

## Cross-Party Group Annual Return

**Name of Cross-Party Group**

**Cross-Party Group on Fair Trade**

**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.)

23 June 2021

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

26 June 2024

**Date Annual Return Submitted**

22 July 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]

22 June 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.

November 2023 - held a joint meeting with CPG on Bangladesh looking at the textile industry in Bangladesh with Prof Aziz Islam of Aberdeen University and Mr Mohammad Ghayas Uddin of Community Crafts, Bangladesh. : Prof Aziz Islam, Chair in Accountancy and Professor in Sustainability Accounting & Transparency at the University of Aberdeen Business School. Prof Islam outlined some of his research on the practices of UK high street retailers buying textile products from Bangladesh. He highlighted the importance of the textile industry to Bangladesh and also how workers in the industry can be poorly paid and exploited. Mr Mohammad Ghayas Uddin, Community Crafts, Saidpur, Bangladesh, then spoke. He acknowledged the existence of the problems highlighted by Prof Islam along with the problems caused by climate change for the workers in the Bangladesh textile industry and their communities. Mr Ghayas set out how he had been involved with Fair Trade for over 40 years to assist textile workers to get fair treatment and payment.

3 MSPs attended and 22 non-MSPs attended.

March 2024 – held a meeting during Scotland’s first Fair Trade in Education Week – speakers were : Sreeranga Rajan of Dibella India; Louise White and pupils from Corpus Christi Primary School in Glasgow; Andy Ashcroft of Kool Skools; Eileen Imlah of New College Lanarkshire; and Diana Firth of West of Scotland Development Education Centre. Topics discussed included: textile supply chains, unfair and unsafe practices in non-Fair Trade textiles production, the availability of Fair Trade school uniforms, using Fair Trade to teach about interdependence in contemporary trade, the economy and society; and child labour.

3 MSPs attended; 25 non-MSPs attended.

May 2024 – Scottish Fair Trade presented on their new report on Fair Trade procurement by public sector bodies. Martin Rhodes of Scottish Fair Trade presented the findings of their publication: “Report into Fair Trade expenditure and policy commitments within Scotland’s public sector 2022-23”. He set out that the report looked at the policy and expenditure of public bodies in Scotland in relation to Fair Trade. He highlighted that it was easier this time, compared to the previous research covering 2019-22, to find policy documents but that problems still existed in getting data on expenditure in a number of ways. He reported that public bodies continue to define Fair Trade in different ways in recording and reporting sales. He highlighted the

recommendation in the report that a definition of Fair Trade as a product with the Fairtrade Mark or WFTO Product Label should be used as an indicator in recording, reporting and monitoring Fair Trade procurement. The recommendation is that the definition would be used as an indicator of purchasing to promote transparency and not in the procurement process itself.

2 MSPs attended and 18 non-MSPs attended

### **MSP Members of The Group**

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

**Colin Smyth MSP – Labour**

**Sue Webber – Conservative**

**Claire Baker - Labour**

**Sarah Boyack – Labour**

**Maggie Chapman – Green**

**Foysol Choudhury – Labour**

**Katie Clark – Labour**

**Tim Eagle – Conservative**

**Rona Mackay - SNP**

**John Mason - SNP**

### **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**

Peter Kennedy  
Arthur West  
Ailsa Henderson  
Sandra Burt  
Craig Sullivan  
Jane Forster  
Shirley Brown  
Martin Meteyard

<p><b>Organisations</b></p>	<p>Scottish Fair Trade Forum  Orkney Fair Trade Group  Aberdeen for a Fairer World  Linlithgow Fair Trade Group  University of Edinburgh  Stirling Fair Trade Group  West Lothian Fair Trade Group  Green City Wholefoods  British Association of Fair Trade Shops and Suppliers  Perth and Kinross Fair Trade Group  JTS (Just Trading Scotland)  East Ayrshire Fair Trade Group  Scotmid  Edinburgh Fair Trade Steering Group  Co-operative Party  Hadeel/ Palcrafts  Motherwell Fair Trade Group</p> <p>Glasgow Fairtrade C-operative  North Lanarkshire Fair Trade Group  Dundee Fair Trade Group  North Ayrshire Fair Trade Group  South Ayrshire Fair Trade Group  Ayr Fair Trade Partnership  Gavin's Mill  Dumfries Fair Trade Group  Rainbow Turtle  Queensferry Fair Trade Group</p>
<p><b>Group Office Bearers</b></p> <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>	
<p><b>Convener</b></p>	<p>Colin Smyth MSP</p>

<b>Deputy Convener</b>	Sue Webber MSP
<b>Secretary</b>	Martin Rhodes, Scottish Fair Trade Forum
<b>Treasurer</b>	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.**


The CPG has received no income and it has not received any in-kind support of a value more than £500

**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 Fair Trade, 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		x
Provided minutes of all meetings		x
Signed		
Date	22 July 2024	