Minute note - Cross Party Group on Oil and Gas

Held on Wednesday 21 December, 13:00-14:00

Committee Room 4, the Scottish Parliament, Edinburgh, EH99 1SP

In Attendance
MSPs: Tavish Scott [Chair] Alexander Burnett Lewis Macdonald Gillian Martin

Non MSPs: Alex Anderson, Centrica
Allan Rae, BP
Bill Cattanach, Oil and Gas Authority
David Rennie, Scottish Enterprise
Drew Duffy, GMB Scotland
Drew Smith, GMB Scotland
Gary Smith, GMB Scotland
Gareth Williams, SCDI
Grant Wilson, Seaways Engineering
Jack Wyllie, Office of Alex Burnett MSP
John West, Office of Maureen Watt MSP
Karen Freel, Perspectiva Consultants
Malcolm Dickson, Wood Mackenzie
Neil Michie, Oil & Gas UK (Secretary)
Nik Scott-Gray, Montrose Port Authority
Olivia Carson, Office of Jackie Baillie MSP

Roger Esson, Decom North Sea
Sylvia Buchan, OGA
Tommy Campbell, Unite
Tim Smith, BP
Wullie Wallace, Unite

Apologies
MSPs: Jackie Baillie
Liam Kerr
Ross Thomson

Non-MSPs: Chris Morritt, Nexen
Christine Currie, OPITO
Jill Glennie, EnQuest
Karen Seath, Decom North Sea
Neil Anderson, Ledingham Chalmers LLP
Richard Crossick, Shell
Samantha Silvers, TAQA Bratani Ltd
Tony Brady, Petrofac

Tavish Scott MSP (TS) welcomed MSPs and non-MSP members to the Cross Party Group and opened the meeting with round-table introductions. Following this, TS introduced the speakers, David Rennie (DR) from Scottish Enterprise, and Gary Smith (GS) and Drew Duffy (DD) from GMB Scotland.

DR then gave an overview of Scottish Enterprise’s ‘Decommissioning Action Plan’, which was launched that day. Designed to complement the Decommissioning Strategy published by the Oil and Gas Authority, their aim is to improve the information available to the supply chain, operators and other stakeholders to support their decommissioning activity, as well as to promote knowledge and capabilities of Scottish-based supply chain companies.

DR stressed that Scottish Enterprise absolutely supports MER UK, but that a focus on decommissioning, when the time is right, could help Scotland to win a significant amount of the potential market. DR then went through the plan in more detail, outlining the following 6 broad themes:

- Information and stakeholders (including market intelligence for the supply chain)
- Supply chain capability
- Technology and innovation
- Competitive infrastructure (including development of appropriate port infrastructure)
- Skills and training
Following this Gary Smith, Scottish Secretary for GMB Scotland, gave an update on the decommissioning report they had produced – ‘Status Capacity and Capability of North Sea Decommissioning Facilities’.

GS outlined that GMB Scotland also supported the principle of MER UK, but was concerned that Scotland was behind the curve on decommissioning. GS stated that decommissioning in the oil and gas industry was a huge opportunity and that there should be a focus on trying to build a centre of excellence for decommissioning. GS also stated that an appropriate fiscal regime should be in place that would facilitate the appropriate transfer of assets, and that public-sector co-investment in the industry should be implemented.

Drew Duffy then stressed the need to look at all of Scotland’s decommissioning facilities, and highlighted that the Tay Cities Deal was very important for the Port of Dundee’s decommissioning plans. DD stressed the need for the Scottish Government to focus on where investment should be made.

TS then moderated a Q&A session, which covered topics such as the government support decommissioning; the OGA’s decommissioning strategy; and capabilities of ports in Scotland.

TS then thanked all attendees for their input, before formally closing the meeting.