

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.)

5 October 2016

DATE OF MOST RECENT AGM

27 September 2017

DATE OF PRECEDING AGM [this date is required to aid clerks in verifying that the most recent AGM has taken place within 11-13 months of the previous AGM]

This is the first AGM in a new session.

Date of the initial meeting in the current session: 5 October 2016

DATE ANNUAL RETURN SUBMITTED

17 October 2017

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.

5 October 2016

Initial meeting of the group in the current session.

Attendance : 3 MSPs, 6 Non-MSPs

- 1) Election of Office Bearers
- 2) Purpose of the Group
- 3) Work Programme for the Year Ahead (short discussion)

24 January 2017

Attendance : 3 MSPs, 38 Non-MSPs

Guests speakers:

Krystyna Szumelukowa, Convener, Brexit and Beyond Group: the Polish Perspective
Magda Czarnecka, Feniks Counselling, Personal Development and Support Services

Topics discussed:

- Polish perspective on Brexit; the role of the Cross Party Group on Poland in addressing the relevant issues with regard to Brexit;
- EU Nationals' Reactions and Long-term Consequences of the EU Referendum Results Study Report by Feniks;
- Contribution of migrants to the UK (Day Without Us is a National Day of Action on 20th Feb 2017);
- Work programme for the year ahead discussion;
- Education: new registration category for Polish teachers permitting the Polish teachers to provisionally register with GTCS and teach in Scottish schools;
- Feniks to work together with NHS and Police Scotland on establishing and tackling the high level of suicide rates among the Polish community in Scotland;
- Success of the Vote. You are at Home campaign (with currently at least 48 757 Polish electors registered to vote in Scotland).

14 March 2017

Exhibition "Scottish Polish Heritage of WWII: Life stories"

The exhibition presented 26 individual stories that were written by the children or grandchildren of men and women who came to Scotland during WWII, fought for our freedom and then settled in Scotland. These stories reflect the changed lives, aims and aspirations of those who survived the war and made a new life in their adopted country of Scotland.

23 March 2017

Attendance : 2 MSPs, 31 Non-MSPs

Guests speakers:

Dorota Peszkowska, Vote. You are at Home Campaign
Maciej Dokurno, Fife Migrants Forum

Topics discussed:

- The Vote. You Are at Home campaign relaunched. The campaign is aimed at mobilising the Polish community in Scotland to exercise their civil rights and vote in the upcoming local elections.

- Regional assembly links between Scotland and Poland (Fife and Toruń);
- The first meeting of the Belvedere Forum in Warsaw on March 8/9 2017. This forum has been established as a bi-lateral arrangement between the UK and Polish governments following the visit of the Polish PM and Ministers in the autumn of 2016.
- Polish Business Link Scotland Network;
- Scottish Polish Tartan Festival
- Education group meeting with Mr John Swinney (Deputy First Minister for Education and Skills).

21 June 2017

Attendance: 5 MSPs, 23 Non-MSPs

Guest speaker:

Magda Czarnecka, Feniks

Topics discussed:

- 'Polish Suicides in Lothian and Scotland 2012-2016' - presentation of the research results, discussion and action planning (Feniks);
- Calling of the General Election on June 8 2017 (Brexit and Beyond group);
- Substantial progress of the campaign led by the Polish Education Committee (PEC), that aims to establish examinations (Highers and Advance Highers) and introduce the Polish language into the mainstream education system in Scotland.

27 September 2017

Attendance: 3 MSPs, 21 Non-MSPs

AGM

Re-election of Office Bearers

Topics discussed:

- Meeting times and time allocation discussion
- General Stanislaw Maczek Memorial Trust campaign

MSP MEMBERS OF THE GROUP

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

Claire Baker MSP, Scottish Labour

Maree Todd MSP, Scottish National Party

Ivan McKee MSP, Scottish National Party

David Torrance MSP, Scottish National Party

Alexander Stewart MSP, Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party

Fulton MacGregor MSP, Scottish National 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

Dobrawa Jezior
Maciej Dokurno
Colm Wilson
Michael Borland
Antony AC Kozlowski
Katarzyna Jajszczok
Prof. Dr Karin Friedrich

Organisations

Consulate General of the Republic of Poland in Edinburgh
Fife Migrants Forum
Scottish Polish Cultural Association
Polish Cultural Festival Association
Polish Social and Educational Society in Glasgow
University of Aberdeen

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

Claire Baker MSP; Maree Todd MSP (Co-Conveners)

Deputy Convener

Secretary

Dobrawa Jezior

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.

If the Group is not disclosing any financial information please tick the box to confirm that the Group has considered the support received, but concluded it totalled under the threshold for disclosure (£500).

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	Claire Baker MSP; Maree Todd MSP
Parliamentary address	M1.03; M5.03
Telephone number	0131 348 6759; 0131 348 6947