



AGM and presentation on Brexit

12.45pm, Thursday 14 September 2017

Committee Room 4

The Scottish Parliament

Chair: Patrick Harvie MSP

1. Attendees and Presentations

A provisional list of attendees is attached to the end of this note. If you attended and are not shown on the list, please email Elaine Waterson (Elaine.waterson@est.org.uk).

For a copy of the presentation please email Elaine Waterson (Elaine.waterson@est.org.uk).

2. Introduction by Chair and Minutes

Patrick Harvie MSP welcomed everyone to the AGM and passed on apologies from Liam McArthur MSP, Claudia Beamish MSP, Jackie Baillie MSP, Ben Macpherson MSP and Mark Ruskell MSP who were unable to attend as they had clashing parliamentary business.

Minutes of the previous meeting, held on 18 May 2017, had been sent round group members in advance and the secretariat received no requests for additions or corrections.

3. AGM Business

3.1 Election of Office Bearers

The nominations for the positions of Convener (x2) and Deputy Convener (x2) were circulated to the membership on 11th September in advance of the meeting. Subsequently an additional nomination was received for one of the Deputy Convenor posts. Patrick Harvie MSP highlighted that there was nothing in the way of appointing 3 Deputy Convenors. The group noted its support for the appointment of 3 Deputy Convenors and its support for all 5 of the proposed office bearers.

The group's office bearers are therefore:

Conveners:

- Liam McArthur MSP
- Mark Ruskell MSP

Deputy Conveners:

- Claudia Beamish MSP

- Ben Macpherson MSP
- Alexander Burnett MSP

The nominations for the 2 secretary posts were also circulated in advance of the meeting. No one else was nominated. The group noted its support for appointing the existing secretaries. The group's secretaries are therefore:

- Rachelle Money, Scottish Renewables - Secretary (Renewable Energy) and Treasurer
- Elaine Waterson, Energy Saving Trust – Secretary (Energy Efficiency)

3.2 Approval of Annual Return

Patrick Harvie MSP asked if there were any corrections to the Annual Return which was emailed to group members in advance and sets out the group's activities over the previous year and the financial benefits received by the group from the Energy Saving Trust and Scottish Renewables. There were no suggestions or corrections.

3.3 Discussion of future work programme

Patrick Harvie MSP invited suggestions for SPREEE's future work programme for 2017/18. A number of suggestions were provided as set out below:

- Heat
- Energy from waste
- Electric vehicles and charging infrastructure
- The evolution of energy demand – how will this change over time with the introduction of new technologies etc.?
- Scotland's Energy Strategy
- New energy efficiency policies
- SEEP
- The feasibility of exporting renewable produced in Scotland

Patrick Harvie MSP invited members to make any additional suggestions to Elaine Waterson (Elaine.waterson@est.org.uk) and Rachelle Money (rachelle@scottishrenewables.com) who will agree the final work programme with the group's convenors.

3.4 Presentation

The convenor then introduced the presenter – Peter Zeniewski from Edinburgh University.

Peter Zeniewski, Chancellor's Fellow, Energy and Society, Edinburgh University

Peter noted that he had broadened out his presentation beyond just the possible impacts of Brexit on UK electricity interconnector investments, to also cover the impacts of Brexit on renewables more generally. His presentation included consideration of the impact of Brexit on infrastructure funding, electricity interconnectors and on clean energy R&D, and explored the extent to which it might be possible for the UK to tap into investment in global renewables development.

Patrick Harvie MSP thanked Peter for his presentation

4. Question and Answer Session

- Patrick Harvie MSP asked about the extent to which the uncertainty that exists before decisions are made can itself cause disruption to things that both sides want to continue.
- Peter Zeniewski agreed that this was an issue and noted that the UK's eventual departure from the EUETS was already being debated at the European Parliament.
- John Birchmore whose company is involved in the development of small scale renewables projects noted that Brexit is already leading to some companies (including his own) moving their offices from Scotland.
- Karen Freel from Perspectiva consultants noted that she was working for a port at the moment and asked about whether there were any indications about what might happen in relation to quotas, tariffs and customs in May 2019.
- Peter Zeniewski stated that there were currently no indications but noted that for equipment deals would need to be thrashed out with the countries concerned.
- Fiona Riddoch from Strathclyde University asked if Peter's research had identified any upsides for renewables associated with Brexit.
- Peter Zeniewski suggested that there was cause for some optimism noting that, for example, the Climate Change Act was unlikely to change as there is already a lot of alignment between the UK and the EU on climate change. He also noted that it would provide opportunities to move away from state aid guidelines enabling the UK to strike its own path.
- Martin Mansell from LEEP asked about a figure that Peter Zeniewski had quoted – that 97% of turbines are imported – specifically whether there were signs that the UK government might support more manufacturing in this area.
- Peter Zeniewski answered that there were signals that some companies want to front load some of their investment to hedge against Brexit, noting that Siemens were building a rotor manufacturing site in Hull.
- Jeff Justice from Edinburgh University asked about the role of immigrant labour in maintaining infrastructure.
- Peter Zeniewski noted that this is swept up into wider UK policy on leaving the EU and highlighted that a recent Energy Institute survey showed a lack of access to skilled workers across all energy sectors.
- Maree Todd MSP noted that she also sits on the Science and Technology Cross Party Group and that this group had also looked at risks from Brexit. One of the biggest threats they could foresee was a lack of skilled researchers.
- Patrick Harvie MSP asked about the impact on individuals in relation to the energy rating and labelling of consumer goods.
- Peter Zeniewski highlighted that as the price of goods goes up efficiency becomes a harder sell.
- Joan Pisanek asked about the best market for low carbon equipment post Brexit.

5. Date of Next Meeting

Elaine Waterson noted future meeting dates will be circulated by e-mail once these have been agreed.

7. AOB

Patrick Harvie MSP closed the meeting and reminded members that they might want to ensure that they are familiar with the provisions of the Lobbying (Scotland) Act. Further information about the Act can be found [here](#).

8. Attendees

Members

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|-----------|-------------|
| Alexander | Anderson |
| Barbara | Atterson |
| Rebecca | Bell |
| Chris | Bell |
| John | Birchmore |
| Lynne | Bryceland |
| Alexander | Burnett MSP |
| Colin | Campbell |
| Callum | Chomczuk |
| Andrew | Faulk |
| Shona | Fisher |
| Karen | Freel |
| Paul | Gill |
| Patrick | Harvie MSP |
| Jeff | Justice |
| Martin | Mansell |
| Courtney | Peyton |
| Joan | Pisanek |
| Fiona | Riddoch |
| Matthew | Thomas |
| Maree | Todd MSP |
| Elaine | Waterson |

Non-member guests

| | |
|-------|------------|
| Peter | Zeniewski |
| Sarah | Masson |
| Kate | Cunningham |

For suggestions of corrections for this note please contact the secretariat, Elaine Waterson (Elaine.watson@est.org.uk).