

ECONOMY AND FAIR WORK COMMITTEE

5th Meeting, 2023 (Session 6), Wednesday 22 February 2023

Just Transition for the Grangemouth area

Note by the Clerk

Background

1. There is currently a target of 2045 for Scotland to cut greenhouse gas emissions to net-zero. Industry is the second highest carbon emitting sector in Scotland after transport and the Scottish Government aims to reduce emissions by around a third by 2030.
2. The transition to net zero is known as a “just transition”. The Just Transition Commission has defined this as where—

“Governments design policies in a way that ensures the benefits of climate change action are shared widely, while the costs do not unfairly burden those least able to pay, or whose livelihoods are directly or indirectly at risk as the economy shifts and changes.”
3. At its meeting on 14 December 2022, the Committee agreed to undertake an inquiry exploring policy to support a Just Transition with an initial focus on the Grangemouth area.

Remit

4. The agreed remit for this inquiry is to consider how we can support, incentivise and de-risk this transition in a way that benefits businesses and people.
5. Key areas that the Committee expects to explore are:
 - what planning and engagement has started for the transition to net zero;
 - economic and employment benefits of a net zero transition;
 - the skills that we’ll need to support the transition over the next two decades;
 - how can we measure the transition; and

- how can we ensure the learning from the Grangemouth; transition supports the wider transition across Scottish industry.

Call for Views

6. The Committee [launched a call for views](#) on 20 December which closed on 14 February.
7. **Written responses received [can be found here](#).**

Witnesses

8. The purpose of the first evidence session today is to consider the challenges facing businesses working towards a just transition for Grangemouth. In addition to considering these challenges, the session will consider gaps in policy, or where policy detail is lacking to enable proper planning. The session will also look at the opportunities presented by this transition and how these can be taken advantage of by businesses of all sizes.
9. The Committee will hear from—
 - Hisashi Kuboyama, Development Manager for the West, [Federation of Small Businesses Scotland](#);
 - Liz McAreavey, Chief Executive, [Scottish Chambers of Commerce](#);
 - Stuart Wallace, Chief Operating Officer, [Forth Ports Limited](#); and
 - Michelle Primrose, Group HR Manager, [Forth Ports Limited](#).
10. A written response to the Committee's call for views was received from [Forth Ports Limited and Forth Green Freeport](#).

**Economy and Fair Work Committee Clerks
17 February 2023**