

Standards, Procedures and Public Appointments Committee

15th Meeting 2023 (Session 6), Thursday 21 September 2023

Cross-Party Group Application

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 is one proposed Group for the Committee's consideration.

Proposed CPG on Fisheries and Coastal Communities

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." Karen Adam 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 proposed 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 proposed 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 —

- To discuss and highlight how fisheries and coastal communities contribute to the culture and economy of Scotland. To inform MSPs and the wider Scottish Parliament about issues, policies and policymaking relating to fisheries and coastal communities in Scotland. To contribute to the development and promotion of fisheries and coastal communities in Scotland. To seek solutions for long-term strategic issues facing fisheries and coastal communities. To welcome contributions from the stakeholders of the blue economy and coastal communities and learn how the Scottish Parliament and Scottish Government can better support fisheries and coastal communities.
- Fishing has significant economic and cultural value in Scotland. The fishing sector contributes hundreds of millions of pounds of Gross Value Added to the Scottish economy and seafood is one of Scotland's largest exports. Climate change is affecting fish ecology and fish distribution of commercially important species. The Scottish Government's efforts to address the impacts on climate change will likely have an impact on fisheries and the coastal communities that depend on the blue economy.

Membership

7. 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.

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

- Karen Adam MSP (Scottish National Party)
- Beatrice Wishart MSP (Scottish Liberal Democrats)
- Jamie Green MSP (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party)
- Ariane Burgess MSP (Scottish Greens)
- Alasdair Allan MSP (Scottish National Party)

9. Paragraph 9 of Section 6 of the Code entitles groups to contain members from outwith the Parliament. The proposed Group has not listed any non-MSP members in the individual category or in the non-MSP member organisations but did highlight discussions were underway with potential non-MSP members.

Office Bearers

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: Karen Adam MSP is the proposed Convener and Beatrice Wishart MSP is the proposed Deputy-Convener of this group.

Financial Benefits and Subscription

10. The registration form indicates that the Group anticipates secretariat support from Pagoda, financed by the Fishermonger's Company and that discussions were underway.

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

Next Steps

12. At agenda item 2 the Committee is invited to discuss any aspects of the application for recognition of the proposed Cross-Party Group on—

- Fisheries and Coastal Communities with Karen Adam MSP

13. At agenda item 3 the Committee will discuss whether to accord recognition to the proposed Group.

Vicky Moyes
Support Manager
Standards, Procedures and Public Appointments Committee
September 2023

Annexe A

Cross-Party Group Registration Form

<p>Name of Cross-Party Group</p>
<p>Cross-Party Group on Fisheries and Coastal Communities</p>
<p>Purpose of The Group and Proposed Discussion Topics</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To discuss and highlight how fisheries and coastal communities contribute to the culture and economy of Scotland. To inform MSPs and the wider Scottish Parliament about issues, policies and policymaking relating to fisheries and coastal communities in Scotland. To contribute to the development and promotion of fisheries and coastal communities in Scotland. To seek solutions for long-term strategic issues facing fisheries and coastal communities. To welcome contributions from the stakeholders of the blue economy and coastal communities and learn how the Scottish Parliament and Scottish Government can better support fisheries and coastal communities. 2. Fishing has significant economic and cultural value in Scotland. The fishing sector contributes hundreds of millions of pounds of Gross Value Added to the Scottish economy and seafood is one of Scotland's largest exports. Climate change is affecting fish ecology and fish distribution of commercially important species. The Scottish Government's efforts to address the impacts on climate change will likely have an impact on fisheries and the coastal communities that depend on the blue economy. 3. The Cross-Party Group on Maritime and Shipbuilding may overlap with the Cross-Party Group on Fisheries and Coastal Communities insofar as both aim to discuss and highlight how certain industries which are predominantly coastal in nature contribute to the Scottish economy and public life, but the former does not specifically address fisheries which is a distinct sector. 4. In the forthcoming twelve months, the Cross-Party Group on Fisheries and Coastal Communities anticipates discussing topics such as the impact of treaties, protocols, proposals and reserved and devolved legislation on fisheries. The Cross-Party Group on Fisheries and Coastal Communities expects to focus primarily on Highly Protected Marine Areas (HPMAs) and the so-called 'spatial squeeze' in the coming months.

--

MSP Members of the Group

Karen Adam MSP (Scottish National Party) Beatrice Wishart MSP
(Scottish Liberal Democrats)

Jamie Green MSP (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party) Ariane
Burgess MSP (Scottish Greens)

Alasdair Allan MSP (Scottish National Party)

Non-MSP Members of the Group

Unconfirmed. Discussions underway with potential non-MSP
Members.

Individuals	N/A
-------------	-----

Organisations	N/A
---------------	-----

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	Karen Adam MSP
----------	----------------

Deputy Convener	Beatrice Wishart MSP
-----------------	----------------------

Secretary	N/A
-----------	-----

Treasurer	N/A
-----------	-----

Financial Benefits or Other Benefits

The Group anticipates secretariat support from Pagoda, financed by the Fishermonger's Company. At this stage, discussions are underway.

--

Subscription Charged by the Group	
N/A	
Convener Contact Details	
Name	Karen Adam MSP
Parliamentary address	Room M5.10 Scottish Parliament Edinburgh EH99 1SP
Telephone number	+44 (0) 131 348 6813

Statement on Compliance with The Code Of Conduct

Please read the following:

- The Convener of a Group is primarily responsible for ensuring that the Group complies with the Code;
- Groups are required to have five MSPs from the majority of parties represented on the Parliamentary Bureau;
- CPGs must hold at least two formal meetings per year, a formal meeting is a meeting where two MSPs, who are members of the Group, are present at the meeting
- CPGs must provide Standards Clerks with 10 calendar days' notice of all meetings;
- CPGs must provide minutes of all meetings;
- CPGs must hold an AGM, within 11-13 months of the initial meeting, and each 11-13 months thereafter and
- CPGs must submit an annual return form within 30 calendar days of the AGM.

I declare that I have read the above and that the Cross-Party Group on Fisheries and Coastal Communities is constituted and will comply with the terms of Section 6 of the Code of Conduct for Members of the Scottish Parliament.

Signed	Karen Adam MSP
Date	Wednesday 7th June 2023