

CROSS-PARTY GROUP REGISTRATION FORM

NAME OF CROSS-PARTY GROUP

Cross-Party Group on Deafness

PURPOSE OF THE GROUP AND PROPOSED DISCUSSION TOPICS

Please provide a brief explanation of the purpose of the Group and why the purpose is in the public interest.

Please also provide details of any overlaps with the purpose of existing Cross-Party Groups and an explanation of why, regardless of any such overlap, the Group should be established.

Please also provide an indication of the topics which the Group anticipates discussing in the forthcoming 12 months.

To raise awareness amongst Members of issues affecting the Deaf, deafblind and hard of hearing community in Scotland.

The aim of the CPG is to increase awareness of D/deaf matters throughout Scotland and encourage legislators to continue to work to break down the barriers facing D/deaf people on a daily basis. The CPG on Deafness was formed in 2000 and members have assisted in shaping important legislation, including the British Sign Language Act (Scotland) Act 2016.

There is an overlap with the Cross Party Group on Visual Impairment. This relates to deafblind people in Scotland, who would have an interest on the workings of both CPGs. This specific dual sensory impairment impacts approximately 2,000 people within a population of over 1 million who suffer some degree of hearing loss. In terms of the need to re-establish the group, a significant percentage of people in Scotland suffer a degree of hearing loss. It is important that the CPG on Deafness is re-established to continue to raise awareness among legislators of the challenges facing deaf, deafblind and heard of hearing people face on a daily basis.

In Session 5 the CPG aims to look at matters relating to:

The British Sign Language (Scotland) Act 2015 and its implementation;

The next stages of the See Hear Strategy. (Health - Sensory Impairment Strategy)

Strategies for closing the attainment gap in education, which is a significant problem facing D/deaf people;

The devolution of areas of social security and creating/ensuring appropriate awareness within the D/deaf community

Support increased access for deaf and deafblind people visiting the Scottish Parliament and increasing citizenship opportunities.

Continue to lobby for the establishment of appropriate services for D/deaf people, to ensure civil rights and the reduction of societal inequalities.

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.

Mark Griffin MSP

Graeme Day MSP

Annie Wells MSP

Neil Bibby MSP

Alison Johnstone MSP

Rhoda Grant 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.

Organisations

Action on Hearing Loss

ATLA - Association of Teachers of Lipreading to Adults

BATOD - The British Association of Teachers of the Deaf

British Deaf Association Scotland

Deaf Action

Deaf Connections

Deaf Links

Deafblind Scotland

Donaldson's School

Dumfries and Galloway Hard of Hearing Group

Hearing Link

Heriot-Watt University

	<p>NDCS – National Deaf Children’s Society</p> <p>NESS – North East Sensory Services</p> <p>RCSLT – Royal College of Speech and Language Therapists</p> <p>Royal College of Speech and Language Therapists</p> <p>SASLI - Scottish Association of Sign Language Interpreters</p> <p>Scottish Council on Deafness - SCoD</p> <p>Scottish Sensory Centre Signature</p> <p>SISG (Sensory Impairment Support Group)</p> <p>Tayside Deaf Forum</p> <p>University of Edinburgh</p>
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Individuals	
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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	Mark Griffin MSP
Deputy Convener	Graeme Day MSP
Secretary	Scottish Council on Deafness (SCoD)
Treasurer	Scottish Council on Deafness (SCoD)

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.

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.

There were no donations, gifts, hospitality or visits to report.

Scottish Council on Deafness provides secretariat support:

Value approx. £2,000 (staff time) and £2,000 communication support (Provision of Sign Language Interpreters and speech to text notetakers at every meeting).

Total: £4,000

SCoD holds a reserved account within its financial system which stands at £0.

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	Mark Griffin MSP
Parliamentary address	M1.20 The Scottish Parliament Edinburgh, EH99 1SP
Telephone number	0131 348 6397

STATEMENT ON COMPLIANCE WITH THE CODE OF CONDUCT

I declare that the Cross-Party Group on Deafness is constituted and will comply with the terms of Section 6 of the Code of Conduct for Members of the Scottish Parliament.

Signed	Mark Griffin
Date	15/09/2016