

CROSS PARTY GROUP ON SKILLS

Wednesday 26 October 2016, 1300-1400 hours
Committee Room 2, Scottish Parliament

Minutes

Present

- James Dornan MSP
- Johann Lamont MSP
- Gillian Martin MSP
- Joanne Buchan, Colleges Scotland
- John McKinney, Scottish Contractors Group
- Heather Sloan, Universities Scotland

Apologies

- Tavish Scott MSP
- Colin Smyth MSP
- Jay Smith, Employment Enterprise
- Elaine Bone, EDAS
- Robert Bruce, SEMTA
- Baljinder Birdi, Pearson UK
- Kenny Stewart, The Open University in Scotland
- Maureen Hill, Scottish Waterways Trust
- Margaret Munckton, Perth College UHI
- Anne Meikle, Women's Enterprise Scotland
- Stuart McKenna, Scottish Training Federation
- Newell McGuinness, SELECT
- George Brown, SQA
- Anne Galbraith, SECTT
- Christine Powell, Essentials Plus Ltd

1. Welcome

James Dornan MSP opened the meeting and welcomed members.

2. Apologies

Mr Dornan noted that there were a number of apologies from members.

3. Explanation of re-constitution of the group

Mr Dornan noted that re-registration of the group must take place by the 30 October 2016.

The aim of the Cross Party Group on Skills is to bring together a wide range of organisations and individuals involved in skills development in Scotland to discuss and share ways in which skills development can be enhanced to bring sustainable economic benefits.

4. Election of Office Bearers

James Dornan MSP was elected as Convenor and Johann Lamont MSP was elected as Deputy Convenor.

5. Topics for future meetings

There was a discussion on topics for future meetings that the group would like to discuss over the next 12 months. These include:

- How to address skills gaps
- The Scottish Government's Enterprise and Skills Review
- Apprenticeships and their importance to the economy
- Apprenticeship Levy

- Shared Apprenticeships
- The Learning and Skills Journey
- Skills issues for those from disadvantaged backgrounds.

Members have been encouraged to submit any suggestions for topics.

6. Close

With no further business to conduct, Mr Dornan thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting.