

ECONOMY AND FAIR WORK COMMITTEE

**6th Meeting, 2023 (Session 6), Wednesday
1 March 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. The first evidence session of the inquiry was held on 22 February 2023.

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 [can be found here](#).**

Witnesses

8. The purpose of the evidence session today is to consider the current workforce in Grangemouth and the skills needed to facilitate a just transition. The session will also consider access to labour and how workers can be supported to reskill to be ready to make the most of these opportunities.
9. The Committee will hear from—
 - Cliff Bowen, Executive Councillor; and Pat Rafferty, Regional Secretary [Unite the Union](#);
 - Gordon McGuiness, Director of Industry and Networks; and Ronnie Palin, Regional Skills Planning Lead for Central Scotland, [Skills Development Scotland](#); and
 - Dominic Pritchard, National Organiser, [GMB Scotland](#).
10. Written responses to the Committee's call for views was received from [GMB Scotland](#) and [Unite the Union](#).

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