

Standards, Procedures and Public Appointments Committee

4th Meeting 2021 (Session 6), Thursday 7 October 2021

Cross-Party Group Applications

Introduction

1. In accordance with the provisions on Cross-Party Groups (CPGs) set out in section 6 of the Code of Conduct (the Code), proposals for the establishment of CPGs in the Scottish Parliament must be submitted to the Standards, Procedures and Public Appointments Committee (the Committee) for its approval.
2. There are two proposed Groups for the Committee's consideration.

Proposed CPG on Circular Economy

3. The registration form submitted by the proposed Group is attached at Annexe A to this note.

Consideration by the Standards, Procedures and Public Appointments Committee

4. Paragraph 18 of Section 6 of the Code states "...one of the proposed Group's MSP office bearers (usually the Convener) will be invited to attend a meeting of the Committee to explain the justification for the proposed Group." Maurice Golden MSP has been invited to the meeting to discuss registration of the proposed Group.

Purpose

5. Paragraph 19 Section 6 of the Code states "the Committee will pay particular attention to a proposed Group's purpose. If the Committee considers that a proposed Group is not in the public interest but is intended, for example, to further particular commercial interests, the Group will not be accorded recognition. The Committee will also consider whether the purpose of a proposed Group overlaps the remit of an existing Group. If there is any overlap Groups are asked to provide justification as to why their aims could not effectively be achieved within an existing Group".
6. The stated purpose of the proposed Group is—
 - a) To help the Scottish Parliament to address issues around the establishment of a Circular Economy.

- b) To provide MSPs with a source of information and expertise on issues relating to the Circular Economy and related concepts.
- c) To bring together those with an interest in circular economic issues.
- d) To encourage co-operation within and outwith the Scottish Parliament in promoting the adoption of circular economic practices.
- e) To assist the Scottish Parliament in exploring circular economic concepts, meeting with circular economic experts and benefiting from their knowledge and experience.

7. The Group considers that whilst topics that are discussed may overlap with other Groups, it is recognised that the Circular Economy is a unique concept warranting specific consideration.

Membership

8. Paragraph 8 of Section 6 of the Code requires group membership to include at least five MSPs, with at least one MSP from each of the parties or groups represented on the Parliamentary Bureau. The Committee has previously agreed that there should be a general waiver of this Rule in the current Session and Groups are now required to have five MSPs from the majority of parties represented on the Parliamentary Bureau. The proposed Group meets this requirement.

9. The MSP membership (by party) of the proposed Group is as follows—

- three Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party
- one Scottish Green Party
- two Scottish Labour Party
- three Scottish National Party

10. Paragraph 9 of Section 6 of the Code entitles groups to contain members from outwith the Parliament. The proposed Group has listed one non-MSP member in the individual category and six in non-MSP member organisations.

Office Bearers

11. Paragraph 10 of Section 6 of the Code requires one MSP to be Convener of the Group and there to be at least one other MSP office bearer. The proposed Group meets this requirement: Maurice Golden MSP is the Convener of the Group and Monica Lennon MSP, Gillian Martin MSP and Mark Ruskell MSP are the Deputy-Conveners.

Financial Benefits and Subscription

12. The registration form indicates that no financial benefit is anticipated.

13. The registration form also indicates that members will not be charged a subscription.

Proposed CPG on Medicinal Cannabis

14. The registration form submitted by the proposed Group is attached at Annexe B to this note.

Consideration by the Standards, Procedures and Public Appointments Committee

15. Pauline McNeill MSP has been invited to the meeting to discuss registration of the proposed Group.

16. The proposed Group did not provide 10 calendar days' notice of the initial meeting, thereby breaching Section 6, paragraph 28 of the Code. The explanation given by the member of staff in Pauline McNeill MSP's office was—

- "I'd mistaken your instructions as meaning we needed to notify potential members (MSPs) ten days in advance, rather than the Clerks, so that's what's caused the breach."

Purpose

17. The stated purpose of the proposed Group is—

- "This new CPG seeks to better understand the benefits of Medicinal Cannabis and recognise case studies indicating its positive impact on patients suffering from a variety of conditions. It also seeks to support patient rights to get access to medicine."

