

Cross-Party Group Registration Form

Name of Cross-Party Group
Cross-Party Group on Autism
Purpose of The Group and Proposed Discussion Topics
<ol style="list-style-type: none">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.
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. -A forum to raise awareness and promote the interests of autistic people, including those with Asperger syndrome, their families and carers; and to influence government policy..2. Autism is a lifelong disability which affects how people communicate and interact with the world. There are approximately 700,000 autistic adults and children in the UK with around 56,000 in Scotland. Without the right support or understanding, autistic people can miss out on an education, struggle to find work and become extremely isolated. The Cross-Party Group will seek to bring together individuals, organisations and Parliamentarians who have a shared interest in raising awareness of autism and promoting the interests of autistic people, their families and carers at the Scottish Parliament; with a view to influencing Scottish Government policy and improving the lives of this group of people.3. In terms of already established Cross Party Groups that may overlap with the proposed Cross Party Group on Autism, there could be some areas of similarity with the following groups: Carers; Learning Disability; Disability; Health Inequalities; LGBTI+; Mental Health; etc. However close these groups are in terms of overlap, due the unique needs of autistic people, no direct overlap can be established between another CPG and the proposed CPG on Autism.

4. It is anticipated that over the next 12 months the CPG will discuss topics such as: Employability, Education, Transitions, and Diagnosis.

MSP Members of the Group

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

Jeremy Balfour MSP (CON)

Alexander Burnett MSP (CON)

Stephanie Callaghan MSP (SNP)

Finlay Carson MSP (CON)

Daniel Johnson MSP (LAB)

Fulton McGregor MSP (SNP)

Carol Mochan MSP (LAB)

Oliver Mundell MSP (CON)

Mark Ruskell MSP (GRN)

Annie Wells MSP (CON)

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

Steve Billingham

Rachel Birch

Fiona Clarke

Dr Catherine Compton

Dr Aurora Constantin

Rachael Davis

Dr Claire Evans-Williams

Eddie Fowler

Jasmine Ghibli

	<p>Pauline Grigor Sheila Mackay Marion McLaughlin</p>
Organisations	<p>AMASE Artlink Edinburgh and Lothians Association for Real Change Autism Initiatives Autism Rights Group Highland Autism Network Scotland Borders Additional Needs Caern Project Learning Disabilities & Autism Services Central Advocacy Partners Disability Shetland Edinburgh Lothian Asperger Society Education Scotland Glasgow Children's Hospital Charity Grampian Opportunities Highland Cycle Ability Centre Indepen-dance Into Work Lothian Autistic Society Mental Welfare Commission National Autistic Society Scotland Nordoff Robbins in Scotland PASDA Perth Autism Support The Richmond Fellowship</p>

	<p>The Salvesen Mindroom Centre</p> <p>Scottish Autism</p> <p>Scottish Courts and Tribunals Service</p> <p>Scouts</p> <p>The Shirlie Project</p> <p>Speak Out Advocacy Project</p> <p>SWAN</p> <p>Tailor Ed Foundation</p> <p>TCV Scotland</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	Alexander Burnett MSP Annie Wells MSP
Deputy Convener	N/A
Secretary	National Autistic Society Scotland Scottish Autism
Treasurer	N/A

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.

Please see below the estimated costs of the joint secretariat for year 1:

National Autistic Society Scotland - £2850

Scottish Autism – £610

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.

N/A

Convener Contact Details


Name	Alexander Burnett MSP Annie Wells MSP
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Parliamentary address	The Scottish Parliament Edinburgh EH99 1SP
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Telephone number	0131 348 5642 0131 348 5991
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Statement on Compliance with The Code Of Conduct

I declare that the Cross-Party Group on Autism is constituted and will comply with the terms of Section 6 of the Code of Conduct for Members of the Scottish Parliament.

Signed	
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Date	4 th October 2021
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