

Cross-Party Group Rules: Summary

April 2023



Cross-Party Groups are groups of Members of the Senedd (MSs) and interested stakeholders formed to consider and discuss shared interests on particular subjects. They are not established by the Senedd itself, nor governed by its Standing Orders, and do not form an official part of Senedd business. The Senedd plays a role in recognising and registering Cross-Party Groups which allows access to certain resources within the Senedd. In order to register and maintain this status, groups are subject to the 'Rules for the operation of Cross-Party Groups'.

This document is intended as a quick guide to the rules, but you should also refer to the full rules and ensure you comply with them.

To establish a Cross-Party Group you need:

- an MS as Chair;
- MS representatives from three different parties;
- to hold an inaugural Annual General Meeting (AGM) where you elect the Chair and Secretary to the Group; and
- to complete the paper work and return it to officials. This must include a list of all the members of the Cross-Party Group.

In holding a meeting of a Cross-Party Group you need to:

- submit a notification of the meeting/agenda to the delegated Senedd official in advance of the meeting;
- produce Minutes of each meeting within four weeks of the meeting and provide them to the delegated Senedd official; and
- ensure at least one MS is present at each meeting.

Cross Party Groups must:

- hold an AGM every twelve months;
- file an annual report and financial return within 6 weeks of the AGM; and

- ensure the rules around registration of interests and lobbying are complied with.

Information on Cross-Party Group compliance with these rules is collated annually and presented to the Standards Committee. Failure to comply with any aspect of these rules could ultimately lead to the deregistration of the group.

A failure to comply with the rules could also lead to a complaint about the Chair being made to the Commissioner for Standards.