

Standards, Procedures and Public Appointments Committee
Thursday 16 May 2024
13th Meeting 2024, (Session 6)

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 Scottish Games Ecosystem

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." Clare Adamson MSP and Michael Marra MSP were invited to the meeting to discuss registration of the proposed Group. As Clare will be Convening another Committee, Michael has agreed to give evidence.

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 —
 - To promote the games sector in Scotland and build a thriving games ecosystem.
 - The games sector in Scotland has immense potential economically, socially, and culturally. Worldwide, the sector eclipses traditional entertainment media

– generating more revenue than the film and music industries combined. Gaming has increasingly become a focal point for cultural discourse and the vast array of applications for gaming technology are now being recognised as a vehicle for social change. Innovations in gaming tech are being used across education, healthcare, social inclusion, culture, and environmental policy.

- Scotland has played a pioneering role in the evolution of gaming since the 1980s. The country has produced some of the world’s most enduringly popular games but we want to focus on the future. There is a clear need for coordinated policy for the sector. A Cross Party Group would provide an ideal platform to bring a sense of unity for gaming in Scotland, it would allow the public to engage with games as a policy point, and it would be the bedrock for promoting a thriving Games ecosystem alongside the enormous benefits that would bring for Scotland.

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—

- Clare Adamson MSP (SNP)
- Michael Marra MSP (Labour)
- Stephanie Callaghan MSP (SNP)
- Ross Greer MSP (Green)
- Maurice Golden MSP (Conservative)

9. Paragraph 9 of Section 6 of the Code entitles groups to contain members from outwith 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: Clare Adamson MSP and Michael Marra MSP are the proposed Co-Conveners of this group.

Financial Benefits and Subscription

11. The registration form indicates that the Group anticipates secretariat support from the Scottish Games Network.

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

Next Steps

13. At agenda item the Committee is invited to discuss any aspects of the application for recognition of the proposed Cross-Party Group on the Scottish Games Network with Michael Marra MSP.

14. At agenda item 2 the Committee will discuss whether to accord recognition to the proposed Group.

**Standards, Procedures and Public Appointments Committee
May 2024**

Cross-Party Group Registration Form

<p>Name of Cross-Party Group</p>
<p>Cross-Party Group on Scottish Games Ecosystem</p>
<p>Purpose of The Group and Proposed Discussion Topics</p> <p>1. Please state the purpose of the Group.</p> <p>To promote the games sector in Scotland and build a thriving games ecosystem.</p> <p>2. Please also provide a brief explanation of the purpose of the Group and why the purpose is in the public interest.</p> <p>The games sector in Scotland has immense potential economically, socially, and culturally. Worldwide, the sector eclipses traditional entertainment media – generating more revenue than the film and music industries combined. Gaming has increasingly become a focal point for cultural discourse and the vast array of applications for gaming technology are now being recognised as a vehicle for social change. Innovations in gaming tech are being used across education, healthcare, social inclusion, culture, and environmental policy.</p> <p>Scotland has played a pioneering role in the evolution of gaming since the 1980s. The country has produced some of the world’s most enduringly popular games but we want to focus on the future. There is a clear need for coordinated policy for the sector. A Cross Party Group would provide an ideal platform to bring a sense of unity for gaming in Scotland, it would allow the public to engage with games as a policy point, and it would be the bedrock for promoting a thriving Games ecosystem alongside the enormous benefits that would bring for Scotland.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>There are no CPGs focused on the games sector or ancillary interests; we do not anticipate overlap.</p> <p>4. Please also provide an indication of the topics which the Group</p>

anticipates discussing in the forthcoming 12 months.

Games in Scotland's Education System

Scottish Games Week 2024

MSP Members of the Group

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

Clare Adamson MSP (SNP)

Michael Marra MSP (Labour)

Stephanie Callaghan MSP (SNP)

Ross Greer MSP (Green)

Maurice Golden MSP (Conservative)

Non-MSP Members of the Group


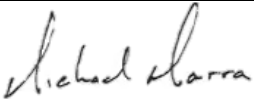
For organisational members please provide only the name of the organisation, it is not necessary to provide the name(s) of individuals who may represent the organisation at meetings of the Group.

Individuals

Dan Wood
 Roisin Kelly
 Mark Wong
 Emma Williamson
 Gregor White
 Lauren White
 Dale Murray
 Nathan Noble
 Sol Nicol
 Dominic Murphy
 Thomas McShane
 Mark McPhee
 Mark McCready
 Kenneth MacLeod
 Paul Leishman
 Greg Lee
 Jade Law
 Jade Law
 Ross Laurie
 Isabel Jones

	<p>James Hood Elena Hoege Douglas Hare Gareth Griffiths Anthony Gowland David Goutcher Michael Gallegos Jonathan Else Jaime Cross Declan Cassidy Jenny Caplan Cat Burton Brendan Burns Nils Bunnefeld Alexander Bradley Duthie John Bradley Gregor Boyd Matthew Barr Malath Abbas</p>
Organisations	<p>Scottish Games Network Devolver Digital Scopely Squidgeroo Ltd Dovetail Games Newdime Entertainment Edinburgh Napier University Ludus Pax Studios Creative Scotland Fish Tin Games Abertay University Dundee and Angus College The Great Beyond Company Koin Games Z Game Energy Skills Development Scotland Raftur Games Dink Reforged Studios World of Turnips RNIB Scotland Square Go Gamers</p>

	Yaldi Games Hallidonto.com Sea Stories Creative Studios LLC Dunoon Grammar School Firestoke UWS Edinburgh Napier University The Glasgow School of Art Cognition Events Into Games Stormplay Konglomerate Games
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-Convener	Clare Adamson MSP
Co-Convener	Michael Marra MSP
Secretary	Scottish Games 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	Clare Adamson MSP	Michael Marra MSP
Parliamentary address	M4.10 Scottish Parliament Edinburgh EH99 1SP	M1.02 Scottish Parliament Edinburgh EH99 1SP
Telephone number	0131 348 6376	0131 348 5943
Statement on Compliance with The Code Of Conduct		
I declare that the Cross-Party Group on the Scottish Games Ecosystem is constituted and will comply with the terms of Section 6 of the Code of Conduct for Members of the Scottish Parliament.		
Signed		
Date	21/03/2024	