

Minute note - Cross Party Group on Oil and Gas

Held on Wednesday 11 November, 18:00-19:30

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

In attendance

MSPs:

Lewis Macdonald [**Chair**]

Nanette Milne

Christian Allard

Mark McDonald

Maureen Watt

Non MSPs:

Al Meredith, Airbus Helicopters

Ally Rae, BP

Brian Donaldson, Semco Maritime

Emma White, Statoil

Jake Molloy, RMT

Les Linklater, Step Change in Safety

Louisa Macdonell, Scottish Enterprise

Ola Morten Aanestad, Statoil

Mark Whittet, Scottish Energy News

Megan Hine, Control Valve Solutions

Neil Anderson, Ledingham Chalmers

Neil Michie, Oil & Gas UK

Richard Crossick, Shell

Sam McMillan

Apologies

MSPs:

Alison McInnes

Angus MacDonald

Dennis Robertson

Jackie Baillie

Richard Baker

Tavish Scott

Non-MSPs:

Bill Cattanach, OGA

Chris Morritt, Nexen

Christine Jones

James Strolland

Jenny Stanning, Oil & Gas UK

Jill Glennie, EnQuest

Karen Craig, Scottish Enterprise

Karen Seath, Decom North Sea

Martine Nolan, Xodus Group

Roger Salomone, ExxonMobil

Dr Lewis Macdonald MSP (LM) welcomed MSPs and non-MSP members to the Cross Party Group and opened the meeting with round-table introductions. Following this, LM introduced the two speakers, **Les Linklater** (LL) from Step Change in Safety and **Jake Molloy** (JM) from RMT.

LL opened with background information about Step Change in Safety (SCIS), before outlining their simplification and standardisation initiative. The project is striving to reduce complexity in safety procedures in the industry, while maintaining safety, to achieve greater efficiency and cost savings.

LL outlined that this work was complementary to the efficiency work Oil & Gas UK were undertaking, and was also prompted by his role as an ambassador for the Energy Job Task Force's 'Shared Principles and Values' work stream.

LL stated that the intention of the project was not to 'reinvent the wheel', but that the duplication of work and proliferation of effort in certain safety processes in the industry was leading to huge workplace inefficiency. LL used the example of the industry's MIST course (Minimum Industry Safety Training), which was introduced in 2009 and designed to introduce fundamental safety elements to the offshore workforce.

LL commented that many companies have their own safety programmes in place on top of this comprehensive training, and that this is often surplus to requirements.

Step Change in Safety calculated that approximately 5.3 million man-hours could be released over one year by simply saving an offshore worker 1 hour in their working day. LL stated that this could be achieved by standardising elements of control of work process such as toolbox talks, including point of work risk assessments and behavioural safety observation systems.

LL stated that they were looking to pilot the initiative on 2 operated asset early next year, with the hope that if successful, the project would be rolled out on an asset-by-asset basis.

Jake Molloy then addressed the group to give a workforce viewpoint on standardisation and simplification of safety processes. JM opened by outlining that the industry was in a very difficult place, and that the shared principles and values work that the industry had signed up to was not filtering down to the workforce. JM argued that without workforce buy-in to the cost efficiency process, workers would simply view this as cost cutting.

JM expressed his support for the SCIS project, but expressed disappointment that this had not been implemented pre oil price crash. JM highlighted that the industry had previously demonstrated that it could come together to implement a project on this scale, citing the Emergency Breathing System (EBS) as an example.

JM finished by urging industry to move quickly in implementing this project, but urged employers to facilitate workforce buy-in in the process.

A Q&A session was then facilitated by LM. Questions covered the following topics: the role of the OGA in safety regulation; industry complacency in safety processes; rota patterns for offshore workers; and redundancies in the industry.

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