

Cross-Party Group Annual Return

Name of Cross-Party Group

Cross-Party Group on Japan

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.)

5 October 2021

Date of Most Recent Annual General Meeting (AGM)

10 September 2024

Date Annual Return Submitted

09 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]

13 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.

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

Since AGM on 13 September 2023 there has been two meetings of the CPG.

A hybrid meeting took place on 12 June 2024 in Committee Room 3, which was convened by Colin Smyth MSP. There were two presentations during the meeting. The first was from the Consul General of Japan in Edinburgh, Mr Tadashi Fujiwara. This provided an overview on the recent developments in Scottish and Japan relations.

The second was a presentation from Professor Emeritus Ian Gow, Honorary Professor East Asian Studies at Edinburgh University on First Contact: The Earliest Scots in Japan. There was then a discussion and question session following the Consul General's presentation. The meeting also touched on topics that could be covered at future CPG meetings.

Further, Colin Smyth in his role as Convenor, took part in a number of events over the summer period including addressing the reception hosted by the Consul General of Japan in Edinburgh to celebrate the many performers from Japan taking part in the Edinburgh fringe as well as the Japanese Summer Festival in Shambellie House, Dumfries organised by JET AA (JET Alumni Association).

On 10 September 2024 the group held a further meeting including it's annual general meeting in TG24. At this meeting the secretariat was appointed. The Group also shared views in relation to potential *themes* which could also be considered. The next substantive meeting is due to take place in November or December 2024.

MSP Members of The Group

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

Colin Smyth MSP (Scottish Labour) Convenor

Alexander Stewart (Scottish Conservatives) – Vice Convenor

Craig Hoy MSP (Scottish Conservatives)
Paul Sweeney MSP (Scottish Labour)
Liam McArthur (Scottish Liberal Democrats)

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	David Birrell Doug Cook Michael Graham Thomas Heald Julia McIntyre Hisashi Kuboyama Alan Johnston Stuart Hamilton Sue Beatt Colin Loveday Pry Paulasaari Takashi Taji David Watt Professor Ian Gow OBE MA Phd DUniv FRAS FRSA
Organisations	Asia Scotland Institute Scottish Life Sciences Association University sector/ Japan Societies Scottish Chambers of Commerce Entrepreneurial Scotland The Whisky Ambassador Ltd The Institute of Directors Japan Society of Scotland Orkney Japan Association Kyowa Kirin

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	Colin Smyth MSP
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Deputy Convener	Alexander Stewart MSP
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Secretary	Dr Liz Smith CBE Director and Chief Executive of Scottish Chamber of Commerce
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Treasurer	N/A
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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

Convener Contact Details


Name	Colin Smyth
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Parliamentary address	M1.17
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Telephone number	0131 348 6986
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COMPLIANCE WITH SECTION 6 OF THE CODE OF CONDUCT

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	X
Provided minutes of all meetings	X
Signed	
Date	04 October 2024