

Cross-Party Group on the Wood Panel Industry

Monday 3rd November, 2025 at 10am - Via Zoom

AGM - DRAFT Minutes

Present

MSPs

Fergus Ewing MSP - *Co-Convenor*
Sharon Dowey MSP - *Deputy Convenor*
Emma Harper MSP - *Registered Member*
Maurice Golden MSP - *Registered Member*
Stephen Kerr MSP - *Co-Convenor*
Emma Roddick MSP - *Registered Member*
Finlay Carson MSP - *Registered Member*
Carol Mochan MSP - *Deputy Convenor*

Non-MSPs

Alastair Kerr - Director General, Wood Panel Industries Federation
Steven McArthur - EGGER
Chris Emery - Kronospan
Brian Wilson - Advisor, Invicta Public Affairs
Andrew Laidler - EGGER
Mark Cummings - Managing Director, Invicta Public Affairs
Richard Thomson - Associate Director, Invicta Public Affairs
Stephanie Marshall-White - Account Manager, Invicta Public Affairs

Apologies

Elena Whitham MSP (SNP, Carrick, Cumnock and Doon Valley)
Evelyn Tweed MSP (SNP, Stirling)

1. Welcome from the Chair

Fergus Ewing MSP opened the meeting as Chair of the Cross Party Group. He welcomed attendees and noted apologies.

2. Approval Minutes of the Last Meeting

No issues were raised and the minutes were approved.

3. AGM

The Chair moved the Group to proceed with re-appointing the Office Bearers and Secretary/Treasurer.

- Fergus Ewing MSP was nominated by Stephen Kerr MSP to remain as Convener of the Group. This was seconded by Maurice Golden MSP.
- Fergus Ewing MSP nominated Stephen Kerr to be Co-Convener, thereby sharing the convenership role. This was seconded by Maurice Golden MSP and Sharon Dowey MSP.
- Fergus Ewing MSP nominated Sharon Dowey MSP and Carol Mochan MSP to be reappointed to the roles of Deputy Convener. Elena Whitham MSP was also nominated to the role of Deputy Convener. This was seconded by Maurice Golden MSP and Stephen Kerr MSP.
- The Group agreed that the Wood Panel Industry Federation would remain as Secretariat.

4. Review of Proposed Letter regarding Industry priorities for Scottish Budget 2026/27.

Members discussed a letter, which had been circulated to all before the meeting, regarding key asks from the Group to be considered for the Scottish Budget 2026/27.

- A presentation was delivered by Richard Thomson (Invicta Public Affairs) detailing the current situation for the Wood Panel Industry in Scotland and which outlined the rationale for the proposed key asks.
- Additions were suggested by several Members and stakeholders, all amendments discussed were accepted by the Group.
 - A new section was agreed to be added to address industry concerns regarding the consenting process for securing planting permissions
 - The funding grant section was agreed to be revised to include an ask for a long-term commitment from all parties to extend beyond the current budget cycle.
- CPG Members unanimously agreed that the final Letter would be signed off by the group Co-Conveners once the agreed alterations have been made to the draft.
- Members agreed that the revised Letter should be sent not only to the Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs, Land Reform and Islands and the Cabinet Secretary for Housing; but also to all party leaders and party spokespersons for Finance, the Economy, Housing and the Environment for their information and consideration.

5. Next Steps

Members agreed to:

- To publicise through a media release the letter and its contents once issued, and to seek meetings afterwards with relevant parliamentarians.
- To seek meetings with the Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs, Land Reform and the Islands; and the Cabinet Secretary for Housing.
- To seek a meeting with the Secretary of State for Scotland to engage in discussions regarding the content of the letter.
- To seek agreement on a strategy for working with the UK-wide Tree Planting Task Force
- To seek a meeting between the Co-Conveners, Ken Skates MS and the office bearers of the All Party Parliamentary Group in Westminster to discuss matters of mutual interest.

6. AOB and Close of Meeting

There being no further business, the meeting was closed.