

**Cross Party Group on Tobacco Control
Minutes of Meeting - 16 November 2011
1pm – 2pm
The Scottish Parliament, Edinburgh**

Attendees:

Willie Rennie MSP
Richard Simpson MSP
Nanette Milne MSP
Brian Smith, Angus Council
Sheila Duffy, Chief Executive, ASH Scotland
John Watson, Director of Policy & Campaigns, ASH Scotland (minutes)
Geoff Earl, Royal College of Nursing
Helen Reilly, BMA
Robert Howe, REHIS
Fiona Dunlop, Greater Glasgow Health Board
Cameron McVean, Scottish Borders Council
Gillian Griffith
Veronica McGinley, Renfrewshire Council
Peter Hastie, RCP

Apologies:

Dennis Robertson MSP
Patrick Harvie MSP
Aileen Campbell MSP
Annabelle Goldie MSP
Jackie Baillie MSP
Elaine Smith MSP
Shiona Campbell, Scambusters
Vicky Crighton, CRUK
Eileen Street, Roy Castle Lung Cancer Foundation
Maddy Halliday, Stroke Association

1. Welcome & Apologies

Willie Rennie welcomed the group and round table introductions were made. Apologies were noted.

2. Discussion of illicit tobacco in Scotland

Brian Smith, Senior Trading Standards Officer at Angus Council, led a discussion on current knowledge regarding illicit tobacco in Scotland, with some time given over to whether plain packaging of tobacco products would make counterfeiting easier.

This was followed by general discussion. A note of the discussion is attached, but has not been signed off or agreed so does not form part of the official minute.

Action points from the discussion were:

- ASH Scotland staff agreed to look into the possibility of surveying local authorities to ascertain whether/to what extent trading standards staff numbers have declined since local government reorganisation in 1996.
- Richard Simpson agreed to use his forthcoming meeting with ACPOS to flag up the lack of joined up-ness with enforcement (Trading Standards) and to consider a parliamentary question asking what had happened about an agreement on joint working
- The Group agreed to look into hosting a larger discussion on illicit, bringing in key stakeholder organisations such as policy, UKBA

3. Date of next meeting

The next meeting had been set for 16th November at 12.45pm. It was agreed to invite Mary Cuthbert of the Scottish Government to discuss progress in developing the new National Strategy on tobacco control. **John Watson to do.**