

## CROSS-PARTY GROUP ANNUAL RETURN

### NAME OF CROSS-PARTY GROUP

**Cross-Party Group on Visual Impairment**

**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.)

**13 September 2016**

### DATE OF MOST RECENT AGM

**11 September 2018**

### DATE ANNUAL RETURN SUBMITTED

**12 October 2018**

**DATE OF PRECEDING AGM** [this date is required to aid clerks in verifying that the most recent AGM has taken place within 11-13 months of the previous AGM]

**12 September 2017**

### 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.

**Tuesday 5 December 2017**

'Education of visually impaired pupils - a teaching perspective'.  
Speakers: Anne Marie Fleming, RNIB Scotland; and Elaine Brackenridge, Royal Blind School.

Reception to mark both Christmas and the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Scottish Council on Visual Impairment (SCOVI).

Speakers - Introduced by Stuart McMillan MSP; Brian Gallagher, President of SCOVI.

Present: 4 MSPs; 43 others

## **Tuesday 6 February 2018**

Future CPG topics and the results of a members' poll. The CPG had already agreed to discuss how Scotland votes (electronic voting) and the education attainment gap of visually impaired pupils on publication of Professor John Ravenscroft's report. On the poll results, the CPG will discuss the following over this parliament session - mental health; employment of blind and partially sighted people; Street Charter/inclusive street design; health and Social Care Integration; low vision services; accessible health information/appointment cancellations; and the See Hear Strategy.

Session on Electoral Reform

Speakers: Louise Scott and Liz Ure, Scottish Government, on the current Scottish Government consultation on Electoral Reform; Chris Highcock from the Electoral Management Board for Scotland/City of Edinburgh Council will also be present to assist with questions; with comment from Sarah Mackie, Electoral Commission Scotland.

Present: 4 MSPs; 34 others.

## **Tuesday 8 May 2018**

Eyecare

Speakers: Dr Alexandros Zangelidis, University of Aberdeen - "Eye Care Services in Scotland: Did the Scots Get it Right?"; and Hal Rollason, Optometry Scotland – Commentary

Social Security

Speaker: Sandra Wilson, Chair, RNIB Scotland – brief report on the Joint CPG on Social Security, 19 April 2018.

Any other competent business:

Colette Walker – experience of inappropriate parking within Glasgow hospitals and how healthcare premises are not accessible for visual impairment patients.

Present: 4 MSPs; 39 others

## **Tuesday 12 September 2018 (AGM)**

AGM and Election of Office Bearers.

Panel discussion on mental health and employment

Speakers: Dr Mhairi Thurston, Abertay University - sight loss and mental health; Amanda Hawkins, Specialist Lead Emotional Support RNIB – RNIB's Need to Talk project – a digital solution to social isolation; CPG member, Kirin Saeed - personal experience of losing her sight and the subsequent challenges she faces; and Jamie Hepburn MSP, Minister for Employability and Training.

Any other competent business (AOB)

Following on from the AOB item at the CPG on 8 May 2018, Colette Walker – experience of inappropriate parking within Glasgow hospitals and how healthcare premises are not accessible for visual impairment patients, Jim Crombie, Acting Chief Executive, and George Curley, Director of Operations, of NHS Lothian spoke on NHS Lothian policies.

Present: 3 MSPs; 48 others.

### **Nota bene**

The Cross-Party Groups on Disability, Visual Impairment, Carers and Learning Disability also held a joint meeting on 19 April 2018 to have a discussion on social security with the then Minister Jeane Freeman, given the overlapping interests of the CPGs and the interest from members in the topic; and to allow for members to learn more about the progress of the Social Security Bill so far and to ask the Minister questions.

### **MSP MEMBERS OF THE GROUP**

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

Stuart McMillan MSP (Scottish National Party)

Neil Bibby MSP (Scottish Labour)

Tom Arthur MSP (Scottish National Party)

Colin Beattie MSP (Scottish National Party)

Miles Briggs MSP (Scottish Conservative & Unionist Party)

Rhoda Grant MSP (Scottish Labour)

Colin Smyth MSP (Scottish Labour)

## 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	<p>Individual members are:</p> <p>Amanda Burt Robbie Crow Tracy Christie Hilary Davies Anna Forbes Cindy Godfrey-McKay Mairi Graham Sheena Guz Jacq Kelly David McKerral Rod Murchison Mary Rasmussen Dennis Robertson Susan Robinson Ken Swa Kirin Saeed Mary Travers Colette Walker</p>
Organisations	<p>RNIB Scotland provides the CPG secretariat. Member organisations are:</p> <p>Allergan Angus Council Association of British Dispensing Opticians (ASDO) Associated Optical Association of Scottish Talking Newspapers (ASTN) City of Edinburgh Council – Additional Support for Learning Services Dundee Blind &amp; Partially Sighted Society Eyecare Scotland Guide Dogs Scotland Haggeye Linking Education and Disability (LEAD) Scotland Macular Society</p>

	<p>Microphthalmia, Anophthalmia &amp; Coloboma Support (MACS)  Neatebox  NHS Education for Scotland  NHS Forth Valley  NHS Lothian Princess Alexandra Eye Pavilion  North East Sensory Services (NESS)  North Ayrshire Council  Novartis Pharmaceuticals  Optelec UK  Optometry Scotland  Police Scotland  RNIB Connect Radio  RNIB Scotland – Secretariat  Royal Blind  Royal Blind School  Scottish Association for Visual Impairment Education (SAVIE)  Scottish Council on Visual Impairment (SCOVI)</p>
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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	Stuart McMillan MSP (Scottish National Party)
Deputy Convener	Neil Bibby MSP (Scottish Labour)
Secretary	Catriona Burness, RNIB Scotland
Treasurer	Catriona Burness, RNIB Scotland

**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).

**The CPG has received the support outlined below from RNIB Scotland:**

**Secretariat**

- C Burness (8 days) - £1164
- C Howie (2 days) - £185
- C Vallis (7 days) - £690
- **Total: £2039**

**Catering costs for CPG**

- Tuesday 5 December 2017 - £693.38
- Tuesday 6 February 2018 - £69.30
- Tuesday 8 May 2018 - £0
- Tuesday 11 September 2018 (AGM) - £275.16
- **Total: £1037.84**

**OVERALL TOTAL: £3076.84**

**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	Stuart McMillan MSP (Scottish National Party)
Parliamentary address	Scottish Parliament
Telephone number	0131 348 5000