

CROSS PARTY GROUP IN THE SCOTTISH PARLIAMENT ON CONSTRUCTION

CROSS-PARTY GROUP IN THE SCOTTISH PARLIAMENT ON CONSTRUCTION

CR5, SCOTTISH PARLIAMENT,
EDINBURGH, EH99 1SP

6.00pm TUESDAY 13 November 2018

Brief Notes

1. Welcome

Sandra White (SW) MSP welcomed members to the meeting

2. Matters Arising

The meeting adopted the notes from the meetings on 29 May 2018 were approved with no matters arising.

3. Procurement – Meeting with Cabinet Secretary for Finance, Economy and Fair Work

Alan Wilson (AW) reported on the meeting organised with the Cabinet Secretary after the CPG meeting in March 2018 which he had presented at.

He had raised the concerns highlighted by the group at the meeting and the benefit of creating a Construction Regulator post to ensure procurement, and payment, on public contracts complied with the Scottish Government's guidance.

AW outlined details of developments regarding procurement and payment in Canada (details attached).

4. Mental Health in Construction - Dr. Alan Curley, PhD PFPH

SW highlighted that male site workers in construction were three times more likely to die by suicide than the average UK male and the Office of National Statistics found that between 2011 and 2015, of the 13,232 in-work suicides recorded, those within the skilled construction and building trades made up 13.2%.

SW introduced Dr Curley who presented on the current position regarding mental illness in construction and assistance and guidance available to employers and employees, presentation attached.

Dr Curley highlighted the need to create the right environment to encourage those onsite to discuss their problems. Some of the symptoms could include the increase use of drugs, alcohol or gambling but there were many other signs that employers should look out for.

It was good that construction management were being trained on identifying the signs of stress and other mental health issues but it was felt it would be beneficial if training was

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given across the whole workforce as this would assist peers to identify issues and raise, or address, concerns.

There were also concerns regarding post-traumatic stress in the workforce should they witness a suicide or major incident and relevant action would be required to ensure the mental health of the workforce.

There was concern regarding the nature of construction with many onsite workers having to work away from home and often in poor accommodation. This removed them from their personal support network and could have detrimental effect on their mental health.

It was felt that public contracts should take into account mental health of those who would be, and had been, working on them and include this as part of the procurement process to ensure a mentally healthy workforce.

5. Any Other Business

None

6. Date of Next Meeting

Tuesday 29th January 5.30pm.

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Attendance

Alexander Burnett MSP
Alison Johnstone MSP
Sandra White MSP

Steven Dillon – Unite the Union
Elaine Ellis – Skills Development Scotland
Karen Freel
Anne Galbraith – SECTT
Sinead Griffiths – Office of Monica Lennon MSP
Cara Hilton – CECA Scotland
Fiona Hodgson – SNIPEF
Graham Jackson – Thornton Solicitors/Tayside Forum
Michael Lennox – CITB
John McKinney – Scottish Contractors Group
Stephen Meechan - Scotia Design & Build
Paul Mooney – Unite the Union
Lindsay Neill - Crannog Construction
Gordon Nelson – Federation of Master Builders
Ronnie Pennycook- RS Pennycook
Stephen Sheridan – Skills Development Scotland
Fiona Stewart – Skills Development Scotland
Stuart Tennant – University of West Scotland
Sarah Thiam – Institute of Civil Engineers
Alan Wilson – SELECT
Stephen Young – Civil Engineering Contractors Association/Institute of Structural Engineers

Apologies

Monica Lennon MSP

Grahame Barn – CECA Scotland
Stewart McKillop – South Lanarkshire College
Paul Mitchell – Scottish Building Federation
Stephen Slessor – Morrison Construction
Karyn Watt – Anderson Strathern

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