

Cross-Party Group Annual Return

Name of Cross-Party Group

Cross-Party Group on Scotch Whisky

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.)

21st September 2021

Date of Most Recent Annual General Meeting (AGM)

28th September 2023

Date Annual Return Submitted

29 September 2023

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

22nd September 2022

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.

22nd September 2022

Main subjects discussed: Office bearers were elected. Fraser Grieve from the Scotch Whisky Association (SWA) provided an overview of the findings of a recent membership survey focussed on the pressures the industry faces (energy costs, supply chain costs, shipping costs, regulatory costs) as well as the proposed increases to excise duty and impact of the alcohol duty review. The group discussed future items to be discussed at forthcoming meeting.

MSP attendance: Jackie Baillie MSP, Finlay Carson MSP, Murdo Fraser MSP, Gordon MacDonald MSP, Jenni Minto MSP, Colin Smyth MSP

Non-MSP attendance: Martin Bell (SWA), Blair Bowman (Whisky Consultant), Susanne Cameron-Nielsen (SWA – Secretariat), Karen Freel (Perspectiva Consultants), Alan Gaskell (Stolt Tank Containers UK), Fraser Grieve (SWA – Speaker), Annie Hill (International Centre for Brewing and Distilling), Kenneth Junner (Diageo), Orchid Liu (UK Chinese Times)

22nd November 2022

Main subjects discussed: Minutes of the previous meeting on 22nd September were approved. Alex Bruce, Managing Director, Adelphi Distillery Limited provided an overview of the impact Scotland's Deposit Return Scheme would bring on his company followed by a Q&A with members. Gordon Morrison, Chief Executive of the Association of Scottish Visitor Attractions provided an overview of the cost of doing business in the visitor attraction economy. The recently launched Alcohol Advertising and promotions consultation was highlighted and it was agreed to cover this topic at the next meeting of the CPG.

MSP attendance: Murdo Fraser MSP, Gordon MacDonald MSP, Colin Smyth MSP

Non-MSP attendance: Stacey Adam (Scottish Parliament), Susy Atkinson (Edrington), Blair Bowman (Whisky Consultant), Alex Bruce (Adelphi Distillery - Speaker), Susanne Cameron-Nielsen (SWA – Secretariat), Annie Hill (International Centre for Brewing and Distilling), Orchid Liu (UK Chinese Times), John McCartney (GMB Scotland), Joseph Meaden (Portman Group), Gordon Morrison (Association of Scottish Visitor Attractions – Speaker)

2nd March 2023

Main subjects discussed: Minutes of the previous meeting was approved. Main topic for the meeting the Scottish Government's consultation on alcohol advertising and promotions. The Group heard presentations from Matthew Wilson (Advertising Standards Authority (ASA)) and Matt Lambert (Portman Group) who provided respective overviews of the current regulatory landscape and the role and work of their organisations; Douglas Meikle (SWA) who provided an overview of the proposals contained within the consultation alongside recent consumption trends; and from Alasdair Day (R&B Distillers) and Susan Morrison (Scotch Whisky Experience) who provided an overview of how the proposals would affect their businesses. The group briefly noted the update on DRS following the Minister's statement and due to time constraints the SWA committed to sharing its UK Budget Briefing via email with members and provided a brief overview of the £6.2bn exports of Scotch Whisky 2022 to markets around the world as people restocked, hospitality reopened, air travel resumed, and premiumisation continued, but noted that the industry continued to navigate significant economic headwinds.

MSP attendance: Murdo Fraser MSP, Craig Hoy MSP, Jenni Minto MSP, Colin Smyth MSP

Non-MSP attendance: Blair Bowman (Whisky Consultant), Susanne Cameron-Nielsen (SWA – Secretariat), Alasdair Day (R&B Distillers - Speaker), Karen Freel (Perspectiva Consultants), Fraser Grieve (SWA), Annie Hill (International Centre for Brewing and Distilling), Matt Lambert (Portman Group - Speaker), Orchid Liu (UK Chinese Times), John McCartney (GMB Scotland), Joseph Meaden (Portman Group), Douglas Meikle (SWA - Speaker), Susan Morrison (Scotch Whisky Experience - Speaker), David Saer (Portman Group), Rory Steel (GMB Union), Michael Taylor, Andy Williams (56 North), David Williamson (William Grant & Sons), Matthew Wilson (Advertising Standards Authority - Speaker)

25th April 2023

Stolt Tank Containers UK facilitated visit to Tankwash, Grangemouth.

