

# CROSS PARTY GROUP IN THE SCOTTISH PARLIAMENT ON CONSTRUCTION

SCOTTISH PARLIAMENT,  
EDINBURGH, EH99 1SP

Notes of the Meeting held at 5.30pm on Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> October 2019  
Committee Room 5 Scottish Parliament

## 1. Welcome

Alexander Burnett (AB) MSP Deputy Convener of the Cross-Party group welcomed everyone to the meeting.

## 2. Matters Arising

The notes from the meeting on 30<sup>th</sup> April had been previously circulated. No comments or clarifications were raised, and the notes were proposed by Stephen Young (SY) and seconded by Barri Millar (BM).

## 3. Derek Mackay MSP: Cabinet Secretary for Finance, Economy and Fair Work

AB welcomed Derek Mackay (DM) MSP to the meeting and noted the letter sent by the Convener Monica Lennon (ML) MSP to DM regarding construction procurement and the potential role of a chief construction adviser. The Cabinet Secretary gave a brief statement which covered:

- Construction procurement should deliver maximum value across economic, social and environmental metrics, support SME's and deliver local solutions.
- DM is open minded on having a chief construction adviser but questioned what powers they would have and whether the role would be in the capacity of an enforcer or adviser.

A question and answer session followed. Questions raised included:

- Stuart Tennant (ST) asked if the issues raised in the Cole Report had been addressed. DM confirmed that he would write back to Cross-Party Group (CPG) regarding this.
- Hubco fee payments and thresholds.
- William Crowe (WC) asked if DM was in favour of a procurement system which rejected the lowest and highest bids. DM noted that he wasn't immediately attracted to this but wants to encourage diversity of suppliers and attract more SME's to bid for work. He added that contracts should not be too prescriptive, and that contract specification is critical.
- Alan Wilson (AW) mentioned the integrated project alliance procurement method which removes conflict between designers and contractors. He welcomed the recent reduction in the project bank account thresholds. DM asked his advisers to look into the integrated project alliance.

- Asim Afzal (AA) asked DM if he was in favour of abolishing retentions. DM responded by saying that he will be taking views on this. DM acknowledges that retentions do play a valuable role in the industry, but they are often used as a weapon, with negative consequences.

AB thanked DM for joining us and welcomed the contributions of CPG members to the discussion.

#### **4. Update from the Secretary on membership of the cross-party group on construction**

Gordon Nelson (GN) confirmed the current MSP and non-MSP members of the CPG.

##### **MSP Members**

Monica Lennon (Lab) – Convener  
 Alexander Burnett (Con)- Deputy Convener  
 Sandra White (SNP)- Deputy Convener  
 Graham Simpson (Con)  
 Alison Johnstone (Greens)  
 Pauline McNeill (Lab)

Non-MSP members. There are currently 26 non-MSP members of the CPG. GN will submit the list in the annual return. GN noted, that some organisations had recently expressed an interest in becoming members, including Engineered Panels in Construction Limited (EPIC) who are present today.

AB asked if anyone had any objections to EPIC becoming members. There were none. EPIC duly approved as a member of the CPG on Construction.

GN noted that as per the note from the meeting on 30/4/19, he still has no contact details for the Association for Consultancy & Engineering, Engineering Construction Industry Training Board and the Considerate Contractors Scheme.

GN Grateful for assistance from CPG members.

**Action: If any member has contacts at the Association for Consultancy & Engineering, the Engineering Construction Industry Training Board or the Considerate Contractors Scheme: please forward to GN.**

#### **5. Any other Business**

- AW noted that the Scottish Building Contract Committee's annual conference is on 14<sup>th</sup> November in Edinburgh.
- Graham Simpson (GS) noted that the Local Government and Communities' ongoing work on building standards and fire safety, with new building regulations coming into force in Scotland. GS encouraged CPG members to feed in their views to the committee. GS also noted that the committee will review the full report on Grenfell after it is published in December.

#### **6. Date of Next Meeting.**

GN noted that this is to be confirmed, but likely to be towards the end of January.

AB thanked everyone for their attendance and closed the meeting.

## Attendees

	<b>Forename</b>	<b>Surname</b>	<b>Company</b>
1	Barri	Millar	Association for Project Safety
2	Hector	MacAulay	Balfour Beatty
3	Allan	Thomson	Central Training Services Ltd
4	Grahame	Barn	Civil Engineering Contrators' Asssociation-Scotland
5	Cara	Hilton	Civil Engineering Contrators' Asssociation-Scotland
6	John	Keenan	Construction Industry Training Board (CITB)
7	Rohan	Bush	Construction Scotland Innovation Centre
8	Chris	Pateman	Engineered Panels in Construction Limited (EPIC)
9	Gordon	Nelson	Federation of Master Builders (FMB)
10	Lindsay	Sinclair	Federation of Master Builders (FMB)
11	Ryan	Fair	FMB Scotland Board Member
12	Ronnie	Pennycook	FMB Scotland Board Member
13	William	Crowe	Institution of Structural Engineers (ISE)
14	Paula	Coopland	Mineral Products Association Scotland
15	Stephen	Slessor	Morrison Construction
16	Stephen	Young	On behalf of CECA and ISE
17	Sarah	Fitzpatrick	Scottish & Northern Ireland Plumbing Employers' Federation (SNIPEF)
18	Alexander	Burnett MSP	Scottish Conservatives
19	Graham	Simpson MSP	Scottish Conservatives
20	John	McKinney	Scottish Contractors Group
21	Hamish	McGregor	Scottish Contractors Group-Chair
22	Anne	Galbraith	Scottish Electrical Charitable Training Trust (SECTT)
23	Sam	McMillan	Scottish Stone Group
24	Alan	Wilson	SELECT- Scotland's Electrical Trade Association
25	Elaine	Ellis	Skills Development Sscotland
26	Ross	Taylor	Taylor Law
27	Asim	Afzal	The Chartered Institute of Building (CIOB) Chair of CIOB's Glasgow Hub
28	Graham	Jackson	Thornton's Law
29	Stuart	Tennant	University of the West of Scotland

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**Secretary:** Gordon Nelson

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