

## Cross-Party Group Annual Return

### Name of Cross-Party Group

**Cross-Party Group on Palestine**

**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.)

7<sup>th</sup> October 2021

### Date of Most Recent Annual General Meeting (AGM)

22<sup>nd</sup> November 2022

### Date Annual Return Submitted

23<sup>rd</sup> January 2024

**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]

7<sup>th</sup> 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.

## **22<sup>nd</sup> November 2022**

Present

MSPs

Pauline McNeil MSP

Mercedes Alba MSP

MSP Apologies

James Dornan MSP

Maggie Chapman MSP

Sarah Boyack MSP

Katy Clark MSP

Shiela Trachler (On behalf of Foysol Choudhury MSP)

Non MSP Attendance

There were 22 Non-MSP Group Members in attendance

Details:

-FBU update on work with Palestinian firefighters/supply of equipment

-Forward work programme

## **25<sup>th</sup> January 2023**

Present

MSPs

Pauline McNeil MSP

Mercedes Villalba MSP

Maggie Chapman MSP

Peter Boyar MSP

MSP Apologies

James Dornan MSP

Sarah Boyack MSP

Katy Clark MSP

Non-MSP Attendance

There were 25 Non-MSP Group Members in attendance

Details:

- Presentation: A Frontline View- on the ground concerns in the occupied territories

- The group discussed the upcoming 75th anniversary of the Nakba on the 15th of May and proposed holding an event in the Scottish Parliament to mark the event and set a precedent for future years

## **16<sup>th</sup> May 2023**

Present

MSPs

Pauline McNeil MSP, Co Convener CPG Palestine

Maggie Chapman MSP, Co Convener CPG Palestine

James Dornan MSP, Co Convener CPG Palestine

Bill Kidd MSP

Ruth Maguire MSP

Mercedes Villalba MSP

Ivan McKee MSP

MSP Apologies

Sarah Boyack MSP

Katy Clark MSP

Miles Briggs MSP

Brian Whittle MSP

Non-MSP Attendance

There were 58 Non-MSP attendees

Details:

The group held a meeting and event supports the work of the Cross-Party Group on Palestine to raise awareness of the Nakba and complement other worldwide markings such as the one taking place at the UN General Assembly.

The group heard from several speakers including Palestinian ambassador to the UK Ambassador Husam S. Zomlot

**25<sup>th</sup> October 2023**

Present

MSPs

Maggie Chapman MSP

James Dornan MSP

Ivan McKee MSP

Ross Greer MSP

Katy Clark MSP

Bill Kidd MSP

Carol Mochan MSP

Mercedes Villalba MSP

Non-MSP Attendance

There were 32 Non-MSP attendees

Details:

The group held a meeting to discuss the unfolding crisis in Gaza. Hearing about the situation on the ground and discussing possible CPG action.

### **MSP Members of The Group**

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

**James Dornan**

**Pauline McNeil**  
**Sarah Boyack**  
**Maggie Chapman**  
**Foysol Choudhury**  
**Katy Clark**  
**Ross Greer**  
**Mercedes Villalba**

### **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**

Ousman Khan  
Maureen Jack  
Amy McNeese-Mechan  
Wael Shawish  
Rehan Ahmed Raza  
Zahir Haider  
Hala George  
Mike Orr  
Anne Alden  
Pat Bryden  
Anna Sardesai  
Phil Lucas  
David Beamish  
Carol Morton  
Allan Gordon  
Colin Cooper  
Jan Benvie

Evelyn McGregor  
Azzam Mohamad  
Vicky McGraw  
Charles McGraw  
Jon Pullman  
Monica Spooner  
Roger Spooner  
Mike Whitehead  
Jock McDougal  
Susan Moffat  
Eurig Scandrett

Jim Malone  
Douglas Brook  
John Badenhorst  
Phil Chetwynd  
Dr. Graham Watt  
Liz Elkind  
Frank Thomas  
Dorothy Thomas  
Peter McDade  
Roz Currie  
Karen Bett  
Asif Dean  
Chris Wigglesworth  
Josephine Doorley  
Lars Petersson  
Peter MacDonald  
Sofiah MacLeod  
Nadia El-Nakla  
Anita Shanley

Denis Rutovitz  
Kate Aspinwall  
Khaled Khalil  
Tony Grahame  
Husam Freikh  
Riyadh Almasharqal  
Mohammed Elhams  
Jane Schonveld  
Kathleen Gibb  
Alison Waugh  
Mark Calder  
Emman El-Bahnassay  
Philippa Bonnella  
Michael Mineter  
Susan McGill  
Sandra Horne  
Tom Burnham  
Basia Gordon  
Shirley Melvin  
Halla Keir  
Rohan Talbot  
Craig Horne  
Isabella Gabrovsky  
Iina Jaara  
James Dornan MSP  
Maggie Chapman MSP  
Ross Greer MSP  
Mercedes Villalba MSP  
Sarah Boyack MSP  
Foyso! Choudhury MSP  
Katy Clark

	Sandra burt Omar Shamma Dr. Bashier Oudeh. Gerry O'hare Sandra White Nadia El-Nakla claudia beamish j benvie hanna lyden  Fergal Docherty Bushra Rariaz
--	--

<b>Organisations</b>	
----------------------	--

**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.

<b>Convener</b>	All co-conveners
<b>Deputy Convener</b>	Pauline McNeil MSP Maggie Chapman MSP James Dornan MSP
<b>Secretary</b>	Chris White
<b>Treasurer</b>	Chris White

**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.**

**None**

**Convener Contact Details**

<b>Name</b>	Pauline McNeil
-------------	----------------

<b>Parliamentary address</b>	M1.06
------------------------------	-------

<b>Telephone number</b>	01313486475
-------------------------	-------------

Additional:

CPG Team,

I note with regret that the CPG on Palestine has missed the deadline to hold its AGM this year.

The meeting should have taken place by the 14th of October, however it will now not take place until towards the end of this month.

I would firstly like to apologise for this breach of the rules. It was certainly not our intention to become non-compliant and we will ensure we are compliant in the future.

A number of factors contributed to this error being made. Given the international nature of the group, we have had to reschedule a number of meetings because of changes in availability of speakers who had agreed to address the group.

One of the MSP convenors from the group is currently on long term leave and we changed our secretary during the course of the year. Due to these changes, the date at which we needed to hold our AGM was missed.

I have spoken to the relevant office bearers and will ensure there will be no repeat of this error in the future.

Many thanks.

Conveners