Main subjects discussed: Stolt Tank Containers UK provided an overview of their operations, followed by a guided tour of the Tankwash facilities on site in Grangemouth.

MSP attendance: Murdo Fraser MSP, Gordon MacDonald MSP, Colin Smyth MSP

Non-MSP attendance: Susanne Cameron-Nielsen (SWA – Secretary)

24-25th August – Joint CPG Scotch Whisky / All-Parliamentary Group (APPG) Scotch Whisky visit to Islay

Cross-Party Group on Scotch Whisky Office-Bearers Murdo Fraser MSP, Gordon Macdonald MSP and Colin Smyth MSP took part in an industry visit to Islay 24-25 August 2023 to learn more about the industry, visiting Ardbeg, Caol Ila and Bowmore Distilleries.

MSP attendance: Murdo Fraser MSP, Gordon MacDonald MSP, Colin Smyth MSP

Non-MSP attendance: Gagan Mohindra MP, Ruth Piggin, Director for Industry Sustainability, SWA and Susanne Cameron-Nielsen (SWA - Secretary) and employees of each of the respective distilleries visited.

28th September 2023

Main subjects discussed: AGM - office bearers were (re)elected. Graeme Littlejohn, Director of Strategy & Communications, SWA, provided an overview of the Scotch Whisky Tourism figures 2022 and Rosie Willmot, Communication Manager, SWA, provided an update on the industry's Made to Be Measured responsible drinking campaign.

MSP attendance: Murdo Fraser MSP, Gordon MacDonald MSP, Colin Smyth MSP, Emma Harper MSP, Rhoda Grant MSP

Non-MSP attendance: Blair Bowman (Whisky Consultant), Howell Davies (Interface), Graeme Littlejohn, (SWA – Speaker and acting secretariat), Orchid Liu (Chinese Times), Michael Taylor (Director Solmaris), Rosie Willmot, (SWA - Speaker).

MSP Members of The Group

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

Jackie Baillie (Labour), Murdo Fraser (Conservatives), Rhoda Grant (Labour), Rachael Hamilton (Conservatives), Emma Harper (SNP) Gordon MacDonald (SNP), Liam McArthur (Liberal Democrat), Jenni Minto (SNP) [Until 29th March 2023 when she was appointed Minister for Public Health and Women's Health], Colin Smyth (Labour).

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	Blair Bowman, Whisky Consultant and Author Michael Taylor, Director, Solmaris
Organisations	Scotch Whisky Association, Chivas Brothers, Devin Scobie Consulting, Diageo, Edinburgh Distillery Company, Edrington, Gordon MacPhail, Perspectiva Consultants, Glasgow Distillery, GMB, Industrial Biotechnology Innovation Centre, Institute of Brewing and Distilling, Interface, SEPA, Scottish Distillers Association, Forth Ports, Portman Group, Stolt Tank Containers UK, Chinese Times, Unite, William Grant.

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	Murdo Fraser MSP	Gordon MacDonald MSP
Deputy Convener	Colin Smyth MSP	Emma Harper MSP
Secretary	Susanne Cameron-Nielsen, Scotch Whisky Association	

Treasurer	None	
<p>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).</p> <p>The group has received support above the threshold as per the activity below:</p> <p>The Scotch Whisky Association provided financial support for the joint CPG/APPG visit to Islay. The costs of the visit, including travel, accommodation and hospitality amounted to £495 per MSP (£1,485 in total) and were met by the Scotch Whisky Association.</p>		
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	Murdo Fraser MSP	Gordon MacDonald MSP
Parliamentary address		
Telephone number	0131 348 5293	0131 348 5741