

CROSS-PARTY GROUP REGISTRATION FORM

NAME OF CROSS-PARTY GROUP

Cross-Party Group on Consumer Affairs

PURPOSE OF THE GROUP AND PROPOSED DISCUSSION TOPICS

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.

- To raise awareness of consumer affairs in the Scottish Parliament by engaging with MSPs and external stakeholders.
- Consumer affairs covers a wide range of issues which impact upon different key stakeholders, including the Scottish Government, local government, consumers and the business community. Establishing this group would be in the public interest because there is currently no Cross-Party Group which has consumer affairs as its sole focus. This group would address this gap in the parliamentary landscape and provide regular opportunities for MSPs of all parties, external stakeholders and others to meet and discuss consumer issues.
- The core purpose of the group does not overlap with any other CPG. While certain consumer topics may be areas of interest of other groups from time-to-time, a forum is needed that has consumer issues as its sole focus.
- Possible discussion topics over the next 12 months include:
 - The impact of scams
 - Meeting the needs of vulnerable consumers
 - Debt and debt management
 - Current trends and key issues in trading standards
 - Developing best practice in customer care
 - Consumer redress
 - Rural consumer issues
 - Digital access
 - Issues related to the regulated industries of post, energy and water

MSP MEMBERS OF THE GROUP

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

- Dave Thompson MSP (SNP)
- Chic Brodie MSP (SNP)
- Cameron Buchanan MSP (Conservatives)
- Cara Hilton MSP (Labour)
- Alison Johnstone MSP (Scottish Greens)

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

None at present but anticipating some.

Organisations

- Citizens Advice Scotland
- Chartered Trading Standards Institute, UK
- Chartered Trading Standards Institute, Scottish Branch
- Competition and Markets Authority
- Federation of Small Businesses
- Money Advice Scotland
- Scottish Legal Complaints Commission
- Scottish Public Services Ombudsman
- SELECT
- Shelter
- Society of Chief Officers of Trading Standards in Scotland
- Trading Standards Scotland
- Which?

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

Dave Thompson MSP

Deputy Convener

Cameron Buchanan MSP

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| Secretary | Patrick Hogan - Citizens Advice Scotland |
| Treasurer | Patrick Hogan - Citizens Advice Scotland |
| 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. | |
| Secretariat support (estimated): £1,000 Hospitality – SELECT - £1,000 per annum. | |
| 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. | |
| None | |
| CONVENER CONTACT DETAILS | |
| Name | Dave Thompson MSP |
| Parliamentary address | M3.11, The Scottish Parliament, Edinburgh, EH99 1SP |
| Telephone number | 0131 348 5326 |

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| STATEMENT ON COMPLIANCE WITH THE CODE OF CONDUCT | |
| I declare that the Cross-Party Group on Consumer Affairs is constituted and will comply with the terms of Section 6 of the Code of Conduct for Members of the Scottish Parliament. | |
| Signed | |
| Date | |