

CROSS-PARTY GROUP ANNUAL RETURN

NAME OF CROSS-PARTY GROUP
Cross-Party Group on Dyslexia
DATE GROUP ESTABLISHED (the date of establishment is the date 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.)
24th June 2011
DATE ANNUAL RETURN SUBMITTED
2nd July 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.
2nd October 2012 Tam Baillie, Scotland's Commissioner for Children and Young People gave an informative presentation on the role of the Commissioner and in particular his views on the proposed Children and Young People Bill being progressed by the Scottish Government. The Group noted the response to the consultation submitted by Dyslexia Scotland. MSPs Attending: 3 Non MSPs: 15 November 2012 Parliamentary Debate on Dyslexia during National Dyslexia Awareness Week The Convener sponsored a debate in the Parliament about Dyslexia with speeches from a number of MSPs from across the political parties. A range of issues were raised including the inconsistency across local authorities in adopting the agreed definition of Dyslexia and in the promotion of the online toolkit for teachers. A number of MSPs raised concern about the significant under- recording of dyslexia in the school pupil census submitted by local authorities to the Scottish Government. This was a key element of the debate. The Convener also paid tribute to Ellie Gordon-Woolgar, aged 12 from Edinburgh who had developed the Blue Ribbon

Campaign for Dyslexia Awareness Week. Ribbons were worn by MSPs in the chamber and she had been pictured with the First Minister. It was hoped that the campaign would grow and be a feature of the National Dyslexia Awareness Week in future years.

6th February 2013

Yvonne Baird from the Department of Work and Pensions, Access to Work Programme and Ahmed Yousaf from Remploy gave presentations about the support available within the workplace for employees with dyslexia.

MSPs Attending: 3

Non MSPs: 15

Review of Cross Party Groups

The Group noted the findings and recommendations of the Scottish Parliament's Review of Cross Party Groups and the Secretary had attended a briefing session on the changes which were mainly administrative.

24th April 2013

Jennifer King, Association of Principal Scottish Educational Psychologists explained the role of the educational psychologist in relation to dyslexia and other additional support needs. Members expressed concerns about the way educational psychologists reports had changed and inconsistencies in approaches and access to services across local authorities.

MSPs Attending: 2

Non MSPs: 30

5th June 2013

Education Scotland is undertaking a review of the HMle Report on Dyslexia 2008. The review is taking place between April and December 2013. Ken McAra from Education Scotland outlined the remit of the review and answered questions from members. It was noted that the Convener and Secretary would have a further meeting with Education Scotland as part of the Cross Party's Group's contribution to the review.

MSPs Attending: 2

Non MSPs: 21

AGM

The Annual General Meeting considered and approved the Convener's and Treasurer's Report.

The following office-bearers were elected:

Convener: Margaret Mitchell MSP

Vice Conveners: Claudia Beamish MSP and Stewart McMillan MSP

Secretary: David Jones

Treasurer: Martin Davies

MSP's Attending: 2; Non MSPs: 21

KEY ISSUES RAISED DURING THE YEAR

- **Continued concern about the inconsistent adoption of the Working definition of dyslexia by local authorities**
- **The differences across local authorities in the promotion and use of the online toolkit**
- **Support for those trying to gain or stay in employment**
- **The under-reporting of dyslexia in the Scottish Government School Pupil Census.**

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.

Margaret Mitchell

Claudia Beamish

Stuart McMillan

Elaine Smith

Jim Hume

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

Dr. Margaret Crombie

Bill Sadler

Fiona Savage

Claire Milligan

Jay Kirkland

Linda Kerr

Hamish Hunter

Martin Davies

Mig Coupe

	Yowann Byghan Glenda Hannah Nicola Whitfield Joe Moran Ahmed Yousaf Irene Lumsden Elspeth Dow David Jones Lynne Dobbie
Organisations	Dyslexia Scotland Borders Dyslexia Scotland Dyslexia Scotland Lanarkshire Dyslexia Scotland South East
<p>GROUP OFFICE BEARERS</p> <p>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.</p>	
Convener	Margaret Mitchell MSP
Deputy Convener	Claudia Beamish MSP and Stuart McMillan MSP
Secretary	David Jones
Treasurer	Martin Davies
<p>FINANCIAL BENEFITS OR OTHER BENEFITS RECEIVED BY THE GROUP</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Groups should provide details of the date on which the benefit was received, the</p>	

value of the benefit and a brief description of the benefit.

Not applicable

SUBSCRIPTION CHARGED BY THE GROUP

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

£5.00 per parliamentary year for refreshments at meetings and travel expenses of speakers.

CONVENER CONTACT DETAILS

Name	Margaret Mitchell MSP
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Parliamentary address	M2.09, The Scottish Parliament Edinburgh
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Telephone number	0131 348 5639
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