18. The Group does not consider its remit overlaps with any other existing Group.

Membership

19. The proposed Group meets the requirement in relation to MSP membership which is as follows —

- two Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party
- four Scottish Labour Party
- one Scottish National Party.

20. The proposed Group has listed four non-MSP members in the individual category and three in non-MSP member organisations.

Office Bearers

21. The proposed Group meets the requirement in relation to office bearers: Pauline McNeill MSP and Rona Mackay MSP are the Co-Conveners of the proposed Group and Oliver Mundell MSP is the Deputy-Convenor.

Financial Benefits and Subscription

22. The registration form indicates that the proposed Group will receive no financial benefits.

23. The form also indicates that members of the Group will be not be charged a subscription.

Next Steps

24. At agenda item 5 the Committee is invited to discuss any aspects of the application for recognition of the proposed Cross-Party Groups on—

- Circular Economy with Maurice Golden MSP; and
- Medicinal Cannabis with Pauline McNeill MSP.

25. At agenda item 6 the Committee will discuss whether to accord recognition to the proposed Groups.

Sam Currie
Support Manager
Standards, Procedures and Public Appointments Committee
October 2021

Cross-Party Group Registration Form

<p>Name of Cross-Party Group</p>
<p>Cross-Party Group on THE CIRCULAR ECONOMY</p>
<p>Purpose of The Group and Proposed Discussion Topics</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Please state the purpose of the Group. 2. Please also provide a brief explanation of the purpose of the Group and why the purpose is in the public interest. 3. Please also provide details of any overlaps with the purpose of existing Cross-Party Groups and an explanation of why, regardless of any such overlap, the Group should be established. 4. Please also provide an indication of the topics which the Group anticipates discussing in the forthcoming 12 months.
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Purpose of the Group: This is a registration of the Group. The Group's purposes are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. To help the Scottish Parliament to address issues around the establishment of a Circular Economy. b. To provide MSPs with a source of information and expertise on issues relating to the Circular Economy and related concepts. c. To bring together those with an interest in circular economic issues. d. To encourage co-operation within and outwith the Scottish Parliament in promoting the adoption of circular economic practices. e. To assist the Scottish Parliament in exploring circular economic concepts, meeting with circular economic experts and benefiting from their knowledge and experience. 2. Purpose and Public Interest: The purpose of the group is to exchange ideas and learning around the development and support of the circular economy. <p>The group will consider how we progress towards a circular economy in Scotland, exploring barriers and highlighting potential solutions from all stakeholders from business and the third sector to government and consumers.</p> <p>The group may consider topics including, waste prevention, recycling, litter and fly-tipping, energy from waste, partnership working, pollution (marine and plastic), public procurement, bio-economy and other key sectors.</p> 3. Overlap with other Cross Party Groups: Whilst topics that are discussed may overlap with other Groups, it is recognised that the Circular Economy is a unique concept warranting specific consideration.

4. **Topics for discussion over the next 12 months:** Topics that will be discussed in relation to the Circular Economy include:
- Economic opportunities arising from waste
 - Chemical Transparency
 - Circular Economy impacts from community and third sector organisations
 - Deposit Return Schemes
 - Incineration
 - Marine plastic pollution
 - Recycling capacity and infrastructure
 - Re-use of consumer goods
 - Smart labelling of goods
 - Sustainable textiles
 - The impact of waste disposal on local communities
 - The global impact of waste exports
 - Waste management training and infrastructure

MSP Members of the Group

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

Sarah Boyack MSP, Lab

Finlay Carson MSP, Con

Maurice Golden MSP, Convener, Con

Neil Gray MSP, SNP

Liam Kerr MSP, Con

Monica Lennon MSP, Deputy Convener, Lab

Gillian Martin MSP, Deputy Convener, SNP

Mark Ruskell MSP, Deputy Convener, Green

Michelle Thomson MSP, 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	Mr Paul Smith
Organisations	Keep Scotland Beautiful Scottish Environment LINK

	Marine Conservation Society Community Resource Network Scotland Fidra Resource Futures
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	Maurice Golden MSP
Deputy Convener	Monica Lennon MSP Gillian Martin MSP Mark Ruskell MSP
Secretary	Phoebe Cochrane; Scottish Environment LINK Catherine Gemmell; Marine Conservation Society Kathryn Gill: Keep Scotland Beautiful Catherin Gunby; Fidra
Treasurer	Phoebe Cochrane; Scottish Environment LINK Catherine Gemmell; Marine Conservation Society Kathryn Gill: Keep Scotland Beautiful Catherin Gunby; Fidra
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.	
No such financial benefit is anticipated.	
Subscription Charged by the Group	

Please provide details of the amount to be charged and the purpose for which the subscription is intended to be used.	
No Subscription is charged	
Convener Contact Details	
Name	Maurice Golden MSP
Parliamentary address	M2.22
Telephone number	0131 648 6146

Statement on Compliance with The Code Of Conduct	
I declare that the Cross-Party Group on THE CIRCULAR ECONOMY is constituted and will comply with the terms of Section 6 of the Code of Conduct for Members of the Scottish Parliament.	
Signed	Maurice Golden MSP
Date	31 st August 2021

Cross-Party Group Registration Form

<p>Name of Cross-Party Group</p>
<p>CPG Medicinal Cannabis</p>
<p>Purpose of The Group and Proposed Discussion Topics</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Please state the purpose of the Group. 2. Please also provide a brief explanation of the purpose of the Group and why the purpose is in the public interest. 3. Please also provide details of any overlaps with the purpose of existing Cross-Party Groups and an explanation of why, regardless of any such overlap, the Group should be established. 4. Please also provide an indication of the topics which the Group anticipates discussing in the forthcoming 12 months.
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. This new CPG seeks to better understand the benefits of Medicinal Cannabis and recognise case studies indicating its positive impact on patients suffering from a variety of conditions. It also seeks to support patient rights to get access to medicine. 2. It is in the public interest as it will examine evidence-based research and will seek to investigate case studies where those with chronic illnesses could benefit from medicinal cannabis. 3. There is no overlap with any other CPGs. 4. <u>Anticipated Topics</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Access to Bedrolite, other cannabis-based drugs, high costs ✓ Red Card (Colorado), MedCan Card for Medical Cannabis ✓ Patient Rights (human rights) v Public Health ✓ NHS v Private Treatments ✓ Medical Benefits – risks, side effects ✓ Reducing Stigma – evidence based to unlock institutional (e.g. NHS) and political resistance ✓ Legislation for Cannabis Growers

MSP Members of the Group	
Please provide names and party designation of all MSP members of the Group.	
Pauline McNeill MSP - Labour Rona Mackay MSP - SNP Oliver Mundell MSP - Conservative Miles Briggs MSP - Conservative Monica Lennon MSP - Labour Paul Sweeney MSP - Labour Pam Duncan-Glancy MSP - Labour	
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	Carol Dew – office of Emma Harper, but attending in a personal capacity Cllr Ben Lawrie – Lib Dem Drugs Emergency Spokesperson Lisa Quarrell Dr Anna Ross – Edinburgh University
Organisations	Patient-Led Engagement and Access (PLEA) Scottish Patient sub-group, Scottish Cannabis Consortium, MS Society Scotland
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.	
Conveners	Pauline McNeill MSP & Rona Mackay MSP

Deputy Convener	Oliver Mundell MSP
Secretary	Dr Anna Ross
Treasurer	n/a
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 does not expect to receive financial benefits	
Subscription Charged by the Group	
Please provide details of the amount to be charged and the purpose for which the subscription is intended to be used.	
The CPG will not charge subscription.	
Co-Convener Contact Details	
Name	Pauline McNeill MSP
Parliamentary address	M1: 06, The Scottish Parliament, Edinburgh, EH99 1SP
Telephone number	T: 0131 348 6476
Co-Convener Contact Details	
Name	Rona Mackay MSP
Parliamentary address	The Scottish Parliament, Edinburgh, EH99 1SP
Telephone number	T: 0131 348 5789
Statement on Compliance with The Code Of Conduct	

I declare that the Cross-Party Group on <SUBJECT> is constituted and will comply with the terms of Section 6 of the Code of Conduct for Members of the Scottish Parliament.

Signed

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Pauline McNeill', written in a cursive style.

Pauline McNeill MSP

Date

21/09/2021