

Cross-Party Group Annual Return

Name of Cross-Party Group

Cross-Party Group on Independent Convenience Stores

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.)

23rd June 2021

Date of Most Recent Annual General Meeting (AGM)

11th November 2025

Date Annual Return Submitted

1st December 2025

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]

12th November 2024

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.

1. **18/02/25:** Title: "Impact of the UK and Scottish Economies on the Convenience Sector".

The discussion focused on the economic climate and its impact on the industry, taking into account aspects of the recent UK and Scottish Budgets, inflation, and other critical issues.

Speakers were:

- Will Dowson, Agent for Scotland, Bank of England
- Brian Eagle-Brown, Managing Director, ShopMate
- Moira Dean, Independent retailer, Dundee University Students' Association

MSPs in attendance were:

- John Mason MSP (Substitute Convener)
- Daniel Johnson MSP (Deputy Convener)
- Murdo Fraser MSP
- Rachael Hamilton MSP

There were 24 Non MSPs in attendance.

2. **10/06/25:** Meeting cancelled due to parliamentary business.
3. **16/09/25:** Meeting cancelled due to parliamentary business – However, an online meeting for SGF members was held instead but no longer classified as a CPG meeting.
4. **11/11/25:** Title: “Rising Costs of Doing Business in Scotland.” The meeting looked at the rising costs for businesses, including higher employment costs, the burden of increased regulation, consumer trends, and external factors such as supply-chain issues and international instability.

Speakers were:

- Professor Leigh Sparks - Professor of Retail Studies, University of Stirling
- Ewan MacDonald-Russell - Deputy Head, Scottish Retail Consortium
- Abdul Majid – Independent retailer, Baba's Kitchen & Costcutter Bellshill

MSPs in attendance were:

- Gordon MacDonald MSP (Convener)
- Murdo Fraser MSP (Deputy Convener)
- John Mason MSP
- Maurice Golden MSP

There were 15 Non-MSPs in attendance.

MSP Members of The Group

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

Gordon MacDonald MSP, Scottish National Party
Daniel Johnson MSP, Scottish Labour
Stephanie Callaghan MSP, Scottish National Party
Murdo Fraser MSP, Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party
Jackie Baillie MSP, Scottish Labour
John Mason MSP, Independent
Monica Lennon MSP, Scottish Labour
Foyso Choudry MSP, Independent
Maurice Golden MSP, Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party
Rachael Hamilton MSP, Scottish Conservative and Unionist 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

Professor Leigh Sparks, University of Stirling
Dr Maria Rybazewska, University of Stirling
Dr George Maglaras, University of Stirling

Organisations

- Scottish Grocers Federation - secretary
- Scotmid
- British Independent Retailers Association
- Scottish Wholesale Association
- Scottish Licensed Trade Association
- Scottish Business Resilience Centre
- Scottish Anti Illicit Trade Group
- Keep Scotland Beautiful
- Scottish Local Retailer
- Co-operative Food
- Clydebanks Co-operative
- CJ Lang & Son Ltd
- Booker Premier
- Costcutter Supermarkets
- Mace Stores
- Abdul Majid & Son Ltd
- Broadway Premier Edinburgh
- JW Filshill
- Khalsa Retail LTD

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PGMA • SGF Healthy Living Programme • United Wholesale Grocers • United Wholesale Scotland • Bestway Retail • Scotland Food and Drink • Londis Stores
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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	Gordon MacDonald MSP
Deputy Convener	Daniel Johnson MSP and Murdo Fraser MSP
Secretary	Luke McGarty
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.

TO BE COMPLETED BY THE CONVENER

COMPLIANCE WITH SECTION 6 OF THE CODE OF CONDUCT
(Please tick all boxes that apply)

I, Convener of the Cross-Party Group on <X>, hereby declare that, in line with the requirements of Section 6 of the Code of Conduct, this CPG has:

5 MSP Members from 3 different political parties

✓

Held at least 2 quorate meetings in the last 12 months

✓

Held an AGM within 11-13months of the date of registration or the last AGM

✓

Submitted an annual return form within 30 calendar days of the AGM

✓

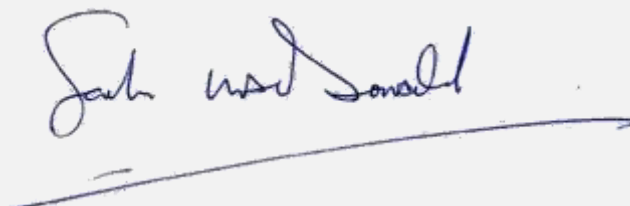
Provided Standards Clerks with 10 calendar days' notice of all meetings

✓

Provided minutes of all meetings

✓

Signed



Date

1st December 2025