

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

Held on Tuesday 26 April, 18:00-19:30

Committee Room 5, the Scottish Parliament, Edinburgh, EH99 1SP

### In Attendance

#### **MSPs:**

Gillian Martin (Chair)  
Alexander Burnett  
Ross Thomson  
Peter Chapman  
Tavish Scott

Richard Bevan, Step Change in Safety  
Rhonda Miller, Total  
Susan Smart, ECITB  
Wullie Wallace, Unite

#### **Non MSPs:**

Ally Rae, BP  
Christine Currie OPITO  
Christopher Skipsey, PwC  
David Rennie, Scottish Enterprise  
Emily Taylor, Step Change in Safety  
Emma Swift, Office of Lewis Macdonald MSP  
Euan Smith, Pinsent Masons  
Karen Douglas, TAQA  
Gayle Rennie, Aker Solutions  
Gordon McGuinness, Skills Development Scotland  
Jack Wyllie, Office of Alex Burnett MSP  
Kevin Swann, Wood Mackenzie  
Linsey Wilson, Scottish Government  
Mark Whittet, Scottish Energy News  
Neil Anderson, Ledingham Chalmers LLP  
Neil Michie, Oil & Gas UK (Secretary)  
Neil Pickering, Wood Group  
Rebecca Bell, RSPB

### Apologies

#### **MSPs:**

Jackie Baillie  
Lewis Macdonald  
Liam Kerr

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

Bill Cattanach, Oil and Gas Authority  
Dr Cameron Ramsay, Cognia Limited  
Jake Molloy, RMT  
Jill Glennie, EnQuest  
Jonathan Milne, Maersk Oil  
Malcolm Dickson, Wood Mackenzie  
Neville Howlett, PwC  
Shirley Allen, Pinsent Masons  
Sylvia Buchan, Oil and Gas Authority  
Tim Smith, BP  
Tony Brady, Petrofac

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Gillian Martin MSP (GM) welcomed MSPs and non-MSP members to the Cross Party Group and opened the meeting with round-table introductions. Following this, GM introduced the speakers – Emily Taylor from Step Change in Safety, Neil Pickering from Wood Group, and David Rennie from Scottish Enterprise.

Emily Taylor (ET) from Step Change in Safety gave a short introduction to Step Change in Safety and outlined that they had been working closely with ECITB and industry to deliver the STQA project, which was looking at simplifying skills standards across the industry.

Neil Pickering (NP) from Wood Group then outlined that the project was looking to tackle the problem of variations in training requirements and the over specification of technical competences across the sector. In particular, the project is looking to raise levels of technical competence assurance and maximise resource efficiency, while at the same time removing unnecessary training and assessment amongst the offshore workforce. By agreeing the requirements for a range of technical disciplines in the industry, the project group will deliver a common set of competence standards. While this wasn't

the main driver for the project, NP also outlined that an estimated 30% cost reduction could be achieved through this work.

Following ET & NP's update, a Q&A session was held, covering questions such as how the pilot will be reviewed going forward to ensure effectiveness; concerns around duplication of training; workforce engagement; and learning from other sectors.

Following this, David Rennie (DR) from Scottish Enterprise then gave an update on the work of the Energy Jobs Taskforce, one year on from the last update given to the group. DR outlined that the Energy Jobs Taskforce was now in its third year and is continuing to give support to individuals and companies through 5 main workstreams.

DR highlighted that 5 jobs fair events had been held to date, attended by over 5000 people in total, as well as outlining the support being put in place through the Transition Training Fund (TTF). DR also stated that 36 events had been held over the last 3 years (such as industry leadership meetings and investor roundtables), and that almost £7 million had been spent on 70 projects through a £10m innovation fund.

Following DR's update, questions were then taken from the attendees. Topics of discussion included support for redundant workers; skills retention in the industry; industry recruitment practices; and gender balance in the industry.

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

Ends.