Cross-Party Group Annual Return

Name of Cross-Party Group

Cross-Party Group on Freedom of Religion or Belief

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.)

28th October 2021

Date of Most Recent Annual General Meeting (AGM)

16th November 2022

Date Annual Return Submitted

9th December 2022

Date of Preceding AGM [this date is required to aid clerks in verifying that the most recent AGM has taken place within 11 to 13 months of the previous AGM]

28th October 2021

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.

28th October 2021 - AGM & Presentation by Open Doors on Christian Persecution Worldwide. Attended by 4 MSPs & 15 Non-MSPs Members

19th April 2022 - Presentation by Mohammad Asif, Afghan Human Rights Foundation on the state of Freedom of Religion or Belief in Afghanistan following The Taliban's return to power. Attended by 2 MSPs & 16 Non-MSPs Members

13th June 2022 - Presentation by Fiona Bruce MP, Prime Minister's Special Envoy on Freedom of Religion or Belief on her role within the UK Government and the work of the Westminster All Party Parliamentary Group on Freedom of Religion or Belief. Attended by 5 MSPs & 40 Non-MSPs Members

16th November 2022 - Presentation by The Bishop of Truro, Philip Mounstephen on his landmark report *The Bishop of Truro's Independent Review for the UK Foreign Secretary of Foreign and Commonwealth Office Support for Persecuted Christians*. Attended by 3 MSPs & 19 Non-MSPs Members

MSP Members of The Group

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

John Mason MSP

Murdo Fraser MSP

Jeremy Balfour MSP

Stephen Kerr MSP

Katy Clark 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	Liz Taite
	Gordon MacDonald

	Brian Miller
	Andrew Lane
	Yolanda Matro
	Phil Lucas
	Sahibzada Rabbani
	Maureen Bell
	Sabah Aslam
Organisations	Aid to the Church in Need
	The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints
	Scottish Ahlul Bayt Society
	Humanist Society Scotland
	Evangelical Alliance
	Religions of Peace UK Women of Faith Network
	The Christian Institute
	International Christian Chamber of Commerce
	Open Doors
	Interfaith Scotland
	Catholic Parliamentary Office
	Baptist Union of Scotland
	Steadfast Global
	Aberdeen Interfaith
	Interfaith Glasgow
	Release International
	Universal Peace Federation and Dundee Faith and Belief
	Community Policy Forum

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	John Mason MSP
Deputy Convener	Murdo Fraser MSP
Secretary	Interfaith Scotland
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.

N/A

Convener Contact Details

Name	John Mason MSP
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Telephone number	0141 550 4327