

Minute note - Cross Party Group on Oil and Gas

Held on Tuesday 14 March, 13:00-14:00

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

In Attendance

MSPs:

Alexander Burnett (Chair)
Gillian Martin

Non MSPs:

Bradley Johnston, PwC
Christine Currie OPITO
Colette Cohen, Oil and Gas Technology Centre
David Green, Office of Liam McArthur MSP
David Ogilvie, SEPA
Emma Mathieson, RICS
Jack Wyllie, Office of Alex Burnett MSP
Karen Freel, Perspectiva Consultants
Malcolm Dickson, Wood Mackenzie
Mark Whittet, Scottish Energy News
Neil Michie, Oil & Gas UK (Secretary)
Neil Anderson, Ledingham Chalmers LLP
Nik Scott-Gray, Montrose Port Authority
Peter Finnie, SEPA
Rhonda Miller, Total E&P

Apologies

MSPs:

Jackie Baillie
Lewis Macdonald
Liam Kerr
Ross Thomson

Tavish Scott

Non-MSPs:

Andrew Curtis, Edinburgh University
Bill Cattanach, Oil and Gas Authority
Brian Donaldson
David Rennie, Scottish Enterprise
Emma White, Statoil
Gareth Williams, SCDI
Gordon Winton, Heriot Watt University
James Bream, AGCC
James Strolland
Janice Connelly
Jennifer Dunbar, Decom North Sea
Jill Glennie, EnQuest
John Taylor
Jonathan Milne, Maersk Oil
Karen Seath, Decom North Sea
Rebecca Bell, RSPB
Richard Crossick, Shell
Samantha Silvers, TAQA Bratani Ltd
Sylvia Buchan, Oil and Gas Authority
Tim Smith, BP
Tony Brady, Petrofac
William Wallace, Unite

Alex Burnett MSP (AB) welcomed MSPs and non-MSP members to the Cross Party Group and opened the meeting with round-table introductions. Following this, AB introduced the speaker, Colette Cohen (CC) from the Oil and Gas Technology Centre (OGTC).

Colette opened by providing context on the state of the industry – since 1970, 43 billion barrels of oil and gas equivalent has been produced, and £330 billion in corporation tax has been paid to HM Treasury. With between 11 to 17 billion barrels potentially remaining on the UKCS, CC outlined that the OGTC was a vehicle for technology needs, helping to leverage information from other sectors that will enable industry to maximise economic recovery from the basin.

Founded from the Aberdeen City Region Deal and funded by both Government and industry funds, CC stated that the OGTC has solution centres focussed on several ‘pillars’ – asset integrity, well construction, digital, small pools and decommissioning. She outlined the Centres of Excellence that the OGTC was establishing, as well as the work currently underway, such as the Centre of Excellence for Field Life Extension and Decommissioning with the University of Aberdeen and Robert Gordon University.

CC told the group about the innovation hub being launched in Aberdeen, which will have a focus on collaboration and learning by bringing industry together to learn from one another, as well as utilising ideas from other sectors.

Following her overview, CC discussed the changing energy landscape and the need for an integrated oil and gas view for the 21st century. She stressed that the importance of oil and gas is underplayed, and that the wider society does not understand the vital need for oil and gas to create many of the products we use on a daily basis (such as toiletries).

Finally, CC stated that technology will transform the oil and gas industry for the future, and could also help us meet our needs for energy and materials, as well as our climate change goals. Investing in the right technology would enable industry to drive change towards a low carbon oil and gas industry.

AB then moderated a Q&A session, which covered topics including the adoption of new technology and barriers to uptake; how technology would affect jobs in the industry; decommissioning; industry skills; and small pools.

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