

CROSS-PARTY GROUP ANNUAL RETURN

NAME OF CROSS-PARTY GROUP

Cross-Party Group on Postal Issues

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.)

14 June 2012

DATE ANNUAL RETURN SUBMITTED

27 June 2014

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.

Meeting on 24 September 2013 - Vicki Nash from Ofcom, presented an overview of the findings of Ofcom's most recent Communications Market Report. There was an update on the parcel deliveries working group being jointly chaired by the Scottish Government and Consumer Futures. Felicity McFarlane from Royal Mail updated the group on the impact in Scotland of the recent change in post office density criteria.
Attendance: 2 MSPs, 10 Non-MSPs

Meeting on 21 January 2014 - Best practice principles for parcel deliveries discussed with Fergus Ewing, Minister for Energy, Enterprise and Tourism who updated the group on the development of a new Statement of Principles to help improve parcel delivery services. Connie Hewitt from Post Office Limited presented an overview of the Post Office's new bank account.
Attendance: 2 MSPs, 11 Non-MSPs

Meeting and AGM on 17 June 2014 - AGM re-elected Hugh Henry MSP and Kenneth Gibson MSP as co-convenors for another year. Andy Burrows, Head of Post Office Services at Citizens Advice, gave a presentation on Post Office Transformation and Diversification.
Attendance: 2 MSPs, 9 Non-MSPs

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.

Roderick Campbell MSP
Patricia Ferguson MSP
Kenneth Gibson MSP
Hugh Henry MSP
Jamie McGrigor 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

Organisations

Action on Hearing Loss
Age Scotland
Citizens Advice Scotland
Communications Consumer Panel
Communications Workers Union
COSLA
Direct Marketing Association
Federation of Small Businesses
Highland Council Trading Standards
Improvement Service
National Federation of Sub Postmasters
Ofcom
Ofcom Advisory Panel
Office of Fair Trading
Post Office Ltd
Royal Mail
Royal National Institute of Blind People
Scottish Disability Equality Forum
SCVO
TNT Express
Trading Standards Scotland
Unison
Unite
Which?
Yodel

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	Kenneth Gibson MSP co-convenor Hugh Henry MSP co-convenor
Deputy Convener	
Secretary	Citizens Advice Scotland
Treasurer	

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.

Until 31 March 2014 secretariat support was provided by Consumer Futures. The estimated value of this support since the last AGM until 31 March 2014 is £1500 based on working approximately 1 working day per calendar month providing this support. On 1 April Citizens Advice Scotland took over the secretariat. The estimated time of the secretariat provided is one day a month at cost of £75 so the estimate between April and June is £225. This is a total cost of 1725 to both organisations. Catering costs are approximately £150 per meeting and the cost over this year is £450. The budget for catering was provided by Consumer Futures from September to January and by Citizens Advice Scotland in June.

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	Kenneth Gibson MSP
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