

**Standards, Procedures and Public Appointments Committee**  
**Thursday 30 May 2024**  
**15th Meeting 2024, (Session 6)**

## **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 Brain Tumours**

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." The proposed Convener Beatrice Wishart MSP will be in attendance to give evidence.

### **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 is that it "Will raise awareness of the issues facing the brain tumour community in order to improve research, diagnosis, information, support, treatment and care outcomes."

### **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—

- Beatrice Wishart MSP (Liberal Democrats)
- Colin Smyth MSP (Labour)
- Foyso Choudhury MSP (Labour)
- Ben Macpherson MSP (Scottish National Party)
- Finlay Carson MSP (Conservatives)
- Jackie Bailie MSP (Labour)
- Jackson Carlaw MSP (Conservatives)

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

## **Office Bearers**

10. 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: Beatrice Wishart MSP is the proposed Convener of this group and Colin Smyth MSP, Finlay Carson MSP and Ben Macpherson MSP are the proposed Deputy-Conveners.

## **Financial Benefits and Subscription**

11. The registration form indicates that the Group anticipates secretariat support from Brain Tumour Research.

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

## **Next Steps**

13. At agenda item 2 the Committee is invited to discuss any aspects of the application for recognition of the proposed Cross-Party Group on the Brain Tumours with Beatrice Wishart MSP.

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

**Standards, Procedures and Public Appointments Committee,  
May 2024**

## Cross-Party Group Registration Form

<p><b>Name of Cross-Party Group</b></p>
<p>Cross-Party Group on Brain Tumours</p>
<p><b>Purpose of The Group and Proposed Discussion Topics</b></p> <p>1. Please state the purpose of the Group.</p> <p><b>The Cross-Party Group will raise awareness of the issues facing the brain tumour community in order to improve research, diagnosis, information, support, treatment and care outcomes.</b></p> <p>2. Please also provide a brief explanation of the purpose of the Group and why the purpose is in the public interest.</p> <p><b>Brain tumours kill more children and adults under the age of 40 than any other cancer, yet historically just 1% of the national spend on cancer research has been allocated to this devastating disease.</b></p> <p><b>Whilst the last 20 years has seen a revolution in our understanding of how cancer develops, options for treating brain tumours are very limited and it remains one of the deadliest forms of cancer. Substantial effort is required to change this situation.</b></p> <p>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.</p> <p><b>The Cross-Party Group on Cancer acts as a channel of communications between the Scottish Parliament and people and organisations working in cancer research, treatment, care and prevention.</b></p> <p><b>Regardless of the overlaps, a Cross-Party Group on Brain Tumours is needed. Brain tumours are uniquely complex and require a different approach in many areas of cancer care to other cancers.</b></p> <p><b>Moreover, brain tumour survival remains low, and has changed little in over a generation, which is why they need to be made a strategic and clinical priority, as a cancer of unmet need.</b></p>

4. Please also provide an indication of the topics which the Group anticipates discussing in the forthcoming 12 months.	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Brain Tumour awareness training for medical professionals</li> <li>- Patient quality of life post-treatment</li> <li>- Funding into specific brain tumour support</li> <li>- Highlight challenges in rural areas</li> </ul>	
<b>MSP Members of the Group</b>	
Please provide names and party designation of all MSP members of the Group.	
Beatrice Wishart MSP Colin Smyth MSP Foysol Choudhury MSP Ben McPherson MSP Finlay Carson MSP Jackie Bailie MSP Jackson Carlaw MSP	
<b>Non-MSP Members of the Group</b>	
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	Thomas Brayford, Hugh Adams
Organisations	Brain Tumour Research
<b>Group Office Bearers</b>	
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	Beatrice Wishart MSP
Deputy	Colin Smyth MSP, Finlay Carson MSP and Ben

Convener	McPherson MSP.
Secretary	Brain Tumour Research
Treasurer	N/A
<b>Financial Benefits or Other Benefits</b>	
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	
<b>Subscription Charged by the Group</b>	
Please provide details of the amount to be charged and the purpose for which the subscription is intended to be used.	
N/A	
<b>Convener Contact Details</b>	
Name	Beatrice Wishart MSP
Parliamentary address	MG.06, The Scottish Parliament, Edinburgh EH99 1SP
Telephone number	+44 (0)131 348 6296

## 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 Brain Tumours is constituted and will comply with the terms of Section 6 of the Code of Conduct for Members of the Scottish Parliament.

Signed	<i>Beatrice Wishart</i>
Date	09.05.24