

## Cross-Party Group Annual Return

### Name of Cross-Party Group

### Cross-Party Group on Autism

**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.)

Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> May 2021

### Date of Most Recent Annual General Meeting (AGM)

Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> November 2024

### Date Annual Return Submitted

Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> December 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]

Monday 20<sup>th</sup> 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.

**22<sup>nd</sup> April 2024**

**‘Accessing Education: Exclusions and ‘presumption to mainstreaming’.’**

Attendance from: Alexander Burnett MSP, Daniel Johnson MSP, Stephanie Callaghan MSP, Annie Wells MSP, and Oliver Mundell MSP.

Also attended by 72 non-MSP members, including secretariat and speakers.

Main discussion points:

- Autistic teacher perspectives.
- Exclusion and lived experience
- Research on exclusions and the change of attitude needed

**23<sup>rd</sup> September 2024**

**‘Mental Health Law reform’**

Attendance from: Alexander Burnett MSP and Annie Wells MSP.

Also attended by 70 total non-MSP members including secretariat and speakers.

Main discussion points:

- Why outcomes of the review came about the Rome Review
- Effects on individuals of the law
- Additional challenges in mental health sector

**20<sup>th</sup> November 2024**

**‘The autistic employment gap’**

Attendance from: Alexander Burnett MSP and Annie Wells MSP.

Also attended by 63 total non-MSP members including Secretariat and speakers.

Main discussion points:

- Differences in experience between autistic men and women in the workplace
- How the Fair Work programme could be improved.
- What support is available for autistic people either looking for work or in employment

**MSP Members of The Group**

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

**Jeremy Balfour, Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party**

**Stephanie Callaghan, Scottish National Party**  
**Finlay Carson, Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party**  
**Fulton MacGregor, Scottish National Party**  
**Carol Mochan, Scottish Labour**  
**Oliver Mundell, Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party**  
**Mark Ruskell, Scottish Green Party**  
**Annie Wells, Scottish Conservative and Unionist 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.

<p><b>Individuals</b></p>	<p>Dr Catriona Stewart OBE, MCPP, FRSA, AID  Scotland Ltd  Sam Nicholson, Education Scotland  Cllr John Grafton  Callum McCrosson  Ash Loydon  Fiona Clarke  Ailsa Lindsay  David Weir  William Rae  Prof. Ben Paechter  Kate Monahan  Andrew Crosbie  Michelle Graham  Carrie Watts</p>
<p><b>Organisations</b></p>	<p>National Autistic Society Scotland  Scottish Autism  Autistic Voices Advocating Together for Autonomous Rights (AVATAR)</p>

HOPE for Autism  
The Donaldson Trust  
Perth Autism Support  
PASDA  
Autism Rights Group Highland (ARGH)  
Edinburgh & Lothian Asperger Society (ELAS)  
Borders Additional Needs Group  
Centre for the Transformation of Work, Heriot Watt  
University  
AT-Autism  
Education Scotland  
University of Strathclyde  
SWAN Autism (Scotland)  
Inspiring Scotland  
Into Work  
Aurora Autistic Consulting  
Play Scotland  
The Autism Network  
The Richmond Fellowship Scotland  
Autistic Knowledge Development CIC  
Autism Initiatives  
Autism Resources Coordination Hub (ARCH) South  
Lanarkshire  
Words That Carry On  
Aberdeenshire Health and Social Care Partnership  
Shared Lives Plus  
Autistic Flair  
NASUWT  
Autism International Development (AID) Scotland Ltd  
Learning Disability Group of Aberdeen &  
Aberdeenshire

## 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.

**Convener**

Alexander Burnett MSP

**Deputy Convener**

Daniel Johnson MSP

**Secretary**

National Autistic Society, Scottish Autism, Marion McLaughlin.

**Treasurer**

None.

## 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.

## TO BE COMPLETED BY THE CONVENER

### COMPLIANCE WITH SECTION 6 OF THE CODE OF CONDUCT (Please tick all boxes that apply)

I, Convener of the Cross-Party Group on <X>, hereby declare that, in line with the requirements of Section 6 of the Code of Conduct, this CPG has:

5 MSP Members from 3 different political parties

X

Held at least 2 quorate meetings in the last 12 months	x
Held an AGM within 11-13months of the date of registration or the last AGM	x
Submitted an annual return form within 30 calendar days of the AGM	x
Provided Standards Clerks with 10 calendar days' notice of all meetings	
Provided minutes of all meetings	x
Signed	<i>Alexander Burnett</i>
Date	28/11/2024