

Cross Party Group on Independent Convenience Stores

Inaugural meeting 20th September 2016

The Scottish Parliament, Committee Room 4

Minute of Proceedings as approved

The meeting was called to order by Gordon MacDonald MSP, who welcomed the attendees and discussed the aims and objectives of the proposed Group as outlined in the registration document. Mr MacDonald informed the meeting that there were six MSPs in attendance. These were:

- Daniel Johnson MSP
- James Kelly MSP
- Gordon Lindhurst MSP
- John Mason MSP
- Gil Paterson MSP
- Anas Sarwar MSP

Anas Sarwar MSP declared an interest in relation to his connection with United Wholesale Grocery. Mr Macdonald continued to say that four MSPs has indicated their intention to become members of the Group. These were:

- Murdo Fraser MSP
- Rachael Hamilton MSP
- Richard Lyle MSP
- Ben MacPherson MSP

Mr MacDonald explained that the workplan of the Group would focus on four key areas:

- Convenience Stores and the economy
- Retail Crime
- Convenience Stores and Community Engagement
- Creating an environmentally sustainable C-Store Industry in Scotland.

John Lee explained further that sub-groups comprised of Group members would be established to look at these issues in more depth and enable the production of reports and briefing papers for MSPs and other key stakeholders – more information on this would be issued to members.

The Group would also respond to consultations from the Scottish government and to calls for evidence from the Scottish Parliament. The meeting then moved to the appointment of office bearers:

- Pete Cheema proposed that Gordon MacDonald MSP be appointed convenor. This was seconded by Anas Sarwar MSP and approved by the meeting.
- Gordon MacDonald proposed Anas Sarwar MSP for the office of Vice-Convenor. This was seconded by Daniel Johnson MSP and approved by the meeting.
- Gordon MacDonald MSP proposed John Lee as Group secretary. This was seconded by Pete Cheema and approved by the meeting.

Pete Cheema, of the Scottish Grocers Federation, said that the CPG represented a major step forward for the industry in its engagement with parliament.

John Lee said that the CPG has the potential to provide a unique cross-sectoral platform for the entire retail supply chain to engage directly with MSPs.

Abdul Majid, President of the Scottish Grocers Federation, said that this was an historic moment and the culmination of much hard work behind the scenes.

The Convenor pointed out to the meeting that despite the inaugural meeting having taken place, the proposal to establish the CPG would still have to be approved by the Standards, Procedures and Public Appointments Committee. The Convenor would lodge the registration documents with the Committee at the earliest possible opportunity and communicate the Committee’s decision.

A provisional date of the next Group meeting was set for 23rd November 2016.

Suggested dates for further meetings (subject to confirmation) were:

Year	Date
2017	Jan: 17 or 18
2017	May: 23 or 24
2017	September: 12 or 13
2017	Nov: 28 or 29

The meeting concluded at 7:30pm

John Lee
 Secretary, Cross Party Group on Independent Convenience Stores
 November 2016

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Scottish Parliament, Committee Room 4**

Attendance List

Attendees – MSPs

Daniel Johnson MSP
James Kelly MSP
Gordon Lindhurst MSP
John Mason MSP
Gil Paterson MSP
Anas Sarwar MSP

Attendees – Organisational Members

Batleys	Karen Conway
Booker	Alex MacArthur
Booker Premier	Scott McComish
Premier Blantyre	Shahid Razzaq
Abdul Majid and Son Ltd	Abdul Majid
PGMA (Scotland)	Jim Amabile
Scotmid	Malcolm Brown
SGF	Pete Cheema
SGF	John Lee
Spar Renfrew	Saleem Saddiq
SLR Magazine	Antony Begley
Scottish Wholesale Association	Margaret Smith
Thompsons Solicitors	Rory McPherson
United Wholesale Grocers	Ali Zulfaker
United Wholesale Grocer	Yasir Chaudhry
United Wholesale Grocer	Sanjeev Nanda
United Wholesale Grocer	Shad Waseem

Attendees – Individual Members

Professor Leigh Sparks

Attendees – Non Members

Amin, Sacha
Baird, Mark
Barton, John
Bonar, Linda
Buchanan, Caroline
Clark, Robert

Craig, Wendy
Donaghy, Stephen
Fleming, Liana
Hunter, Neil
Keane, John
Lal, Hassan
Ouija, Barry
Padda, Sarbjit Singh
Rennie, Jonathan
Sangha, Jarnail
Sangha, Sukhi
Sarna, Vishal
Shah, Sohail
Singh, Jaspreet
Singh, Lakvir
Sutton, Brian
Taylor, Stuart
Wallace, Robert
Watson, Graham
Wilkinson, Mike