

Standards, Procedures and Public Appointments Committee
Thursday 16 January 2025
1st Meeting 2025, (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. There is one proposed Group for the Committee's consideration at this meeting.
2. 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 Daniel Johnson MSP will be in attendance to give evidence.

Proposed CPG on France

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

Purpose

4. 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".

The stated purpose of the proposed Group is "To provide a forum for discussion and information-sharing about Scotland and its relations with France. Only minor overlap with Cross-Party Group on Europe expected".

Membership

5. 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.
6. The MSP membership (by party) of the proposed Group is as follows—

- Daniel Johnson MSP (Labour)
- Ben Macpherson MSP (Scottish National Party)
- Jamie Greene MSP (Conservatives)
- Paul Sweeney MSP (Labour)
- Karen Adam MSP (Scottish National Party)

7. 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 two in the non-MSP member organisations.

Office Bearers

8. 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: Proposed Convener is Daniel Johnson MSP with Ben Macpherson MSP and Karen Adam MSP as proposed Deputy Conveners.

Financial Benefits and Subscription

9. The registration form indicates that the Group anticipates secretariat support from Archippus Sturrock in his personal capacity.

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

Next Steps

11. At agenda item 3 the Committee is invited to discuss any aspects of the application for recognition of the proposed Cross-Party Group on France with Daniel Johnson MSP.

12. At agenda item 4 the Committee will discuss whether to accord recognition to the proposed Group.

Clerks to the Committee
January 2025

Cross-Party Group Registration Form

Name of Cross-Party Group
Cross-Party Group on France
Purpose of The Group and Proposed Discussion Topics
<p>1. Please state the purpose of the Group.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a. To foster good relations between the Scottish Parliament and the Assemblée national and Sénat in Paris.b. To celebrate the Auld Alliance between Scotland and France.c. To provide a forum for discussion and information-sharing about Scotland and its relations with France.d. To provide MSPs with a source of information and expertise on issues relating to France and French affairs.e. To bring together MSPs and those with an interest in Franco-Scottish relations to promote co-operation between Scotland and France.f. To provide a forum for French citizens in Scotland and Scottish citizens in France to inform MSPs about issues of concern to them.
<p>2. Please also provide a brief explanation of the purpose of the Group and why the purpose is in the public interest.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a. Scotland and France share centuries-old social, cultural, educational, economic and political links.b. The Auld Alliance between Scotland and France is often argued as the oldest alliance in the world and is, at least, 729 years old.c. France was Scotland's fifth top destination country in the year ending September 2023 in terms of value of goods exports, amounting to £2.3bn or 7% of total value of goods exports.d. According to Scotland's Census 2022, there are 9,348 individuals in Scotland whose country of birth was listed as France.
<p>3. Only minor overlap with Cross-Party Group on Europe expected.</p>
<p>4. Understanding and furthering the existing social, cultural, educational, economic and political links between Scotland and France.</p>

MSP Members of the Group

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

Daniel Johnson MSP

Ben Macpherson MSP

Jamie Greene MSP

Paul Sweeney MSP

Karen Adam MSP

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	Stéphane Pailler Archippus Sturrock
Organisations	Institut français d'Écosse Consulat général de France à Edimbourg et Glasgow

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	Daniel Johnson MSP
Deputy Convener	Ben Macpherson MSP Karen Adam MSP Stéphane Pailler (Honorary)
Secretary	Archippus Sturrock
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.

N/A (Secretariat support will be provided by Archippus Sturrock in a personal capacity.)

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.

N/A

Convener Contact Details

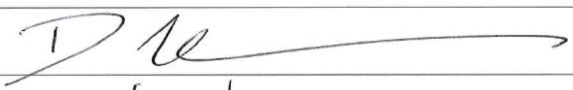
Name	Daniel Johnson MSP
Parliamentary address	Scottish Parliament, Edinburgh, EH99 1SP
Telephone number	+44 (0)131 541 2145

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

Signed	
Date	12 / 11 / 24