

Agenda for meeting of Cross Party Group on Beer and Pubs in room Q1.03 of the Scottish Parliament at 1pm on 12 January 2017.

The meeting will be chaired by Patrick Harvie MSP

1. Welcomes and apologies for absence
2. Election
3. Declaration of interests
4. Purpose of the group
5. Upcoming meetings and events. Set the date for the next meeting.
6. Upcoming consultation into the tied pubs model - Neil Bibby MSP
7. AOB

1. Welcomes and Apologies

Apologies in advance

Johann Lamont MSP

John Mason MSP

John Scott MSP

Colin Smyth MSP

2. Election

Positions that need to be elected:

Convener

Deputy Convener

Secretary

Treasurer

CAMRA Secretariat Support proposal:

- CAMRA is the only independent consumer organisation in Scotland - representing over 5,000 individual members.
- CAMRA hosts a popular reception in Holyrood every year
- CAMRA has a good reputation amongst local brewers and producers and is well connected amongst other industry bodies who may be interested in joining the group

Material support can be provided from CAMRA. This material support would be in the form of providing a secretary to support with note-taking at meetings and organise members to attend said meetings by a paid member of staff, who will likely contribute on average three hours a week towards running the group. CAMRA will also support in managing events and activity supported by the Cross Party Group.

3. Declaration of interests

4. Purpose of the Group

The purpose of the group is to further the appreciation of good quality beer that is locally and independently brewed in Scotland. It also recognises the importance of pubs and licensed bars to community life, particularly those based in rural areas. The group will provide a forum to discuss policies that will impact on the beer and pub sector and affect beer drinkers and pub-goers across Scotland.

Detail on why the proposed group is in the public interest

- There are now 4,600 pubs and 120 breweries in Scotland. The brewing industry is an emerging sector in Scotland and there is currently no overlap with any other existing cross party group.

- The group provides an opportunity for MSPs and industry bodies to come together to discuss items related to the beer and pubs industry which have a direct impact on key government agendas such as tourism and the economy.
- To inform MSPs of the issues and challenges facing pub owners and consumers and to highlight the impact pubs have on our economy and local communities - particularly in rural areas.
- The group will bring together key stakeholders in the pubs industry and aim to influence Government policy
- Guest speakers from the industry (such as tied tenants) may be invited to the Cross Party Group to discuss how specific policy areas may affect them.
- Constituency specific issues may be raised, and there will be opportunity for MSPs to hear how they can support the beer and pubs sector in their patch.

Proposed discussion points

- Pubco Reform in Scotland
- The importance of pubs to communities
- Community pub ownership - with a guest talk from the Plunkett Foundation
- The impact pubs have on people's personal wellbeing
- The emergence of new breweries in Scotland - guest speaker to include a brewer

5. Upcoming meetings and events

Meetings

- Set the date for the next meeting

Potential events:

- Initial CPG Reception
- Gallery in Holyrood – such as a meet and greet with brewers from your constituencies
- Question Time style event on beer and pubs (with a focus on Pubco reform)
- Best new brewery of 2017 competition
- Pub Champion of the Year award
- CAMRA Scottish annual reception
- External brewery trip to the “brewery of the year”

6. Consultation into the tied pubs model

Led by Neil Bibby MSP

7. AOB