

The Scottish Parliament

Cross Party Group on Fair Trade

Convenor: Colin Smyth MSP

Vice Convenor: Gordon Lindhurst MSP

Minutes of meeting held on Wednesday 1 November 2017 following the close of the AGM
Scottish Parliament, Committee Room 5 (Adam Smith Room)

Agenda for the meeting

1. In attendance: Colin Smyth MSP, Gordon Lindhurst MSP, Rona McKay MSP, Martin Rhodes (SFTF), Andy Mount (Livingston Fair Trade Group), Angela Oakley (East Dunbartonshire Fair Trade Group), Liz Cooper (University of Edinburgh), Liz Manson (Dumfries and Galloway Council), Charles Sim (East Ayrshire Fair Trade Group), Gwenneth Williamson (Queensferry Fair Trade Group) and Helen Dennis (Fairtrade Foundation);
Apologies: Jackie Baillie MSP, Clare Adamson MSP, Finlay Carson MSP, Claudia Beamish MSP, Neil Bibby MSP, Shirley Brown (Edinburgh Fair Trade Group), Carol Morton (Hadeel), Karena Jarvie (Perth and Kinross Fair Trade Group), Anne Walsh (Fauldhouse and Breich Valley Fair Trade Group), Ian Miller (Scotmid), Rosie Rutherford (Dumfries Fair Trade Group) and Martin Meteyard.
2. Minutes from the meeting held on 17 May 2017 were approved as accurate
3. Correspondence: correspondence about Electronics Watch with Scottish Government and the Scottish Parliament was noted. It was agreed that Rona McKay MSP would update the next meeting on her correspondence on the matter with the relevant Scottish Government Minister and that the Secretary would update the next meeting on further correspondence with the Scottish Government and Scottish Parliament officials.
4. Guest speaker: Helen Dennis, Policy and Advocacy Manager, "Brexit, Certification and the Future of Fairtrade – the challenges and opportunities". Helen Dennis spoke about new Fairtrade products and commitments, Fairtrade gold, the continued importance of Fairtrade, Sainsbury's and their 'fairly-traded' tea pilot, the potential effect of Brexit on trade with the global South and the UK Government's White Paper on trade. There were a number of questions asked and discussion about the availability of Fairtrade gold, Cadbury and Cocoa Life, Brexit and Sainsbury's changes to tea certification. It was agreed that the office bearers would write to the Advertising Standards Authority in relation to Sainsbury's 'fairly traded' tea if it was thought appropriate after further consultation with the Fairtrade Foundation.
5. No other business was raised
6. Date of next meeting was provisionally agreed as Wednesday 17 January if a room was available.