

**The Cross Party Group on Accident Prevention and Safety Awareness  
Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2020  
10.30 am to 12.30 pm, online via Webex**

Focus on: **Water Safety**

**Minutes**

**1. Welcome:**

Clare Adamson, MSP, welcomed everyone to the online meeting. Ms Adamson noted that the meeting was being recorded for Minute purposes but if anyone is uncomfortable, they can turn their video off.

**2. Present and apologies**

A list of those present and apologies received is included as Appendix One to these Minutes.

**3. Headlines**

The headlines newsletter was sent round along with the invitation to this meeting. Liz Lumsden urged members to contribute to this newsletter by providing updates on their organisation's injury prevention activities.

**4. Minutes of Previous Meeting**

There was one amendment to the previous minutes - Michael Avril asked for the Water Safety Scotland links to be shortened. This has been rectified.

The Minutes were agreed as an accurate record of proceedings, proposed by Michael Avril and seconded by Jan Miller.

**5. Date of the Next Meeting**

The dates of further meetings of the Group have not yet been set due to various uncertainties as well as the forthcoming Parliamentary elections. Ms Adamson suggested that it would be useful for feedback from members on the best day and time for the meetings to take place.

Mr Corry suggested that normal timings (e.g. 6pm) has worked well with his other CPGs. Ms Adamson noted that she would bear this in mind and ask for Members' feedback. *(A form for this purpose is circulated with these Minutes).*

**6. Presentations: Theme – Water Safety** (when available, all presentations will be uploaded to the RoSPA website at <https://www.rospace.com/about/Around-the-UK/Scotland/Cross-Party-Group> )

**a) Michael Avril – Chair of Water Safety Scotland**

Ms Adamson welcomed Michael Avril, Chair of Water Safety Scotland, to present on water safety policies.

**b) Kevin Lough, Durham County Council – a case study**

Ms Adamson welcomed Kevin Lough who is the Occupational Health and Safety Manager for Durham County Council. Kevin provided a presentation on the county's water safety policy.

C) Ms Adamson noted that COSLA had been invited to speak but have sent apologies indicating that they don't have the capacity to cover all meetings, but would be interested in engaging with the Cross Party meeting on future dates. Ms Adamson then discussed the public petition PE01770 on Improving Water Safety (Margaret Spiers).

The deputy convenor of the Group, Maurice Corry, MSP, stepped in to speak on the subject of water safety. Mr Corry covered his ambitions and thoughts for water safety in Scotland as well as highlighted the key barriers that are faced by local authorities.

**7. Question and Answer session**

Mark McDonald, MSP noted how important school swimming lessons are and due to COVID-19 it has almost been a year without this access for children. Mr McDonald suggested that it would be good to understand best practice and have a national approach rather than 32 different approaches.

John Johnston asked if the figures Kevin presented had any correlation between the number of times the kit is used and near misses. In addition, John asked if there was a protocol for vandalism or Public Rescue Equipment (PRE).

Brian Topping noted that budgets for water safety and other safety topics is important and is very limited. Brian asked if there was a way to contact councils to make the importance of water safety clear to them.

Michael Avril responded that there was no one answer and that water safety is a combination of many things that have a difference e.g. a policy can identify risk and control measures which may be a combination of numerous things such as education and signage.

Kevin Lough agreed. Kevin also noted that they have 20 life rings in the city centre and in the last six years, only one has been used in a rescue. Kevin explained there are many factors that influence PRE such as isolation, time of night etc. PRE should not be the focus, but should be a part of the wider policy and control measures. In terms of budget, Kevin noted that water safety is not a statutory requirement but identifying risk is. Leaders need to be aware of this.

Ms Adamson noted that budget issues are similar for home safety and leadership is key. Ms Adamson then noted that specific to the Spiers' case – the life ropes were actually missing. Ms Adamson then asked Kevin about enclosed PRE.

Kevin responded to say that they don't have many issues of vandalism but they keep PRE in an unlocked enclosure to protect it. This decision was part of their policy.

Mr Corry noted that the points Kevin and Brian made were very important and he will endeavour to use these going forward in his conversations with local authorities.

## **8. Meeting close**

Ms Adamson thanked all those for attended and for the presentations provided. Ms Adamson extended additional thanks to Mark McDonald, MSP and Maurice Corry, MSP for their input. Ms Adamson noted that she hoped one more meeting would take place before the next election.

## **Appendix One - Attendees**

### **MSPs**

Clare Adamson	Convenor
Maurice Corry	Vice Convenor
Mark MacDonald	

### **Members**

Michael Avril	Water Safety Scotland
Andy Cathro	Dundee and Angus Colleges
John Craft	Advice Direct Scotland
Jim Dorman	St Andrew's First Aid
Gena Falconer	The Highlands Council
Sheena Harper	RLSS UK
David Hart	Fire Brigades Union
John Johnston	TechnipFMC
Gillian Kelly	Fife Safer Communities
Caroline Lawrie	SGN
Roger Lewis	Lion Safety
Kevin Lough	Durham County Council
Wayne MacKay	Electrical Safety First
Jan Miller	University of the West of Scotland
Cherie Morgan	Play Scotland
Martyn Raine	SNIEPF
Colin Sanderson	
Brian Topping	Safety Advocate
Caroline Wilson	The Risk Factory

### **In attendance**

Elizabeth Lumsden	Secretariat (RoSPA)
Carlene McAvoy	Minutes (RoSPA)
Alistair Taylor	Clare Adamson's office

### **Apologies**

Vince Bowles	Scottish Autism
Willie Clark	NWS
Scott Darroch,	Gas Safe Register
Lynn Hill	Fife Community Safety
Martin Hunt	Tartan Silk
Kathy Jenkins	Scottish Hazards
Sarah Jones	HSE
Karen McDonnell	RoSPA
Carolyn Reid	SCoRSA
Gregor Steele	SSERC
Lynn Young	Scottish Government