

# ECONOMY AND FAIR WORK COMMITTEE

11<sup>th</sup> Meeting, 2021 (Session 6), Wednesday 17 October 2021

## Inquiry into Scotland's Supply Chain

### Evidence Session 2

#### Introduction

1. This paper has been prepared for the Economy and Fair Work Committee to aid Committee members during the first evidence session of the Committee's inquiry into Scotland's supply chain.
2. A supply chain is the end to end process of creating products and delivering them to customers.
3. The remit of the inquiry is—

to consider the short and medium-term structural challenges facing Scotland's supply chain. The Committee is interested in how the challenges and shifts in s supply chains are impacting Scotland's economy. We want to consider how to build future resilience and whether there are opportunities for Scottish firms to develop domestic supply chains. We will consider the issues under the themes of People, Place and Product.

4. The inquiry is based around three central themes; people, places and products.
  - **People** - analysing why there are persistent skills gaps in certain sectors and gaps in labour supply in other sectors;
  - **Places** - looking at the challenges facing Scotland's supply infrastructure, particularly as we transition to net zero, and how it can be made more resilient;
  - **Products** - seeking to find out what issues face both Scotland's importers and exporters, how they can be supported to maximise opportunities and how to better grow Scotland's domestic supply chain.
5. The Committee launched a [call for views](#) on Tuesday 12 October. Responses to the call for views can be viewed [here](#).

#### Evidence Session

6. This is the second evidence session of the inquiry. The purpose of the session is to discuss skills provision in Scotland and skills gaps (both persistent gaps and future areas which are likely to see an increase in demand).

7. Future evidence sessions will focus on the logistical issues facing Scotland's supply chains, the retail and construction sectors, and support for emerging supply chain businesses in Scotland.

## Witnesses

8. During the evidence session, the Committee will hear from—
  - Chris Brodie, Director of Regional Skills Planning and Sector Development, [Skills Development Scotland](#);
  - Marie Hendry, Depute Director, External Engagement and partnerships, [the Open University](#);
  - Paul Little, Vice-Chair of the College Principals Group, [Colleges Scotland](#); and
  - Richard McClelland, Director, [Qualifications for Industry](#).
9. As part of the Committee's call for views, both Skills Development Scotland and the Open University in Scotland submitted a response. These can be accessed here:
  - [Skills Development Scotland response](#)
  - [The Open University in Scotland response](#)

**Clerk to the Committee  
12 November 2021**