

# Minutes

## Cross Party Group on Beer and Pubs in the Scottish Parliament

Inaugural Meeting 6.00 on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup>  
December 2021

### Video Conference

#### Attendance:

Craig Hoy MSP (Chair), Graham Simpson MSP, Liam Kerr MSP, Douglas Lumsden MSP, Rachael Hamilton MSP, Pam Duncan-Glancy MSP, Gordon Macdonald MSP, Sharon Downey MSP, Colin Smyth MSP, Sue Webber MSP, Paul Sweeney MSP (part)

#### Guests:

Paul Hegarty (All-Party Parliamentary Beer Group), Paul Edgeworth (CAMRA), Paul Togneri (SBPA), Barry Watts (SIBA). Anne Toms (Budweiser Brewing Group); Lachlan Bruce (Office of Craig Hoy), Nick Mackie.

1. Craig Hoy MSP welcomed participants to the meeting.
2. Purpose of the Group. It was agreed that the purpose of the Group should be to further the appreciation of good quality beer that is locally and independently brewed in Scotland. It also recognises the importance of pubs and licensed bars to community life, particularly those based in rural areas. The group will provide a forum to discuss policies that will impact on the beer and pub sector and affect beer drinkers and pub-goers across Scotland.
  - There are now 4,600 pubs and 120 breweries in Scotland. The brewing industry is an emerging sector in Scotland and there is currently no overlap with any other existing cross-party group.
  - The group provides an opportunity for MSPs and industry bodies to come together to discuss items related to the beer and pubs industry which have a direct impact on key government agendas such as tourism and the economy.
  - To inform MSPs of the issues and challenges facing pub owners and consumers and to highlight the impact pubs have on our economy and local communities - particularly in rural areas.
  - The group will bring together key stakeholders in the pubs industry and aim to influence Government policy
  - Guest speakers from the industry may be invited to the Cross-Party Group to discuss how specific policy areas may affect them.

- Constituency specific issues may be raised, and there will be opportunity for MSPs to hear how they can support the beer and pubs sector in their patch.
3. Election of Officers. Craig Hoy MSP was elected a convener of the Group. Proposed - Graham Simpson MSP. Seconded - Colin Smyth MSP.

Paul Sweeney MSP was elected Vice Convener. Proposed - Pam Duncan-Glancy MSP. Seconded - Rachael Hamilton MSP.

4. Membership of the Group. The following members of the Scottish Parliament have asked to be members of the Group:

Craig Hoy	Conservative	South Scotland
John Mason	SNP	Glasgow Shettleson
Jamie Halcro Johnson	Conservative	Highlands and Islands
Colin Smyth	Labour	South Scotland
Pam Duncan-Glancy	Labour	Glasgow
Martin Whitfield	Labour	South Scotland
Oliver Mundell	Conservative	Dumfriesshire
Meghan Gallacher	Conservative	Central Scotland
Miles Briggs	Conservative	Lothian
Brian Whittle	Conservative	South Scotland
Douglas Lumsden	Conservative	North East Scotland
Liam Kerr	Conservative	North East Scotland
Michael Marra	Labour	North East Scotland
Douglas Ross	Conservative	Highlands and Islands
Neil Bibby	Labour	West Scotland
Donald Cameron	Conservative	Highlands and Islands
Susan Webber	Conservative	Lothian

5. Secretariat. It was agreed that the secretariat would be jointly provided by the All-Party Parliamentary Beer Group, Campaign for Real Ale (CAMRA), Society of Independent Brewers (SIBA). Paul Togneri of the Scottish Beer and Pub Association offered to provide support for the Group.
6. Working of the Group. Colin Smyth MSP highlighted the need for a clear action plan and tangible outputs from the Group. Rachael Hamilton MSP suggested that the Group should host a briefing on the progress of the Tied Pubs (Scotland) Bill.

Other issues of interest include the Deposit Return Scheme (DRS), recovery of the sector after the pandemic, business rates, legislation on alcohol advertising.

7. Programme and Activity Ideas. It was suggested that the Group could arrange a brewery visit, host an annual beer event, carry out an inquiry, initiate a guest ale programme in Parliament and arrange an award to identify the Scottish Pub of the Year.

It was agreed that the first event would be a brewery visit to be held in the new year. The Secretariat team will meet to make arrangements

8. Date of next meeting. A brewery visit to be held in the new year