

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

Held on Wednesday 21 December, 13:00-14:00

Committee Room 4, the Scottish Parliament, Edinburgh, EH99 1SP

### In Attendance

#### **MSPs:**

Tavish Scott [**Chair**]  
Alexander Burnett  
Lewis Macdonald  
Gillian Martin

Roger Esson, Decom North Sea  
Sylvia Buchan, OGA  
Tommy Campbell, Unite  
Tim Smith, BP  
Wullie Wallace, Unite

#### **Non MSPs:**

Alex Anderson, Centrica  
Allan Rae, BP  
Bill Cattanach, Oil and Gas Authority  
David Rennie, Scottish Enterprise  
Drew Duffy, GMB Scotland  
Drew Smith, GMB Scotland  
Gary Smith, GMB Scotland  
Gareth Williams, SCDI  
Grant Wilson, Seaways Engineering  
Jack Wyllie, Office of Alex Burnett MSP  
John West, Office of Maureen Watt MSP  
Karen Freel, Perspectiva Consultants  
Malcolm Dickson, Wood Mackenzie  
Neil Michie, Oil & Gas UK (Secretary)  
Nik Scott-Gray, Montrose Port Authority  
Olivia Carson, Office of Jackie Baillie MSP

#### Apologies

#### **MSPs:**

Jackie Baillie  
Liam Kerr  
Ross Thomson

#### **Non-MSPs:**

Chris Morritt, Nexen  
Christine Currie, OPITO  
Jill Glennie, EnQuest  
Karen Seath, Decom North Sea  
Neil Anderson, Ledingham Chalmers LLP  
Richard Crossick, Shell  
Samantha Silvers, TAQA Bratani Ltd  
Tony Brady, Petrofac

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Tavish Scott MSP (TS) welcomed MSPs and non-MSP members to the Cross Party Group and opened the meeting with round-table introductions. Following this, TS introduced the speakers, David Rennie (DR) from Scottish Enterprise, and Gary Smith (GS) and Drew Duffy (DD) from GMB Scotland.

DR then gave an overview of Scottish Enterprise's '[Decommissioning Action Plan](#)', which was launched that day. Designed to complement the Decommissioning Strategy published by the Oil and Gas Authority, their aim is to improve the information available to the supply chain, operators and other stakeholders to support their decommissioning activity, as well as to promote knowledge and capabilities of Scottish-based supply chain companies.

DR stressed that Scottish Enterprise absolutely supports MER UK, but that a focus on decommissioning, when the time is right, could help Scotland to win a significant amount of the potential market. DR then went through the plan in more detail, outlining the following 6 broad themes:

- Information and stakeholders (including market intelligence for the supply chain)
- Supply chain capability
- Technology and innovation
- Competitive infrastructure (including development of appropriate port infrastructure)
- Skills and training

- Internationalisation

Following this Gary Smith, Scottish Secretary for GMB Scotland, gave an update on the decommissioning report they had produced – [‘Status Capacity and Capability of North Sea Decommissioning Facilities’](#).

GS outlined that GMB Scotland also supported the principle of MER UK, but was concerned that Scotland was behind the curve on decommissioning. GS stated that decommissioning in the oil and gas industry was a huge opportunity and that there should be a focus on trying to build a centre of excellence for decommissioning. GS also stated that an appropriate fiscal regime should be in place that would facilitate the appropriate transfer of assets, and that public-sector co-investment in the industry should be implemented.

Drew Duffy then stressed the need to look at all of Scotland’s decommissioning facilities, and highlighted that the Tay Cities Deal was very important for the Port of Dundee’s decommissioning plans. DD stressed the need for the Scottish Government to focus on where investment should be made.

TS then moderated a Q&A session, which covered topics such as the government support decommissioning; the OGA’s decommissioning strategy; and capabilities of ports in Scotland.

TS then thanked all attendees for their input, before formally closing the meeting.