

CROSS-PARTY GROUP ANNUAL RETURN

NAME OF CROSS-PARTY GROUP

Cross-Party Group on Tourism

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.)

20 January 2015

DATE OF MOST RECENT AGM

19 January 2016

DATE OF PRECEDING AGM [this date is required to aid clerks in verifying that the most recent AGM has taken place within 12 months of the previous AGM]

N/A

DATE ANNUAL RETURN SUBMITTED

15 February 2016

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.

15 May 2015

Approximately 70 industry representatives were in attendance for the first meeting of the Cross Party Group, with 9 MSPs present.

Bruce Crawford welcomed everyone and explained that this first meeting was very much about setting the scene, helping to put the importance of tourism into context and bringing group members up-to-date with developments in the industry.

Mike Cantlay, Chairman of VisitScotland, was invited to make a short presentation in which he contextualised the industry's prominent position by explaining the importance of tourism and the visitor economy to Scotland, the work undertaken through The Winning Years as Scotland prepared for 2014 and set out the key achievements from last year. Mike also touched on the opportunities ahead and spoke of the need to keep taking Scotland to the world in order to capitalise upon the achievements of last year.

Following this Stephen Leckie, Chairman of the Scottish Tourism Alliance, presented the industry ambition as set out in the strategy for leadership and growth, which is guiding the tourism industry through to 2020.

23 June 2015

The second meeting of the CPG focused on transport and the vital role it plays in delivering the tourism experience for visitors to Scotland each year.

40 members of the group and 4 MSPs attended to hear a 10 minute presentation from Dr Alan Runcie, Transport Strategy Manager at Transport Scotland.

A panel Q&A session followed with the following senior figures:

- Cathy Craig, Commercial Director at Caledonian MacBrayne
- Brian McClean, Head of Communications and Public Affairs at Glasgow Airport
- Katharine Taylor, Head of Promotions, Cycle Tourism Forum
- James Ledgerwood, Head of Economic Development at Abellio ScotRail
- David Frenz, Operations Director, Scottish Citylink Coaches

8 September 2015

46 industry representatives were in attendance for the third meeting of the Cross Party Group on Tourism, with the 7 MSPs present:

The focus of the meeting was on Destination Management Groups, the work they do, their coverage and their future role.

The meeting began with a short introduction from Marc Crothall, Chief Executive of the Scottish Tourism Alliance highlighting the details set out in a short paper on DMOs prepared by the STA for the CPG and circulated beforehand. It was explained that the paper should lead to debate about the complexities of DMOs and the way they are funded now and in the future.

The paper itself set out findings from recent survey work undertaken by the STA on DMOs.

Patrick Laughlin of St Andrews Partnership then delivered a short speech in which he explained the importance of DMOs.

17 November 2015

42 industry figures attended and 4 MSP attended the fourth meeting of the CPG with Fergus Ewing MSP, Minister for Business, Energy and Tourism in an open forum session.

The minister took questions from the floor over the course of the hour long meeting.

The questions covered Destination Management Organisations, the Cut Tourism VAT campaign, litter, Accessible Tourism, Broadband business connections, ferry infrastructure and wider transport connections.

MSP MEMBERS OF THE GROUP

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

Bruce Crawford (SNP)
Duncan McNeil (Labour)
Cameron Buchanan (Conservative)
Dennis Robertson (SNP)
Gordon MacDonald (SNP)
Graeme Dey (SNP)
Jamie McGrigor (Conservative)
Jean Urquhart (Independent)
Jim Hume (Lib Dem)
Lewis Macdonald (Labour)
Mike MacKenzie (SNP)
Nigel Don (SNP)
Stuart McMillan (SNP)
Tavish Scott (Lib Dem)

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

Alison Laurie

Organisations

- Visit West Lothian
- STSA
- Scottish Destination Management Association
- Wild Scotland
- Business Tourism for Scotland
- Edinburgh Napier University
- Glasgow Chamber of Commerce
- Applecrate Ltd
- Aberdeen City & Shire Tourism Partnership
- Go-Where Scotland
- Outdoor Capital
- Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo
- Scottish Government
- Edinburgh College
- Visit Royal Deeside
- St. Andrews Link Trust
- Scottish Youth Hostels Association
- Scottish Tourism Alliance
- St. Andrews Partnership
- Blairgowrie & East Perthshire Tourism Association
- Breadalbane Tourism Cooperative
- Stirling Smith Art Gallery & Museum
- Neatbox
- Heritage Railway Association
- Scottish Land & Estates
- Loch Earn Tourism Information
- Argyll & Isles Tourism Cooperative
- British Hospitality Association
- Go Rural
- Caledonian MacBrayne
- ETAG & North Highlands Tourism Board
- Steamship Sir Walter Scott
- ScotRail
- Cairngorms
- The Caravan Club
- British Holiday & Homes Park Association
- Destination Stirling
- Scottish Licenced Trade Association
- Destination Skye & Lochalsh
- Visit Aberdeen
- Marketing Edinburgh
- FYTC
- Love Loch Lomond
- Skills Development Scotland
- Edinburgh Napier University
- VisitScotland
- National Trust For Scotland
- Visit Arran
- Highlands & Islands Enterprise

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ayrshire & Arran - Fitzcharles Coaches - Association of Scotland's Self-Caterers - Glasgow Airport - Scottish Citylink Coaches - Abellio UK - Abellio ScotRail - Farm Stay UK - Scottish Tourist Guides Association - Scottish Borders Chamber of Commerce - Edinburgh Castle - Historic Scotland - Loch Earn Tourism Initiative - Cycle Tourism Forum - Sustrans - Green Tourism - Outer Hebrides Tourism - Scottish Enterprise - Transport Scotland
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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	Bruce Crawford
Deputy Convener	Duncan McNeil
Secretary	Leon Thompson
Treasurer	Alison Laurie

FINANCIAL BENEFITS OR OTHER BENEFITS RECEIVED BY THE GROUP

Please provide details of any financial or material benefit(s) received 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.

Details of material support should include the name of the individual providing support, the value of this support over the year, an estimate of the time spent providing this support and the name of the organisation that this individual is

employed by / affiliated to in providing this support.

Groups should provide details of the date on which the benefit was received, the value of the benefit and a brief description of the benefit.

If the Group is not disclosing any financial information please tick the box to confirm that the Group has considered the support received, but concluded it totalled under the threshold for disclosure (£500).

Leon Thompson, Government and Parliamentary Affairs Manager at VisitScotland provides secretariat support to the group which involves arranging speakers and presenters, taking the note of each meeting, supplying for the CPG page on the parliament's website.

The time commitment is around three hours per meeting and includes arranging speakers, time at the meeting and writing up the note.

SUBSCRIPTION CHARGED BY THE GROUP

Please provide details of the amount charged and the purpose for which the subscription is intended to be used.

N/A

CONVENER CONTACT DETAILS

Name	Bruce Crawford
Parliamentary address	Room M4.17
Telephone number	0131 348 5686