

ECONOMY AND FAIR WORK COMMITTEE

14^h Meeting, 2022 (Session 6), Wednesday 18 May 2022

Town Centres and Retail

Introduction

1. This paper has been prepared for the Economy and Fair Work Committee to aid Committee members during the sixth evidence session of the Committee's inquiry into town centres and retail.
2. The remit of the inquiry is to—

Identify the new realities of retail and ecommerce in Scotland and the resulting impact on town centres. What is the subsequent policy response needed to create living and resilient town centres?
3. The Committee launched a call for views on Tuesday 1 February which closed on Wednesday 16 March. Responses can be accessed [here](#).
4. On 24 March, the Scottish Government published its retail strategy "[Getting the Right Change](#)" with the aim of delivering successful, profitable retail businesses, creating new, better jobs and to become an exemplar for inclusive growth.

Evidence Session

5. The main theme of this session is keeping town centres alive - driving change and creating resilience, the Committee will hear evidence across two panels as follows—
 - [Dr Alison Orr](#), Senior Lecturer in Real Estate, University of Glasgow;
 - Pauline Smith, Chief Executive, [Development Trusts Association Scotland](#); and
 - Martin Avila, Chief Executive; [Community Enterprise in Scotland](#).

And then from—

- Ian Buchanan, Equality and Access Manager, [Disability Equality Scotland](#);
- Nicoletta Primo, Research and Policy Officer, [Sight Scotland](#); and
- Adam Stachura, Head of Policy and Communications; [Age Scotland](#).

6. Prior to the evidence session the following written evidence was received from [Age Scotland](#).

**Clerk to the Committee
13 May 2022**