interested parties to engage directly with each other in order to raise awareness of the opportunities and challenges facing nuclear decommissioning and the existing associated civil nuclear footprint, workforce, and supply chain in Scotland and to better inform the development of policy in this important area. 2. The purpose of the group is hopefully self-explanatory. We believe this is an important policy area with significant economic, social and environmental impact which at present receives limited parliamentary consideration due to political differences on energy policy. By bringing MSPs and stakeholders together the Group aims to ensure those employed in the Civil Nuclear Industry in Scotland and who live in the communities with close links to the industry have their voices heard in the Scottish Parliament. We are keen to explore issues such as skill shortages, opportunities for the Scottish nuclear supply chain and ensuring communities are involved in shaping future plans for existing sites. Given the current and planned increase in decommissioning activity, we feel it is important to explore in greater detail the opportunities and challenges this presents. 3. The specific issues intended to be covered by the CPG are not currently catered for and that's why support for creating it exists among colleagues. 4. In the next twelve months the CPG anticipates discussing: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nuclear decommissioning work in Scotland • Activity at existing nuclear sites • Skill shortages, training opportunities and career paths • Opportunities for the supply chain in Scotland • Socio-economic and environmental benefits/impacts

MSP Members of the Group	
<p>Oliver Mundell MSP – Scottish Conservative & Unionist Party</p> <p>Colin Smyth MSP – Scottish Labour Party</p> <p>Emma Harper MSP – Scottish National Party</p> <p>Paul Sweeney MSP – Scottish Labour Party</p> <p>Douglas Lumsden MSP – Scottish Conservative & Unionist Party</p> <p>Craig Hoy MSP – Scottish Conservative & Unionist Party</p> <p>Finlay Carson MSP – Scottish Conservative & Unionist Party</p> <p>Jamie Halcro-Johnson – Scottish Conservative & Unionist Party</p>	
Non-MSP Members of the Group	
<p>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.</p>	
Individuals	A number of individuals have expressed an interest in joining the group and the Convenors will seek to formalise this once the group has formed.
Organisations	<p>Nuclear Decommissioning Authority</p> <p>A number of additional organisations have expressed an interest in joining the group and the Convenors will seek to formalise this once the group is formed.</p>
Group Office Bearers	
<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>Oliver Mundell MSP (Scottish Conservative & Unionist Party)</p> <p>Colin Smyth MSP (Scottish Labour Party)</p>
Deputy Convener	Emma Harper (Scottish National Party)
Secretary	Nuclear Decommissioning Authority

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.	
An estimate of £2,000 for secretariat support.	
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	Oliver Mundell MSP
Parliamentary address	The Scottish Parliament, Room M3.21, Edinburgh EH99 1SP
Telephone number	0131 348 5631
Statement on Compliance with The Code Of Conduct	
Please read the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Convener of a Group is primarily responsible for ensuring that the Group complies with the Code; • Groups are required to have five MSPs from the majority of parties represented on the Parliamentary Bureau; • CPGs must hold at least two formal meetings per year, a formal meeting is a meeting where two MSPs, who are members of the Group, are present at the meeting • CPGs must provide Standards Clerks with 10 calendar days' notice of all meetings; • CPGs must provide minutes of all meetings; • CPGs must hold an AGM, within 11-13 months of the initial meeting, and each 11-13 months thereafter and • CPGs must submit an annual return form within 30 calendar days of the AGM. <p>I declare that I have read the above and that the Cross-Party Group on the Civil Nuclear Industry is constituted and will comply with the terms of Section 6 of the Code of Conduct for Members of the Scottish Parliament.</p>	

Signed	
Date	30 th November 2023