

SCOTTISH PARLIAMENT

CROSS PARTY GROUP (CPG) ON CONSTRUCTION

Notes from the Inaugural Meeting of the CPG in Session 6 of the Scottish Parliament

1.00pm Wednesday 8th September via MS Teams

1. Welcome and apologies from Monica Lennon MSP.

Monica Lennon (ML) extended a warm welcome to all for the inaugural meeting of the Scottish Parliament's Cross-Party Group (CPG) on Construction in this relatively new Parliament, following the elections held in May.

ML thanked everyone for being able to accommodate the change of time to today's meeting owing to the debate on the Scottish Government's Programme for Government being re-scheduled to 3pm today.

The secretary of the CPG, Gordon Nelson (GN) confirmed apologies from Graham Simpson MSP and Paul O'Kane MSP. GN added that Paul McLennan (PM) MSP will attend the meeting but will be 10 minutes late.

Key points from ML's opening remarks were:

- The rampant price inflation and severe shortages of construction materials and the effect this is having across the industry.
- ML noted that the secretary of the CPG, Gordon Nelson (GN) recently shared the results of the Federation of Master Builders (FMB) State of Trade Survey for quarter two 2021. Here 98% of FMB members reported material price rises, with the same number expecting this to continue into quarter three. FMB members reported high current workloads and a robust pipeline of works but bemoaned the supply side problems.
- Over the next couple of months, we will have further insight into the confidence of employers across the industry, as statistics on new apprentice starts for 2021 are disseminated.
- The 'pingdemic' interrupting construction programmes, owing to a rise in cases of Covid 19 in Scotland.
- The construction industry's proven ability to adapt and innovate in response to new challenges and that it will have a significant part to play in helping Scotland to deliver net Zero.

- The SNP and the Scottish Greens co-operation agreement, which will come into greater focus both before and after COP 26, which is now less than two months away.

2. Confirmation of MSP members and election of office bearers.

ML noted that as this CPG is a previously recognised group, we need to re-register. The process for re-registration states that we must hold an initial meeting and elect office bearers of the CPG.

ML confirmed that during the last parliamentary session, the MSP members of the CPG were:

Monica Lennon MSP Scottish Labour Party (Convener)

Sandra White MSP Scottish National Party (Deputy Convener)

Alexander Burnett MSP Scottish Conservative Party (Deputy Convener)

Alison Johnstone MSP Scottish Green Party

Pauline McNeill MSP Scottish Labour Party

Grahame Simpson MSP Scottish Conservative Party

The Standards, Procedures and Public Appointments Committee have agreed that all CPG's must have MSPs from at least three parties, to meet the requirements of the Code of Conduct.

ML noted that previously Sharon Dowey MSP expressed an interest in joining the group but as we were still awaiting PM's arrival, ML asked those present to elect the secretary and treasurer of the CPG.

Secretary & Treasurer

At the CPG AGM in November 2020, GN of the FMB was re-elected as Secretary and Grahame Barn of CECA Scotland was re-elected as Treasurer.

ML confirmed that there were no objections to GN and GB continuing in these respective roles and both were re-elected.

Convener and Deputy Convener

ML confirmed she was happy to continue as the CPG's Convener and that we had expected Alexander Burnett MSP to be present today. PM then joined the meeting and confirmed he was happy to be appointed as a Deputy Convener. There were no objections to ML and PM's appointments as Convener and Deputy Convener respectively.

ML's preference is to have two MSP Deputy Conveners.

GB as Treasurer noted that as the accounts are currently showing a balance of £520.07, there will be no need to charge members subscription fees this year.

3. Open discussion on topics to discuss during this Parliament.

ML confirmed that during the last Parliament, this CPG was influential and we discussed a range of topics including:

- Mental health in the industry
- Procurement and the supply chain
- Collaboration during the Covid-19 Crisis
- The infrastructure investment plan & the construction sector recovery plan
- Brexit and the impacts on the industry's workforce in Scotland

Two suggestions were submitted prior to the meeting, one on the fire safety agenda and the extent to which Scotland wishes to reflect England's steadily developing proposals and another on improving the energy performance of existing warehousing, commercial and manufacturing buildings.

William Crowe (WC) had suggested Will Arnold, Head of Climate Action from the Institution of Structural Engineers (ISE). Will would speak on Carbon reduction in construction.

Other suggestions on topics to discuss were:

- Jonathan McAveety (JM) from CECA Scotland on strategic issues impacting the industry and inviting Minister Ivan McKee to discuss the role of construction in Scotland's economy.
- PM: sectoral analysis of labour and skills shortages.
- George Ramsay: apprentices and workforce diversity.

