

CROSS-PARTY GROUP ANNUAL RETURN

NAME OF CROSS-PARTY GROUP
Cross-Party Group on Women in Enterprise
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.)
11 September 2018
DATE OF MOST RECENT AGM
25 September 2019
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]
11 September 2018
DATE ANNUAL RETURN SUBMITTED
29 October 2019
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.
6 November 2018 Theme – Internationalisation 4 MSPs; 28 other participants. Blaze Manufacturing Solutions presented on the issues of seeking to diversify into new international markets to survive the oil and gas sector downturn in the North

East of Scotland. Issues with Brexit mean that business from European markets will be lost, and the company have targeted new markets in Africa.
RBS spoke of the work of Alison Rose, Deputy MD of the bank, in leading a review into the challenges faced by female entrepreneurs when starting and growing a business.

6 March 2019

Theme – Unlocking economic potential

3 MSPs; 21 other participants.

Radiant and Brighter made a presentation on issues that were faced both personally and professionally as a family from Uganda moving to Scotland. Trying to find work was very difficult if not impossible. Having been unemployed for five years, speakers decided to set up their own support by developing a company – Radiant and Brighter – that could support people in their situation.

The MS Society then gave a brief introduction to the work of the society including some statistics - Around 100,000 in UK are living with MS; around 11,000 in Scotland. People are affected very differently by MS. 2 in 3 people affected are women. Supportive employers can make a huge difference. A key aim for the MS society was to help reduce the number of years that people lose in terms of work as a result. The meeting then heard a personal story of how an attendee's life has been affected since diagnosed with MS - about how she worked; tried to keep her job; and the difficulties with this, etc.

21 May 2019

Theme – Brexit and market effects

3 MSPs; 23 other participants.

Fraser of Allander Institute made a presentation on the economic impacts of Brexit, and the Federation of Small Businesses then gave a presentation on Internationalisation and Brexit from a SME perspective. Discussion included concerns around the lack of detail available and the ongoing uncertainty for businesses. There was also concern expressed about the lack of any gendered insights and detail on the impact of Brexit for women.

17 September 2019

Theme – Women's Business Centres

2 MSPs; 30 other participants.

Presentation made by Midlothian Women's Aid on proposals for a centre to support women's economic empowerment. Another presentation was made by WES on their proposals for development of a women's business centre in Scotland. Discussion was held on what kind of services women would look for from such a centre and what impact such a service could make to the development of women in enterprise.

MSP MEMBERS OF THE GROUP

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

Gillian Martin MSP

Jackie Baillie MSP
 Bill Bowman MSP
 Emma Harper MSP
 Andy Wightman MSP
 Daniel Johnson 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	n/a
Organisations	<p>Women's Enterprise Scotland Royal Bank of Scotland Business Gateway Federation of Small Businesses Youth Enterprise Scotland WES ambassadors Scottish Enterprise Highlands and Islands Enterprise GrowBiz Edinburgh Business School, Heriot Watt University Napier University Queen Margaret University Fraser of Allander Institute Scottish Autism Oxfam WEvolution Women in Agriculture Task Force MS society Scotland Women Being LINC Scottish Edge</p>

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	Gillian Martin MSP
Deputy Convener	Jackie Baillie MSP
Secretary	Anne Meikle (Women's Enterprise Scotland)
Treasurer	Carolyn Currie (Women's Enterprise 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). X

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	Gillian Martin
Parliamentary address	M5.08 The Scottish Parliament Edinburgh EH99 1SP
Telephone number	0131 348 6956