

# minutes

**Meeting:** Cross Party Group on Scotch Whisky  
**Location:** Committee Room 5 Scottish Parliament

**Date Held:** Wednesday 29 May 2019

**Present:**

**MSPs:** George Adam MSP, Murdo Fraser MSP, Rhoda Grant MSP, Gordon MacDonald MSP, Colin Smyth MSP,

**Other attendees:** Stacey Adam (Assistant), Jack Gemmell (Chivas Brothers), Pierre Jobert (Intern), Douglas Meikle (SWA), Beatrice Morrice (SWA), Devin Scobie (Caledonia Public Affairs)

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Gordon MacDonald MSP chaired the meeting and welcomed attendees.

## 1. Scottish Alcohol Industry Partnership

Douglas Meikle, from the Scottish Alcohol Industry Partnership and the SWA, gave a presentation on the work that the alcohol industry is doing to tackle alcohol misuse.

He provided information on government statistics that show a reduction in alcohol harms and consumption. Members were then informed about three campaigns of the group: 125ml wine servings, proxy purchase and Drinkaware at Work.

Attendees heard that it was difficult for the partnership group to access small and medium sized companies for the Drinkaware at Work initiative. Members agreed to consider opportunities to link up these types of companies to the partnership group going forward.

Members of the group questioned what measurement of wine is served at parliamentary events and also agreed that ongoing education was needed with regard to refusal books that shops are required to keep as part of their licence requirements.

Douglas also provided information on the Scotch Whisky Association's Scotch Whisky Action Fund that is run by Foundation Scotland. The initiative has given 50 awards to 42 projects since its inception in 2013. There are 13 projects that have received funding this year. The SWA is holding an information event to meet the projects that have received awards at the Scottish Parliament later in the year. Further details will be circulated after recess.

Jack Gemmell, Chivas Brothers and Chairman of Best Bar None Scotland, provided information on the Best Bar None award that goes beyond licensing requirements. He underlined the importance of evaluating the impact and reported that the initiative had delivered positive results in

## Action

**MSPs to investigate wine serving at parliament events.**

many areas.

## **2. AOB**

The dates for the meetings after recess will be circulated by Beatrice shortly. Please let either Murdo, Gordon or Beatrice know of any ideas for future meetings.

The SWA is holding a reception in the Garden Lobby on Tuesday 3 September to which all CPG members are invited. Invites will be sent to you over the summer but save the date for now.

## **3. Scotch Whisky Tasting**

Jack Gemmell from Chivas Brothers kindly provided some Scotch Whisky for a tasting to mark the last meeting prior to recess.

For more information please contact Beatrice Morrice [bmorrice@swa.org.uk](mailto:bmorrice@swa.org.uk) or call 07432 605 387.