4. Presentation from Sarah Shore of the Health and Safety Executive.

ML welcomed Sarah Shore (SS), who leads the Construction Division Policy and Sector Unit at the Health and Safety Executive (HSE). Sarah's presentation is attached separately. The presentation covered:

Context
 HSE's place in the system
 UK Strategy for Construction
 Liaison with Scottish bodies / stakeholders
 HSE strategy, priorities and workplan for construction
 Health and wellbeing – health challenges
 The day job – operational / reactive work of HSE
 Learning from COVID
 Next steps

A question and answer session followed Sarah's presentation. ML asked about the impact of Long Covid on the construction industry. SS noted that the HSE is still finding its way on Long Covid.

GB asked about the HSE's plans to update the CDM 2015 regulations. SS confirmed that the HSE have no plans to review these and instead they will be focused on embedding the basic principles of the regulations as they exist now.

Rebecca Passmore from the Association of Environmental Clerks of Works voiced her approval of the CDM regulations and asked if SS knew if these would or could be replicated across the environment sector. SS noted that she had not heard if this were the case but would ask other regulatory bodies.

WC asked if there had been an improvement in safety following the introduction of CDM 2015. The CDM co-ordinator being removed from the legislation and replaced by the Principal Designer role, for the pre-construction design phase. SS noted that the HSE couldn't demonstrate that this has happened and stressed HSE's focus on embedding the understanding and principles of CDM 2015.

George Mills noted that whilst working with local authorities, contractors often have two stakeholders to satisfy: the principal designer and the CDM adviser to the client.

5. Any other business.

ML apologised about the lack of MSPs owing to parliamentary business and that a lot more CPGs had been created in this parliament thus far.

6. Date of Next Meeting.

Assuming that the CPG achieves the recognition to continue from the Standards, Procedures and Public Appointments Committee, we plan to hold a meeting week commencing 15th November. GN will liaise with the committee and confirm nearer the time if this will be a virtual or a real meeting in the Scottish Parliament.

ML thanked everyone for joining the meeting today and closed the meeting.

List of attendees

MSPs: Monica Lennon, Paul McLennan.

Non-MSP Members and others are list in the table below

Name	Organisation	CPG Construction Members Noted
Gordon Nelson	Federation of Master Builders	Member
Lauren Pennycook	CITB	Member
Jonathan McAveety	CECA Scotland	Member
Grahame Barn	CECA Scotland	Member
Sarah Shore	Health and Safety Executive	
Ann-Marie Waugh	Glass and Glazing Federation	Member
Fiona Hodgson	SNIPEF	Member
Asim Afzal	Bowmer & Kirkland	
Arthur Mclvor	Energy & Utility Skills	Member
Rebecca Passmore	Association of Environmental	Member

	Clerks of Works (AECW)	
Fiona Stewart	Skills Development Scotland	
Elaine Ellis	Skills Development Scotland	Member
John Kane		
George Ramsay	Unite the Union	Member
Hew Edga	CIOB	Member
Joe Guilfoyle		
Jennifer Smart	CSIC	
Andrew Leslie	The Association for Project Safety	Member
William Crowe	Institution of Structural Engineers (ISE)	Member
Joe Guilfoyle	Robertson Group	
Jennifer Kennedy	Homes for Scotland	Member
Iain McCaskey	Building and Engineering Services Association (BESA)	Member
Maureen Douglas	Forster Group	
Karis Thain	Association for Consultancy & Engineering (ACE)	Member
Guto Davies	Association for Consultancy & Engineering (ACE)	Member
Hannah Smith	Institution of Civil Engineers	Member
Fiona Stewart	Skills Development Scotland	
Alastair Lambe	McLaughlin & Harvey	
Robert Bradford	BAM Nuttall Ltd	
Kieran Doona	Wills Bros Civil Engineering Ltd	
Chibuogwu Isaac Nwokeabia	Wills Bros Civil Engineering Ltd	
Roy Pearson	Wills Bros Civil Engineering Ltd	
Timothy Woods	Wills Bros Civil Engineering Ltd	
Lynsey Lennon	Scottish Water	
Scott Harvey	Mackenzie Construction	
George Mills	Graham Building-North	

Apologies

MSPs: Graham Simpson MSP and Paul O'Kane MSP.

Non-MSPs

Stephen Slessor, Managing Director, Galliford Try Environment
Graham Jackson, Thornton's Law.
Steven Dillon, Unite the Union
Stephanie Lowe, SNIPEF
Anne Galbraith SECTT
Chris Pateman, EPIC
Stephen Young
Brett Amphlett, BMF
Jonathan Gaskell, DWF LLP
Allan Thomson, Central Training Services

Secretary: Gordon Nelson

*Federation of Master Builders Scotland, 5 New Mart Place, Edinburgh, EH14 1RW
Tel : 0131 442 8834 Email : gordonnelson@fmb.org.uk*

Treasurer: Grahame Barn

*CECA Scotland, Enterprise House, Springkerse Business Park, STIRLING, FK7 7UF.
Tel: 01786 430007 Email : Grahame@cecascotland.co.uk*