



## Scotland's Climate Assembly Stewarding Group - First Meeting - 2 March 2020

### Attendees

Claudia Beamish MSP	Scottish Labour Party
Bryce Cunningham	Mossgiel Farm Energy Transition Institute, Robert Gordon University
Prof. Paul de Leeuw	University
John Dickie	Director, Child Poverty Action Group
Kate Dyer	Extinction Rebellion
Liam Fowley	Scottish Youth Parliament Open Government Partnership, Scottish Government
Doreen Grove	Government
Justin Kendrick	Extinction Rebellion
Kirsten Leggatt	2050 Climate Group
Audrey MacDougall	Chief Social Researcher, Scottish Government
Liam McArthur MSP (by telephone)	Scottish Liberal Democrats
Andrew McCornick	President, National Farmers Union Scotland Fraser of Allander Institute, University of Strathclyde
Scott McGrane	Federation of Small Businesses, Scotland
Andrew McRae	Climate Café, Dunkeld
Jess Pepper	Royal Scottish Geographical Society
Mike Robinson	Expert advisor to the Citizens' Assembly of Scotland (who stood in for Graham Smith)
Kaela Scott	School of Communication, Dublin City University
Dr Jane Suiter	Secretariat
Nicola Dobson	Secretariat
Jamie Gregory	Secretariat
Eleanor McGhie	Secretariat
Julie Steel	Secretariat
Susie Townend	Secretariat (Chair)

Apologies were received from Malcolm Cannon (IoD Scotland), Professor Ian Docherty (Stirling University), Dr Oliver Escobar (Edinburgh University), Laura Moodie (Green Party) and Graham Smith (University of Westminster)

Kate Wimpress, Convener of the Citizens' Assembly of Scotland and Ian Davidson, Secretariat of the Citizens' Assembly of Scotland attended for item 3 of the meeting.



## 1) Introductions

Susie welcomed and thanked attendees and brief introductions were made.

## 2) An Introduction to Citizens' Assemblies (Kaela Scott)

Professor Graham Smith was unable to attend due to travel problems on the day and Kaela Scott kindly stepped in to replace him at short notice..

Although currently popular, Citizens' Assemblies have been used for some time and are one type of "Deliberative Mini Publics" where citizens find and recommend solutions.

Citizens' assemblies vary in size, duration and outputs. Similarly how they are mandated and framed varies with commissioning body and desired outputs. Various methods of Member selection are possible but Members should be representative of the population.

## 3) Personal Perspective on the Role of a Convener (Kate Wimpres, Convener of the Citizens' Assembly of Scotland and Ian Davidson, Secretary of the Citizens' Assembly of Scotland)

Kate discussed her experience as the Convener of the Citizens' Assembly of Scotland (CAoS).

The Convener is independent of Government and should be able to build trust quickly with a diverse set of people. Expertise in citizens' assemblies or the subject matter being discussed was not essential.

## 4) Scope and Remit

A preliminary discussion on Member selection and assembly logistics was held.

**Young people:** There was a discussion about how best to include young people, taking due account of duty of care concerns. Options proposed included a pre or parallel process for young people. Suggested that the Children and Young People's Commissioner Scotland and Children's Parliament should be consulted.

**Member Selection:** It is important that the diverse nature of Scotland is represented, as much of the legitimacy comes from this. At meetings, Members are there as individuals and are not expected to speak for a particular group or area.

**Venue:** Accessibility is important.

**Conveners:** An initial discussion about how best to fulfil the requirements of the Act.

## 5) Next Steps and Actions

Assembly meetings will start in the autumn to report by 28 February 2021.

Thoughts were invited on how all would like to work together and a request was made for any written information to be as concise as possible.



- **Secretariat to produce a draft paper on remit including; size, duration, selection criteria for assembly members;**
- **Secretariat to produce a draft paper on secretariat and stewarding group remit;**
- **Secretariat to circulate contact details after securing agreement from those unable to attend;**
- **Secretariat to consider how best to involve young people;**
- **Secretariat will circulate details of the Design and Facilitation Contract procurement process;**
- **Secretariat will issue a doodle poll for availability for the date of the next meeting.**

## **6) AOB**

None