

## CROSS-PARTY GROUP ANNUAL RETURN

<b>NAME OF CROSS-PARTY GROUP</b>
Cross-Party Group on <b>Nordic Countries</b>
<b>DATE GROUP ESTABLISHED</b> (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.)
<b>14/12/2016</b>
<b>DATE OF MOST RECENT AGM</b>
<b>22/01/19</b>
<b>DATE ANNUAL RETURN SUBMITTED</b>
<b>20/02/19</b>
<b>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]</b>
<b>09/01/18</b>
<b>GROUP MEETINGS AND ACTIVITIES</b>  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.
<b>14/12/16 – Initial Meeting</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Election of office bearers. Roundtable introductions taken to familiarise members and note particular interests in Nordic counties.</li><li>• Maurice Golden outlined the aims of the CPG and the approach he has taken so far to establish the group.</li><li>• Goal setting and general planning for cross-party group.</li></ul>

Attendance: 7 MSPs, 2 Non-MSPs

### **28/03/17 – Inaugural Meeting: Joint meeting with SPREE CPG on Nordic Countries and Renewable Energy**

Guest speakers:

- Jilly Tully, Investment Manager, Statoil Energy Ventures

Presented current projects collaborating with Scotland i.e. 'Hywind' floating wind turbine off Peterhead set to be finished by end of 2017.

- Jason Ormiston, Manager Public and Regulatory Affairs & Stakeholders, Vattenfall

Presented Swedish Parliament objectives and parallels with Scottish Government i.e. decarbonisation by 2045. Vattenfall has goal of seeing Northeast Scotland become global hub for renewable energies.

Presentations followed by Q&A session and CPG business including discussion of upcoming event ideas.

Attendance: 7 MSPs, 14 Non-MSPs

### **25/10/17 – Nordic Countries & Deposit Return**

This meeting explored the application of bottle deposit return systems across Nordic Countries and discuss how Scotland can learn from a wide range of examples.

Guest speaker: Kjell-Olav Maldum, CEO Infinitum

- Presentation lead by Kjell-Olav Maldum outlining the Norwegian deposit return system ahead of Scot Gov plans to pursue a similar system. Outlined challenges and tips ahead of implementation.

Presentations followed by Q&A session and CPG business including discussion of upcoming event ideas.

Attendance: 5 MSP, 21 Non-MSPs

### **09/01/18 – AGM**

- Re-election/ confirmation of office bearers.
- Year in reflection – reflection and discussion of 2017 meetings.
- Discussion of ideas for direction of group in 2018. Themes included renewable energies, arts and culture, Scottish hutting culture and increased Artic Forum interaction.

Attendance: 3 MSPs, 3 Non-MSPs

**24/04/18 – Guest Lecture**

Guest Speaker: **Professor Donna Heddle**

*Professor of Northern Studies; Director, Institute for Northern Studies, University of the Highlands and Islands*

***‘From the fury of the Northmen, good Lord, deliver us?’: The Norse legacy in Scotland’***

Presentations followed by Q&A session and CPG business including discussion of upcoming event ideas.

Attendance: 4 MSP; 31 Non-MSPs

**22/01/19 – Guest Lecture**

Guest Speaker:

**Dr Alan Macniven**

*Senior Lecturer and Head of Scandinavian Studies at the University of Edinburgh*

***‘Navigating the Nordic: A brief introduction to the countries, cultures and customs of the North.’***

AGM held prior to presentation. Presentations followed by Q&A.

Attendance: 2 MSP; 7 Non-MSPs

**MSP MEMBERS OF THE GROUP**

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

Maurice Golden MSP, Scottish Conservative & Unionist Party

Angus MacDonald MSP, Scottish National Party

Finlay Carson MSP, Scottish Conservative & Unionist Party

Mark Ruskell MSP, Scottish Green Party

Jamie Greene MSP, Scottish Conservative & Unionist Party

Alasdair Allan MSP, Scottish National Party

**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

Prof. Donna Heddle, *University of the Highlands and Islands*

	<p>Prof. Ross Deuchar, <i>University of the West of Scotland</i></p> <p>Prof. Alan McNiven, <i>University of Edinburgh</i></p> <p>James Mackenzie, Freelance media and public affairs consultant</p> <p>Kristin Hannerdottir, Honorary Consul of Iceland</p> <p>Stuart J. MacPherson, Consul of Denmark</p> <p>David Michael Windmill, Honorary Consul General of Norway</p> <p>Diane Macintyre, MSP Staff</p>
Organisations	<p>Scottish Hydrogen and Fuel Cell Association</p> <p>Norwegian Consulate General Edinburgh</p> <p>Keep Scotland Beautiful</p> <p>Statoil</p> <p>Scottish Energy News</p> <p>RSPB</p> <p>WWF</p> <p>Have You Got the Bottle?</p> <p>PAS</p>
<p><b>GROUP OFFICE BEARERS</b></p> <p>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.</p>	
Convener	Angus MacDonald
Deputy Convener	Maurice Golden MSP
Secretary	Diane Macintyre

Treasurer	N/A
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**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).

**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	Angus MacDonald MSP
Parliamentary address	M3.06
Telephone number	0131 348 5487