



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Standards, Procedures and Public Appointments Committee

Rhoda Grant MSP
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Cross-Party Group on Human Trafficking Complaint

Dear Rhoda,

I write to you today further to my letter of 15 October 2024. At its meeting on 28 November 2024, the Standards, Procedures and Public Appointments Committee discussed the complaint received in relation to the Cross-Party Group on Human Trafficking.

The Committee's role in relation to CPGs relates to the rules set out in the [Code of Conduct](#) Code of Conduct. The complaint addressed several issues with one matter, a failure to provide minutes of the meeting on 6 September 2022 being considered by the Committee.

The Committee has concluded its consideration and found that the Group has not complied with the requirements of the Code in relation to the provision of the minute of meeting on 6 September 2022.

In your correspondence of 29 October 2024, you indicated that a change in secretariat had contributed to this oversight. The Committee would strongly emphasise that primary responsibility for ensuring compliance with the Code of Conduct rests with the Convener(s) of a Group. It is your responsibility to ensure that minutes accurately reflect the meeting that you convened. I refer you to [Section 6, paragraph 44 of the Code of Conduct](#) which specifically states:

The Convener of a Group is primarily responsible for ensuring that the Group complies with the Code. However, all other MSP members, and any secretariat, should also ensure that they are aware of the requirements in order to assist with the efficient operation of the Group.

The Committee has agreed not to impose sanctions on this occasion. However, it should be noted that the Committee takes compliance with the Code of Conduct by Cross-Party Groups very seriously. It recognises the important role that CPGs play in connecting MSPs with the stakeholders who have interest in and experience of issues considered by the Group.



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Should any further instances of non-compliance with the Code of Conduct occur, this may result in the Committee withdrawing recognition for this CPG.

A copy of this letter has been sent to the complainant. The Committee has also agreed that it will publish this letter.

Yours sincerely

Martin Whitfield MSP
Convener
Standards, Procedures and Public Appointments Committee