

**The Scottish Parliament
Cross-Party Group on Fair Trade**

6pm, 20 May 2015, Room TG20-21

Annual General Meeting

Minutes of the meeting (draft)

1. Attendance: MSPs:

James Kelly MSP

Patricia Ferguson MSP

External Organisations/Individuals:

Ian Miller (Scotmid)

Andy Mount (Livingston Fair Trade Forum)

Martin Rhodes (Scottish Fair Trade Forum)

Liz Armstrong (Co-operative Membership)

Deirdre Muldowney (Scottish Fair Trade Forum)

Sophie Tolley (Scottish Fair Trade Forum)

Graeme Clark (Scottish Fair Trade Forum)

Matthew Anderson (University of Portsmouth)

Eve Broadis (Fair Trade Scotland)

Phil Broadis (Fair Trade Scotland)

Martin Meteyard (Scottish Fair Trade Forum)

Alan Irvine (Office of James Kelly MSP)

Apologies:

George Adam MSP

Claudia Beamish MSP

John Mason MSP

Karen Bowman (University of Edinburgh)

Angus Coull (Scottish Fair Trade Forum)

Sarah Aldred (Scottish Fair Trade Forum)

Liz Cotton (Scottish Fair Trade Forum)

Diane Green (Scottish Fair Trade Forum)

Shirley Brown

David Somerville (University of Edinburgh)

Rebecca Marek (Scottish Youth Parliament)

Tracy Mitchell (Scottish Fair Trade Forum)

Helen Reilly (BMA Scotland)

Business of the meeting:

2. The meeting was chaired by James Kelly MSP. The minutes of the 2014 AGM were approved.
3. There were no matters arising
4. Co-conveners report: James Kelly MSP noted that it had been a successful year of Fair Trade activities and that the guest talks over the last year had been enjoyable and informative.
5. Secretary, Martin Rhodes, reported that there had been a number of different presentations throughout the year – From Bala Sport about Fairtrade footballs, from Hadeel about Palestinian Fair Trade and there had been a large Parliamentary reception during Fairtrade Fortnight at which four different producers spoke. Two members of the group, Marco Biagi MSP and Fiona McLeod MSP, had resigned membership due to Ministerial appointment.
6. James Kelly MSP indicated that he would like to step down as Co-convener of the group but that Patricia Ferguson MSP would like to stand in his place. George Adam MSP and Patricia Ferguson MSP were re-elected and elected as co-convenors of the group, and Martin Rhodes was re-elected as Secretary to the Group. The group noted its thanks to James Kelly MSP for all his time as Co-convener.

7. AOB:

Eve Broadis asked that she, representing Fair Trade Scotland could be added as a member to the CPG. It was agreed to add Eve as a member.

Patricia Ferguson MSP noted her thanks to James Kelly MSP for all his work as Co-convener.

Martin Rhodes informed the group about the Fairtrade Towns Conference happening in Bristol in July 2015 and about the support the Forum can offer Scottish campaigners to help them attend (discounted tickets and financial support for travel and accommodation).

Graeme Clark asked if anyone knew if Fair Trade was going to be involved in Scotland's presence at the Milan Expo – Patricia Ferguson MSP will put down a question about this.

Matthew Anderson informed the group that at the end of May the Fair Trade Symposium will also be taking place in Milan.

Andy Mount mentioned the issue of the difficulty retaining local group members. Sophie Tolley reported this was a common problem and one which will most likely be a focus at the National Campaigners Conference in September.

Liz Armstrong reported that the Co-operative Group recently passed a motion to continue its commitment to Fair Trade going forward.