

# ECONOMY AND FAIR WORK COMMITTEE

10<sup>th</sup> Meeting, 2021 (Session 6), Wednesday 10 October 2021

## Inquiry into Scotland's Supply Chain

### Evidence Session 1

#### Introduction

1. This paper has been prepared for the Economy and Fair Work Committee to aid Committee members during the first evidence session of the Committee's inquiry into Scotland's supply chain.
2. A supply chain is the end to end process of creating products and delivering them to customers.
3. The remit of the inquiry is—

to consider the short and medium-term structural challenges facing Scotland's supply chain. The Committee is interested in how the challenges and shifts in s supply chains are impacting Scotland's economy. We want to consider how to build future resilience and whether there are opportunities for Scottish firms to develop domestic supply chains. We will consider the issues under the themes of People, Place and Product.

4. The inquiry is based around three central themes; people, places and products.
  - **People** - analysing why there are persistent skills gaps in certain sectors and gaps in labour supply in other sectors;
  - **Places** - looking at the challenges facing Scotland's supply infrastructure, particularly as we transition to net zero, and how it can be made more resilient;
  - **Products** - seeking to find out what issues face both Scotland's importers and exporters, how they can be supported to maximise opportunities and how to better grow Scotland's domestic supply chain.
5. The Committee launched a [call for views](#) on Tuesday 12 October. Responses to the call for views will be published on the Committee's website shortly.

#### Evidence Session

6. This is the first evidence session of the inquiry. The purpose of the session is to discuss skills gaps in Scotland (both persistent gaps and future areas which are likely to see an increase in demand).

7. Future evidence sessions will focus on skills provision in Scotland, the logistical issues facing Scotland's supply chains, the retail and construction sectors, and support for emerging supply chain businesses in Scotland.

## Witnesses

8. During this first evidence session, the Committee will hear from—

- Katy Heidenreich, Supply Chain & Operations Director, [Oil and Gas UK](#).

Oil & Gas UK is a representative body for the UK offshore oil and gas industry. It is a not-for-profit organisation, established in April 2007.

- [Paul Hunter](#), Lecturer and Specialist Professional in Human Resource Management and Organisational Behaviour; University of Glasgow Adam Smith Business School.
- [Melanie Simms](#), Professor of Work and Employment, University of Glasgow Adam Smith Business School.
- Mark Logan, Start-up & Scale-up Advisor, Scottish Government.

Professor Logan is also an advisor to the Scottish Government on technology policy and was commissioned in 2020 to [review how Scotland's technology sector can contribute to economic recovery](#).

**Clerk to the Committee  
5 November 2021**