

# Cross-Party Group on Lung Health

10.30am-12pm, 28 November 2022

The live recording of the meeting can be found at [Asthma + Lung UK Scotland Facebook Videos](#)

## Present

### MSPs

Emma Harper MSP (Co-Convenor)  
Alexander Stewart MSP (Co-Convenor)

### Invited guests

Dr Edwin Van Beek  
Andrew Cumella

### Non-MSP Group Members

Gareth Brown (Secretariat)  
Aaron Gowson  
Anna Francis  
Carol Thomson  
Colin Brett  
Damian Crombie  
Dr Emily Kennedy  
Dr Phyllis Murphie  
Esme Allen  
John Lockhart  
Liam Clutterbuck  
Linda McLeod  
Liz Mason  
Lorraine Dallas  
Mark Dodd  
Sally Hughes  
Steve Brown  
Vicki McGrain Rae  
Zieda Taylor

## Apologies

Mark Ruskell MSP  
Dr George Chalmers  
Dr Nicola Roberts  
Garry McDonald

Julie MacDougall  
Olivia Fulton  
Pauline Waugh  
Sheila Duffy

## Welcome and Introductions

- Alexander Stewart (AS) MSP welcomed all members to the meeting of the Cross-Party Group.

## Minutes of Previous Meeting

- AS asked Gareth Brown (GB) for any questions around the minutes. Emma Harper (EH) MSP and Liz Mason (LM) moved and seconded the minutes.

## World COPD Day & COPD Report

- Andrew Cumella (AC), Senior Analyst from Asthma + Lung UK, presented on findings of the Annual COPD Survey.
- The presentation outlined:
  - What Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease is – how it is caused and the scale of the disease in Scotland.
  - That the 6,000+ survey responses resulted in the report ‘COPD in the UK: Delayed Diagnosis and Unequal Care’.
  - The levels of care in Scotland and across the UK, including the five fundamental of COPD care.
  - How long people informed it took for a diagnosis to be given from first signs of COPD symptoms.
  - Health inequalities linked to COPD based on deprivation levels.
  - The policy calls from Asthma + Lung UK Scotland to improve COPD diagnosis, care and treatment in Scotland.
- After the presentation, AC asked for any questions. Before any questions, GB shared the STV News coverage on the COPD report and survey, with a patient story at the heart of the coverage.
- AS thanked AC for the presentation and opened the meeting to questions.
- AS asked about healthcare access in the more deprived areas.
- Mark Dodd (MD) asked about misdiagnosis of COPD and what can be done to reduce this and overlaps with COPD and other lung conditions.
- EH thanked AC for the presentation and asked about the diagnosis of COPD and why some diagnoses take longer than others, linking it to health inequalities and deprivation.
- EH also asked a question on inhaler technique in relation to people using spacers when taking inhalers for their COPD.
- Liz Mason then asked how long symptoms can present before people would speak to a GP to find out if it is COPD.

- Dr Edwin Van Beek (EVB) talked about of symptoms between COPD and other lung conditions in diagnosing, stressing that it is not as straightforward as it may seem, but radiologists are under great pressure when it comes to diagnostic test.
- AS then ended the discussion on COPD and thank AC for his presentation and thanked the questions from members.

## UK National Screening Committee recommendation for lung screening

- EH introduced Dr Edwin Van Beek, who has previously presented to the CPG, and provided members with a short biography of Dr Van Been.
- EVB presented an update on CT screening for lung cancer, discussing:
  - Numbers of deaths and risks of lung cancer.
  - Survival rates and importance of early diagnosis.
  - The questions to be answered around lung cancer screening to save lives and be cost-effective.
  - The different methods of detecting lung cancer – CT scan, chest x-ray
  - The eligibility for lung cancer screening, following the UKNSC recommendation, with international comparisons.
  - The available evidence for screening, with international comparisons.
  - Existing 'Lung Health Checks' in the UK that can also identify other lung conditions as well as lung cancer.
  - The LUNGSCOT study, which is a limited study. Initially based in Edinburgh and the challenges around this study.
- EH thanked EVB for his presentation and highlighted her recent work in the Scottish Parliament with the Roy Castle Lung Foundation.
- EH asked EVB about the need for smokers and non-smokers to have lung cancer screening and what role CT scans can play in screenings.
- AS expressed his disappointment that things in Scotland are not as progressed as they could be and asked what other organisations are working to support lung cancer screening programmes.
- Lorraine Dallas (LD) talked about the value of the screening programmes for early interventions to allow people to have more effective treatments and for picking up other lung conditions. LD said that the current recommendation won't cover everyone at risk but will help find those most at risk.
- In closing the agenda item, EH thanked EVB again for his presentation and for the questions from members, including comments in the chat function.

## A+LUK Scotland Lung Health Champions

- EH asked for this agenda item to highlight the role of Lung Health Champions in the Scottish Parliament and to raise awareness among CPG members of who the MSP lung champions are. EH said this was in the agenda for anyone interested and to contact Asthma + Lung UK Scotland for further information.

## AOCB

- Linda McLeod (LMc) raised an issue around people smoking at her local hospitals despite a new ban imposed on smokers within 15 metres of any hospital building. LMc said it would be interesting to find out how many fines have been imposed on smokers.
- LMc also raised local concerns around access to local A&E and hospital services.
- EH asked LMc to raise her concerns with her local MSP and discuss this matter out of the Cross-Party Group meeting.
- EH agreed with LMc of the need to enforce the smoking ban and this is something both MSP convenors share concerns around.
- AS then asked LMc to send him the speaking notes to progress these matters offline.
- EH then asked GB for date of the next meeting. GB proposed Friday 24 February, at the same time as usual.
- This was agreed to by EH and agreed that Fridays are the best option.

END OF MEETING