

ECONOMY AND FAIR WORK COMMITTEE

13th Meeting, 2021 (Session 6), Wednesday 1 December 2021

Inquiry into Scotland's Supply Chain

Evidence Session 4

Introduction

1. This paper has been prepared for the Economy and Fair Work Committee to aid Committee members during the fourth evidence session of the Committee's inquiry into Scotland's supply chain.

2. The remit of the inquiry is—

to consider the short and medium-term structural challenges facing Scotland's supply chain. The Committee is interested in how the challenges and shifts in s supply chains are impacting Scotland's economy. We want to consider how to build future resilience and whether there are opportunities for Scottish firms to develop domestic supply chains. We will consider the issues under the themes of People, Place and Product.

3. The inquiry is based around three central themes; people, places and products.

- **People** - analysing why there are persistent skills gaps in certain sectors and gaps in labour supply in other sectors;
- **Places** - looking at the challenges facing Scotland's supply infrastructure, particularly as we transition to net zero, and how it can be made more resilient;
- **Products** - seeking to find out what issues face both Scotland's importers and exporters, how they can be supported to maximise opportunities and how to better grow Scotland's domestic supply chain.

Written views

4. The Committee launched a [call for views](#) on Tuesday 12 October. The responses have been published and can be accessed at the following link:

- [Published responses for Scotland's supply chain - Scottish Parliament - Citizen Space](#)

Today's evidence session

5. This is the fourth evidence session of the inquiry and will focus on the retail sector.
6. Future evidence sessions will focus on the construction sector and support for emerging supply chain businesses in Scotland.
7. Today, the Committee will hear from—
 - Dr John Lee, Head of Policy and Public Affairs, [Scottish Grocers Federation](#);
 - Ewan MacDonald-Russell, Head of Policy & External Affairs, [Scottish Retail Consortium](#); and
 - Colin Smith, Chief Executive, [Scottish Wholesale Association](#).

**Clerk to the Committee
25 November 2021**