

CROSS-PARTY GROUP ANNUAL RETURN

NAME OF CROSS-PARTY GROUP

Cross-Party Group on Poland

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.)

13 September 2011

DATE ANNUAL RETURN SUBMITTED

9 October 2013

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.

CPG 26th June 2013

First Meeting of the new CPG.

Anne McTaggart MSP appointed convenor and Jean Urquhart MSP appointed co-convenor.

Attendees –

2 MSPs, 20 non-MSPs

Main Business of the Meeting –

Establishing Office Bearers

Secretary – Joanna Zawadzka from the Polish Cultural Festival Association

There were also three sub-groups established:

1. Culture
2. Education
3. Business

Members signed up for one of these sub-groups, which planned to meet for initial discussions before the next CPG date.

In this meeting the group also discussed the Polish Scottish Heritage Project and its launch at the Scottish Parliament in November 2013.

Finally, the group discussed establishing an event about Scottish Independence and how the Polish community could best engage with the debate over the next year.

CPG 18th July 2013 – not a formal CPG meeting

This meeting was attended by Polish Senator Andrzej Person to discuss business and cultural links between Scotland and Poland.

Senator Person discussed the important role that Polish people living in Scotland could play throughout and period of the Commonwealth Games in 2014. Senator Person was also keen to emphasise the long term benefits of cultural links between Scotland and Poland.

This particular meeting was **not attended by any MSPs.**

15 non-MSP attendees were present for this meeting.

CPG 10th September 2013

Attendees -

2 MSPs, 13 Non-MSPs

Main Business of Meeting -

The group discussed their ongoing plans for an information event for Polish people living in Scotland about the upcoming independence referendum. It was agreed that arrangements should be made to secure speakers, but that the event should not become a political debate.

The Convenor reported that she had met with management staff at Glasgow Airport to discuss increased air links with Poland in order to encourage greater business opportunities for Scottish and Polish enterprises. Anne discussed the new links to Gdansk and Warsaw provided by Whizz Airlines from Glasgow and suggested that these routes could be more widely promoted to ambitious Scottish businesses keen to expand.

The convenor also asked each of the three sub-committees to report back on any meetings or activities that have taken place since the last CPG on Poland in June.

It was clarified that no list had been circulated for membership of either the Education or Culture sub-committees, though the Business sub-committee has been active and met to discuss business links between Poland and Scotland. Members confirmed that this initial meeting was intended to map out the current provision for business links with Poland and to identify areas of future partnership working.

Names were taken for those interested in joining the remaining two sub committees for future reference.

It was agreed by the group that future meetings of the CPG should take place in the evening, to ensure greater attendance.

MSP MEMBERS OF THE GROUP

Please provide names of all MSP members of the Group. Note that only names need to be provided, no party designation or other information is required.

Anne McTaggart
Jean Urquhart
Dr Richard Simpson
David Torrance
Elaine Smith
Stuart McMillan

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

Ewelina Kurek

Organisations

Inverness Polish Association
Association for Migrant Integration.
Consulate General of the Republic of Poland in Edinburgh
Scottish Polish Cultural Association
Scottish Family Business Association

	<p>Polish Professionals Forum</p> <p>Emito.net “UK's Polish Community Online”</p> <p>Polish Family Support Centre</p> <p>Anderson Strathern Solicitors</p> <p>Polish Cultural Festival Association</p> <p>Polish Language and Literature Department, University of Glasgow</p> <p>Frederic Chopin Polish Centre for Culture and Education in Edinburgh</p> <p>The European Movement in Scotland</p> <p>No Boundaries School (Polish Saturday school)</p> <p>Polish Business Chamber in Scotland</p> <p>Perth Polish Saturday School</p> <p>FENIKS Counselling, Personal Development and Support Services Ltd</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	Anne McTaggart
Deputy Convener	Jean Urquhart
Secretary	Joanna Zawadzka - Polish Cultural Festival Association
Treasurer	N/A

FINANCIAL BENEFITS OR OTHER BENEFITS RECEIVED BY THE GROUP

Please provide details of any financial or material benefit(s) received 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.

Details of material support should include the name of the individual providing support, the value of this support over the year, an estimate of the time spent providing this support and the name of the organisation that this individual is employed by / affiliated to in providing this support.

Groups should provide details of the date on which the benefit was received, the value of the benefit and a brief description of the benefit.

N/A

SUBSCRIPTION CHARGED BY THE GROUP

Please provide details of the amount charged and the purpose for which the subscription is intended to be used.

N/A

CONVENER CONTACT DETAILS

Name	Anne McTaggart
Parliamentary address	M1.11
Telephone number	0131 348 6211

