

CROSS-PARTY GROUPS IN THE SCOTTISH PARLIAMENT

ANNUAL RETURN FORM

1. GROUP NAME <i>Code of Conduct 6.2.4</i>	
Groups that have been accorded recognition will be permitted to use the title <i>Cross-Party Group in the Scottish Parliament</i> .	
Cross-Party Group in the Scottish Parliament on Skills	
2. DATE GROUP APPROVED	3. DATE ANNUAL REPORT
27 th July 2011	11 th June 2012
4. GROUP MEETINGS AND ACTIVITIES	
For each group meeting or other activity please provide the date, a brief description of the main subjects discussed and attendance figures (MSP and non-MSP).	
<p><u>26th October 2011:</u> (MSP = 4, Non-MSP = 29). The Group received an update from introduced Dr Alasdair Allan MSP, Minister for Learning and Skills. A Q&A session highlighted some issues for the Minister particularly with regard to training opportunities in the workplace. Following this there was a presentation by Remploy – an organisation working to increase opportunities for those with disabilities. Work was undertaken following the meeting to update and make additions to the group’s workplan which would drive the agenda of future meetings.</p> <p><u>15th December 2012:</u> (MSP = 3, Non-MSP = 18). Workplan item – developing the skills of those in employment. A joint presentation was made by Open University and Unite the Union providing valuable case studies addressing the challenges of offering skills development to an existing workforce and outlined differing funding models which had helped introduce and deliver programmes of learning.</p> <p><u>9th February 2012:</u> (MSP = 2, Non-MSP = 31). Workplan item – Bridging the gap between higher education and the workplace. The group received presentations from representatives of SHEEF and Universities Scotland. The group was updated on the inclusion of ‘graduate attributes’ to university programmes and looked at the issue of how business and HE can work together to convey the realities of working life.</p> <p>The meeting also agreed to make a submission to hold an event for the Festival of Politics.</p> <p><u>10th May 2012:</u> (MSP = 2, Non-MSP = 28). This meeting incorporated the AGM, including the further expansion of the Group’s membership. Members discussed remaining items on the workplan and agreed to hold a joint meeting with the CPG for Colleges and Universities on the topic of youth employment. Details were shared of related events organised by members. Members also reviewed priority topics for the next session including funding and funding streams, as well as supporting development of management and leadership skills.</p>	

5. GROUP MEMBERS Code of Conduct 6.4, Rules 2, 3, 5, 6 & 8

When listing members, who are MSPs, only the MSPs name need be given. For members from outwith the Parliament, the name of the member and any employer they represent must be given.

MSPs	Non-MSPs Individuals
Marco Biagi Gavin Brown Rhoda Grant Liam McArthur Margaret McCulloch John Park Drew Smith Paul Wheelhouse	Kelvin Thomson; Organisations A4e Scotland Ltd; Alliance of Sector Skills Council Scotland; Association of Accounting Technicians; Aplus Training; Barnardo's Scotland; Big Lottery Fund; Bio Reliance; British Retail Consortium; BT Openreach; Castle Douglas Community IT Centre; Chartered Banker Institute; Close the Gap; Cogent SSC; Construction Skills Scotland; Creative & Cultural Skills; Economic Development Association [Scotland]; Federation of Small Business Scotland; Fife Council – Enterprise & Protection Services; Go Skills; ICS Ltd; Independent Roof Training Association; Institute of Physics; Investors in People; IRISS; JHP; Lantra; Learning & Skills Improvement Service; Learning and Teaching Scotland; Learning Link Scotland; Loch Lomond & Trossachs Community Partnership; NHS Education for Scotland; NSCC; OPITO; Pearson Workbased Learning; ProSkills; Rathbone Scotland; Remploy; RBS; ScotlandIS; SCQF; SEMTA; Scottish Enterprise; Scottish Investment Operations; Scottish Land & Estates; Scottish Qualifications Authority [Awarding]; Scottish Qualifications Authority [Accreditation]; Scottish Renewables Forum; Scottish Youth Parliament; Skills Development Scotland; Skills for Logistics; STUC- Skills and Learning Team; The Open University in Scotland; The Scotch Whisky Association; Unite the Union; Universities Scotland; University of Abertay; Working Links.

6. GROUP OFFICERS Code of Conduct 6.4, Rule 4

Please amend titles as necessary e.g. to indicate joint office holders, or preferred titles.

Co- Convener	Gavin Brown MSP and John Park MSP
Vice-Convener	n/a

Secretary	Shona Matthews	
Treasurer	n/a	
7. FINANCIAL OR OTHER BENEFITS RECEIVED <i>Code of Conduct 6.3.1 & 6.3.6, 6.4 Rule 10</i>		
<p>The group must register any financial or other material benefit received by the group from whatever source, where the value of the financial sum or benefit from any single source exceeds £500 in any one calendar year. This includes donations, sponsorship, subscriptions, hospitality, gifts, visits, provision of services or accommodation or staff assistance. The value of use of Parliamentary facilities need not be registered.</p> <p>The details requiring to be registered include a brief description of the benefit, the approximate monetary value, the date on which it was received and the source from which it came. Where a consultancy organisation provides benefits, the client on whose behalf these are provided should be named.</p>		
Date	Amount	Description
26 th October 2011	£226	Lunch and refreshments sponsored by Remploy
15 th December 2011	£21	Teas and Coffees sponsored by Chartered Banker Institute
9 th February 2012	£106.25	Lunch and refreshments sponsored by Scottish Investment Operations
10 th May	£149.50	Lunch and refreshments sponsored by Investors in People
8. GROUP SUBSCRIPTION <i>Code of Conduct 6.4, Rule 9</i>		
<p>Where a group charges or proposes to charge a subscription, this must be reasonable and the same for all members. The amount of the subscription should be registered and the purposes for which it is intended to use the subscription.</p>		
Amount per group member per year	n/a	
Date subscription applied	n/a	
9. GROUP STAFF AS PARLIAMENTARY PASS HOLDERS		
<p>If a group makes use of staff issued with a Parliamentary pass, any paid activity undertaken by those staff where the employer benefits from the pass holder's access to the Parliament must be registered. There is no need to state the amount of remuneration. The requirement relates both to staff employed directly by the group and to staff employed by an outside organisation to provide assistance to the group.</p>		
Staff name	n/a	
Title of post	n/a	

Name and address of employer organisation	n/a
Type of employer organisation	n/a
10. GROUP CONTACT <i>Code of Conduct 6.3.4, 6.3.5 and 6.5.1 – 6.5.4</i>	
Please give the full details of an elected official of the group who is an MSP who will be the contact for registration matters for the group. Initially this must be the Member who signs the declaration on compliance with the rules on behalf of the group. If a group subsequently changes the designated contact, the office of the Standards Clerk must be informed within 7 days of the change.	
Name	John Park MSP
Parliamentary address	MG.15
Telephone number	86753
Constituency Office telephone number	01592 568678