

## **Minute note - Cross Party Group on Oil and Gas**

Held on Wednesday 19 September 2012, 17:30 – 19:00

Committee Room 6, The Scottish Parliament, Edinburgh, EH99 1SP

### **In attendance**

Tavish Scott  
Nanette Milne  
Mary Scanlon  
Lewis Macdonald  
Maureen Watt  
Richard Baker

Audrey Banner, DECC  
Karen Craig, Scottish Enterprise  
Christine Jones, Total E&P  
Sarah Hillyear, Decom North Sea  
Kim Karem, Scottish Parliament  
Jim Niven, Shell  
Brian Nixon, Decom North Sea  
Miles Oglethorpe, Capturing the Energy  
Trisha O'Reilly, Oil & Gas UK  
Ross Oxburgh, Scottish Parliament  
Ally Rae, BP  
Malcolm Ricketts, Wood Mackenzie  
Jenny Stanning, Oil & Gas UK  
James Trolland, Spae Consulting

### **Apologies:**

Jackie Baillie, MSP  
Fiona Bayne, Shell  
Gillian Black, OPITO  
Chic Brodie MSP  
Gemma Cheek, Scottish Parliament  
Ian Couper, Energy North  
Nigel Don MSP  
Alison Langford, Exxonmobil  
Jenny Marra MSP  
Rhoda Macdonald MSP  
Andrew McCallum, Dana  
Alison McInnes MSP  
Jamie McGrigor MSP  
Muriel Roberts, Chevron  
Dennis Robertson MSP  
John Taylor, National Grid  
Gareth Williams, SCDI

### **Group administration:**

Tavish Scott gave the co-conveners' welcome and the group agreed the minutes from the previous meeting.

### **Decommissioning presentations:**

Brian Nixon from Decom North Sea gave a presentation about decommissioning, including an overview of decommissioning, Decom North Sea and the costs, challenges and opportunities of decommissioning.

Jim Niven from Shell gave a presentation about Brent decommissioning, including the Shell strategy for decommissioning, an explanation about the specific structures, methods and probable costs of removal and disposal, the consequences of leaving part of the structure behind and the associated benefits to contractors and Scotland of decommissioning.

Both presentations will be circulated with the minutes.

### **Open discussion and Q&A:**

Open discussion then followed, which included the following topics, questions and points:

- The opportunities and challenges presented by the decommissioning timeline for industry, Scotland and exporters.
- The consistency of decommissioning and the potential for industry wide collaboration to share best practice.
- The scale and size of decommissioning, associated challenges and exciting new technology being developed to meet these challenges.
- The capacity of Scotland's ports and yards to capitalise on the decommissioning prize.
- The potential barriers to Scotland capitalising on the decommissioning prize, including skills shortages, forward planning, space, yard locations and expertise.
- The opportunities for refurbishment and recycling.
- Competition for capital investment and skills from ongoing exploration and production and the renewables industry.
- DECC resourcing to keep up with a growing decommissioning market.
- The likelihood that the decommissioning market will be a flatter, but longer curve in the future.
- Decommissioning will not be accelerated deliberately, but clarity is needed for investors.
- The potential for local content in decommissioning projects.

There was no other business so Tavish Scott thanked the presenters and attendees and closed formal proceedings at 1900 for informal drinks and networking.

Ends.