

## CROSS-PARTY GROUP ANNUAL RETURN

<b>NAME OF CROSS-PARTY GROUP</b>
Cross-Party Group on WASPI, Women against State Pension Inequality.
<b>DATE GROUP ESTABLISHED</b> (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.)
Jan 18 2017
<b>DATE OF MOST RECENT AGM</b>
MARCH 17 2021
<b>DATE ANNUAL RETURN SUBMITTED</b>
MARCH 23 2021
<b>DATE OF PRECEDING AGM</b> [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]
FEB 5 2020
<b>GROUP MEETINGS AND ACTIVITIES</b>
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.
This has been a very challenging year due to COVID 19 & lockdown. Whereas our meetings would be held in Holyrood we have adapted to holding virtual CPGs via Zoom. Certainly has provided us with a new skill though will never replace face to face meetings. Our CPG generally follows same format even over Zoom

Welcome & Apologies noted  
Update of Action Points  
General WASPI Campaign/Events update  
Regional Activities.  
Special Topics/Guest speaker  
Way Forward, Plan of action.

Meetings were held July 1 2020 & March 17 2021

Attendees July 1<sup>st</sup> 2020 4 MSPS, 10 WASPIS, 2 Apologies.  
Attendees March 17 2021 3 MSPS 14 WASPIS 2 Apologies.

Discussions regarding the Scottish Government stance on state pension support regularly on agenda.

More recently we have discussed the PHSO situation which is still ongoing.

July 1 2020

COVID issues were discussed particularly on the adverse effects on the 50's born age group.

The Judicial Review outcome figured highly.

There was concern raised about the high numbers claiming working age benefits pre COVID .

Many of this cohort do not qualify for SSP & are finding their mental & physical health being adversely affected.

Issues of women experiencing bullying & harassment at work raised since some employers have been particularly harsh in pressing employees to return to work.

Many affected are working in Health Care.

There has been support on this problem from various unions.

Self employed women suffering too as many unable to claim UC.

For those with Private pensions they are being advised not to take money from their pension pot & worry how long this will continue.

Looking to the future there was concern regarding jobs available.

In the main the 50's born women felt that they could be regarded as part of the economic solution during & post pandemic if early access to State Pension allowed in order to free up jobs for those younger & fitter.

Clare Haughey Minister for Mental Health attended & highlighted the benefits of accessing the "Clear Your Head" campaign which had been introduced.

WASPI Scotland had sourced a supplier of COVID masks bearing the WASPI Scotland logo.

The attendees discussed the enthusiasm for group members taking part in Zoom meetings during lockdown.

Invitation to be sent to Christina McKelvie Minister for Older People.

Invitation to be sent to Guy Opperman Under Sec for Work & Pensions.

March 17 2021

AGM business carried out. Subject to change due to Parliament being dissolved prior to elections May 6 2021.

2 new members from Age Scotland introduced & they explained the benefits of linking in with their organisation.

2 new STUC members also introduced.

WASPI Scotland have been asked to submit an article for Age Scotland magazine due to be published April.

The Westminster APPG had very recently had their AGM with a new chairman & vice chair elected.

Age Scotland have already approached the APPG to include WASPI Scotland in their discussions.

With the forthcoming Scottish Parliamentary elections due to take place in May all parties have been asked if they can include the WASPI "ASK".

Again it was emphasised that women born in the 50's could be seen as part of the solution in freeing up jobs bearing in mind the current unemployment figures & worsening economic forecast due to the pandemic.

Working along with other pension groups is currently ongoing.

The Police & Sentencing Bill was covered though at this stage it is expected this will not affect Scotland but may impact us on future demos in England but this has to be confirmed.

Special thanks given to Sandra White MSP (Co – convenor) who is retiring in May.

Disappointingly our planned exhibition due to take place in Holyrood in April 2020 was cancelled due to COVID. Unfortunately this has not been rescheduled due to lockdown.

Cross party support includes SNP, Labour, Lib Dems, Greens & Conservatives.

### **MSP MEMBERS OF THE GROUP**

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

Sandra White SNP

Jackie Baillie Labour

Richard Leonard Labour

Patrick Harvie Greens

Beatrice Wishart Lib Dems

Shona Robison SNP

Alex Cole-Hamilton Lib Dems

## 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	WASPI

## 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	Jackie Baillie
Deputy Convener	Sandra White.
Secretary	Anne Potter
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

Jackie Baillie

Parliamentary  
address

Holyrood

Telephone number