

# ECONOMY AND FAIR WORK COMMITTEE

12<sup>th</sup> Meeting, 2021 (Session 6), Wednesday 24 November 2021

## Inquiry into Scotland's Supply Chain

### Evidence Session 3

#### 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.

#### Call for Views

5. The Committee launched a [call for views](#) on Tuesday 12 October. The responses have been published and can be accessed at the following link:

- [Published responses for Scotland's supply chain - Scottish Parliament - Citizen Space](#)

## Evidence Session

6. This is the third evidence session of the inquiry and will focus on Scotland and international logistics.
7. Future evidence sessions will focus on 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—
  - Richard Ballantyne, Chief Executive, [British Ports Association](#);
  - [Professor Kieran Fernandes](#), Professor of Operations Management, Durham Business School;
  - Bryan Hepburn, Operations Manager, [DFDS](#);
  - Maggie Simpson, Director General, [Rail Freight Group](#); and
  - Robert Windsor, Policy & Compliance Manager and Executive Director, [British International Freight Association](#).

**Clerk to the Committee  
19 November 2021**