

## **Cross-Party Group on Beer and Pubs**

Friday 24<sup>th</sup> January 2025

Minute

Present

MSPs

Craig Hoy MSP (Convener)

Finlay Carson MSP

Maurice Golden MSP

Henry Johnston-Smith - Office of Craig Hoy MSP

Liam Kerr MSP

Douglas Lumsden MSP

Eloise Richmond – Office of Pam Duncan-Glancy MSP

Paul Sweeney MSP

Colin Smyth MSP

Invited guests

None

Non-MSP Group Members

Alistair Brown (Bellfield Brewery)

Jacob Coad (Portman Group)

Jon Dale (Punch Pubs)

Jamie Delap (Fyne Ales)

Josh Green (Star Pubs)

Andrew Lawrence (Molson Coors)

David McBride (Greene King)

Stephen Montgomery (Scottish Hospitality Group)

Colin Smith (Scottish Wholesale Association)

Leon Thompson (UKHospitality)

Paul Tognieri (Scottish Beer & Pub Association)

Anne Toms (Budweiser Brewing Group)

Colin Wilkinson (Scottish Licensed Trade Association)

**Secretariat:**

Paul Edgeworth (CAMRA)

Rita King (All Party Parliamentary Beer Group)

Katie Mackie (Office of Craig Hoy MSP)

Barry Watts (SIBA)

## Apologies

Colin Smith (Scottish Wholesale Association)

## Agenda item 1

### Re-Election of Officers

Craig Hoy MSP was re-elected as Convenor. Proposed Colin Smyth MSP, seconded Finlay Carson MSP

Paul Sweeney MSP was re-elected Deputy Convenor. Proposed Colin Smyth MSP, seconded Douglas Lumsden MSP.

## Agenda item 2

### Re-appointment of the Secretariat

It was agreed that CAMRA, SIBA and the Beer Group would continue to provide the secretariat. Proposed Colin Smyth MSP, seconded Maurice Golden MSP.

The CPG expressed its thanks to the Secretariat for their work over the past year.

## Agenda item 3

### Report on CPG Activities in 2024

The Secretariat reported on the following activities of the CPG during the past year:

- Visit to Vault City Brewery (April)
- “Brand Scotland” Inquiry (March to September)
  - Written Evidence (March/April)
  - Oral Evidence (May)
  - Chairman’s Dinner on initial findings (June)
  - Report Launch (September)
- Annual CPG Pub Quiz (November)
- Presentation by Jeremy Scorer and Robert Pearce from HIT Training on the variations in Apprenticeship Programmes and funding across Scotland, England and Wales (December)

## Agenda item 4

### Proposed CPG Activity 2025

The Convenor reported on planned CPG activities and events for 2025 as follows:

- “Brand Scotland” Report – continue to promote and discuss with Ministers
- Brewery Tour – Pilot, Campervan and Leigh Breweries (Wed 30<sup>th</sup> April)

- Chairman’s Dinner (June – venue to be confirmed)
- Parliamentary Quiz (November, Bellfield Brewery)
- Ministerial meetings to be arranged as appropriate eg. Restrictions on the Advertising and Promotion of Alcohol, Scottish Pubs Code, EPR and DRS

Agenda item 5

Any Other Business

EPR: Maurice Golden MSP highlighted that the costs of EPR risked making glass uncompetitive vs plastic, which could result in the industry moving away from it. This would have a wider impact on other related businesses and the glass manufacturing sector.

Low and No Alcohol Alternatives: Jacob Coad highlighted that the Portman Group had recently published its annual survey on low and no alcohol alternatives, which showed that this category was growing. He added that the Portman Group would also be carrying out an audit of a random 500 products during 2025 and reviewing them in line with its Code of Practice on the naming, packaging and promotion of alcoholic products marketed in the UK.