

Cross-Party Group Annual Return

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| Name of Cross-Party Group |
| Cross-Party Group on Deafness |
| 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.) |
| 21 September 2021. The Office Bearers were elected online. Meetings have been held online. It has improved attendance from across Scotland. |
| Date of Most Recent Annual General Meeting (AGM) |
| 1 October 2024 |
| Date Annual Return Submitted |
| 15 October 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] |
| 6 September 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. |

6 December 2023

Subjects included:

Substantive item - National Audiology Review

Working groups:

Two were at different stages of set up. The most advanced was on the definition of Deafblindness. The second on Attainment and the impact of teachers of the deaf was prioritised.

Also discussed was the setting up of a working group looking at older adults, age related dual sensory loss, dementia, and impacts of the aging population.

MSP Attendees 2

Non MSP Attendees 32

(Excluding Communication Support Professionals 4)

17 January 2024

There was one substantive item for discussion and action planning. It was the National Audiology Review.

The three working groups reported on progress.

Any other business raised the topic of lipreading and classes for tutors to deliver lipreading classes.

MSP Attendees 3

Non MSP Attendees 29

(Excluding Communication Support Professionals 4)

20 March 2024

Reports were taken on the National Audiology Review, BSL Plan progress and See Hear refresh update. The definition of Deafblindness working group reported its progress.

The substantive item was on the topic of attainment, children, families and young people. The group heard an update on Scottish Government thinking and discussed the implications to feed into the working group research questions.

MSP Attendees 2

Non MSP Attendees 30

(Excluding Communication Support Professionals 4)

19 June 2024

This was to be a meeting with Minister for Public Health and Women's Health, Ms Jenni Minto. The meeting was cancelled and rescheduled for September 2024

26 June 2024

Parliamentary Reception celebrating successes of people affected by Deafblindness, discussing the need for an agreed definition of Deafblindness in Scotland, and promoting the services of Deafblind Scotland.

MSPs attending 11

Non MSPs attending 52 (Excluding communication support workers)

11 September 2024

Presentation and discussion with the Minister, Ms Minto, on the National Audiology Review that was rescheduled from June.

Updates from the three working groups. Looking at reporting and starting to plan for 2025.

MSPs attending 5

Non MSPS attending 23

(Excluding Communication Support Professionals 4)

Details of any other activities, such as visits undertaken by the Group or papers/report published by the Group should also be provided.

MSP Members of The Group

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

Convenor: Colin Beattie MSP/SNP

Vice Convenor: Roz McCall MSP/Conservative from Jan 2023

Vice Convenor: Carol Mochan MSP/Labour

Karen Adam MSP/SNP

Annabelle Ewing MSP/SNP

Douglas Lumsden MSP/Conservative

Jeremy Balfour 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.

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| Individuals | Donald Richards Danny Sweeney |
| Organisations | NHS Audiology (Adults) NHS Audiology (Paediatrics) ASLI - Association of Sign Language Interpreters ATLA - Association of Teachers of Lipreading to Adults AVUK – Auditory Verbal UK BATOD - British Association of Teachers of the Deaf |

British Deaf Association Scotland
Deaf Action
Deaf Links
Deafblind Scotland
DEAF-South Lanarkshire
Disability Agenda Scotland
Dumfries and Galloway Hard of Hearing Group
Edinburgh Napier University
EIS - Educational Institute for Scotland
Forth Valley Sensory Centre
Hayfield
Hearing Link/Hearing Dogs for the Deaf
Heriot Watt University
Highland Blindcraft Sensory Services
NDCS - National Deaf Children's Society
NESS - North East Sensory Services
Queen Margaret University
RCSLT - Royal College of Speech and Language
Therapy
Respect Me
RNID
Sense Scotland
Scottish Sensory Centre, University of Edinburgh
Signature
SISG - Sensory Impairment Support Group
Skills Development Scotland
Tayside Deaf Forum
The Donaldson Trust
The NHS Highland Deaf Services
The Health and Social Care Alliance Scotland (The
ALLIANCE)

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| | The Scottish Mental Health Services for Deaf People WDCS – West of Scotland Deaf Children’s Society |
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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.

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| Convener | Colin Beattie MSP |
| Deputy Convener | Roz McCall MSP Carol Mochan MSP |
| Secretary | Hannah Tweed (the ALLIANCE) |
| Treasurer | N/A |

If the Group is not disclosing any financial information, please tick the box to confirm that the Group has considered the support received, but concluded it totalled under the threshold for disclosure (£500).

No income is raised by the group.
The ALLIANCE covers the costs for the Communication Support Professionals required at approx. £500 per meeting. Max £1500 per annum. It was £1100 approx for this year.

Subscription Charged by the Group

Please provide details of the amount charged and the purpose for which the subscription is intended to be used.

Not applicable.

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| Convener Contact Details | |
| Name | Colin Beattie MSP |
| Parliamentary address | The Scottish Parliament, Edinburgh EH99 1SP |
| Telephone number | 0131 348 6374 |