

Cross-Party Group on Construction

5.45pm Tuesday 22nd February via MS Teams

Minute of Meeting

Present

MSPs

Monica Lennon MSP
Paul McLennan MSP

Invited guests

Mark Harrison, CIOB
Helen Martin, Fair Work Convention Secretariat

Non-MSP Group Members Present

Ann-Marie Waugh Glass and Glazing Federation
Rebecca Passmore Association of Environmental Clerks of Works
Fiona Harper SELECT
Alan Wilson SELECT
Stephanie Lowe SNIPEF
Lorraine Doig SNIPEF
John McKinney, Scottish Contractors Group
Anne Galbraith SECTT
Hew Edgar CIOB
Lauren Pennycook, CITB
Euan Ryan RICS
Grahame Barn CECA Scotland
Jonathan McAveety CECA Scotland
Gordon Nelson Federation of Master Builders
Euan Ryan RICS
Arthur McIvor Energy & Utility Skills
Gareth Lonie Association for Consultancy and Engineering
Chris Pateman Engineered Panels in Construction
Iain McCaskey Building and Engineering Services Association

Others present

Jacq Kelly Registers of Scotland
Brett Amphlett Builders Merchant Federation
Fiona Stewart Skills Development Scotland
Elaine Ellis Skills Development Scotland
Jonathan Gaskell Macroberts LLP
Nicki Souter Resource Management Association Scotland
Alastair Lambe McLaughlin & Harvey
Stuart Tennant University of the West of Scotland
Ruth Boyle Close the Gap
Andrew Murdoch JM Murdoch

Apologies

Graham Jackson Thorntons Law

1. Welcome, introduction, and apologies from Monica Lennon MSP.

Monica Lennon (ML) MSP welcome everyone to the meeting and noted that the meeting will be recorded. ML noted:

- The CPG will be the forum for MSPs, construction industry stakeholders and other interested parties to engage directly with each other in order to raise awareness of the opportunities and challenges facing the sector and to inform the development of better policy.
- That Covid-19 cases were decreasing and that with restrictions easing in Scotland, we hoped to have our next meeting within the Scottish Parliament.
- That the focus of this CPG meeting concerns policies and practices affecting the people working within our industry and those we want to attract into the industry in the years ahead.

2. Matters arising

ML confirmed that the notes of the meeting held on 30th November 2021 were distributed prior to this meeting. There were no comments or clarifications.

The notes were proposed by Grahame Barn and seconded by Rebecca Passmore.

3. People and fair work within the construction industry

ML welcomed our two speakers. Mark Harrison, Head of Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion Transformation at the CIOB. Mark will present about the CIOB's Report and Charter on Diversity and Inclusion in Construction, which was launched at the end of November.

Helen Martin from the Fair Work Convention Secretariat will deliver a presentation on the Construction Industry Inquiry Group's (CIIG) Inquiry into Fair Work in Construction. This Group brings together a range of representatives from the Fair Work Convention, Local Authorities, Construction Companies, National Bodies engaged in the sector, Trade Unions and other people who have direct experience of working in construction.

i. Presentation from Mark Harrison, Head of Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion Transformation at the CIOB.

ii. Presentation from Helen Martin from the Scottish Government, on the Fair Work convention and the Construction Industry Inquiry Group's (CIIG) Inquiry into Fair Work in Construction.

(Both presentations are attached with the minutes).

A question-and-answer session followed both presentations. Questions covered: working practices in the industry impacting on mental health and wellbeing, the challenge of keeping environmental professionals working in construction, the global supply chain and its impact on the industry in Scotland, procurement practices concerning value and quality, UK and Scottish collective agreements and to whom are the CIIG's recommendations for and what is expected.

4. Any other business

Proposed new member of the Cross-Party Group: The Resource Management Association Scotland (RMAS). There were no objections and RMAS were confirmed as a member of the CPG.

Rebecca Passmore from the Association of Environmental Clerks of Works noted their forthcoming conference.

5. Date of Next Meeting

ML and the CPG Secretary Gordon Nelson (GN) are looking to confirm a date in May. Noting previous discussions about inviting a Minister or Cabinet Secretary to join us, the precise date and time will need to be based on their availability.

GN will be in touch to confirm nearer the time. ML thanked everyone for joining the CPG this evening and closed the meeting.

