

**Scotland Policy Conferences keynote seminar**  
**Policy priorities for meeting Scotland's skills needs and next steps for apprenticeships**

Timing: Morning, Thursday, 26<sup>th</sup> August 2021

\*\*\*Taking Place Online\*\*\*



SCOTLAND POLICY  
CONFERENCES

*Draft agenda subject to change*

- 8.30 Registration
- 9.00 **Chair's opening remarks**  
**Douglas Chapman MP**, Shadow SNP Spokesperson (Small Business, Enterprise and Innovation)
- 9.05 **Key priorities for skills development to support Scottish businesses and industry**  
Senior commentator  
Questions and comments from the floor
- 9.25 Break
- 9.30 **Harnessing skills development for driving post-pandemic recovery**  
Senior speaker confirmed from **Skills Development Scotland**  
Questions and comments from the floor
- 9.55 **Preparing Scotland's workforce for the future - skills shortages, investing in key sectors, dovetailing with the transition to net zero, and supporting sustainable growth**  
**Alison Muckersie**, Programme Lead, DDI Skills Gateway, City Region Deal, Data Driven Innovation Initiative, University of Edinburgh  
**Ian Hughes**, Strategic Partnerships Director, Construction Industry Training Board  
**Jon Buglass**, Head of Creative Industries, Edinburgh College  
**John Stewart**, Director of HR, SSE  
Questions and comments from the floor
- 10.40 **Chair's closing remarks**  
**Douglas Chapman MP**, Shadow SNP Spokesperson (Small Business, Enterprise and Innovation)
- 10.45 Break
- 10.55 **Chair's opening remarks**  
**Wendy Chamberlain MP**, Liberal Democrat Chief Whip and Spokesperson for Scotland, Wales and Work and Pensions
- 11.00 **The role of education and apprenticeships in driving up skills in Scotland - lifelong learning, work placements, online courses and accreditation, and ensuring students learn skills relevant for the workplace**  
**Dr Liz Cameron**, Director, Scottish Chamber of Commerce  
**Councillor Altany Craik**, Convener for Economy and Tourism, Member of the Strategic Planning and Transport Committee, Fife Council  
**Dr Ken Thomson OBE**, Principal, Forth Valley College of Further and Higher Education  
**Paul Campbell**, Head of Learning and Organisational Development, Scottish Water  
**Marie Hendry**, Depute Director for External Engagement and Partnerships, The Open University in Scotland  
Questions and comments from the floor
- 11.50 Break
- 11.55 **Overseas labour and skilled migrants in Scotland post-Brexit - experience with adjusting to the new migration system, impact on labour market, and policy priorities moving forward**  
**Mike Park**, Chief Executive, Scottish Whitefish Producers Association  
**Dr Matthew Barr**, Lecturer in Information Studies, and Programme Director, Graduate Apprenticeship in Software Engineering, University of Glasgow  
**Jamie Kerr**, Partner, Burness Paull  
Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.30 **Next steps for skills in Scotland**  
Senior representative, policy  
Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.55 **Chair's and Scotland Policy Conferences closing remarks**  
**Wendy Chamberlain MP**, Liberal Democrat Chief Whip and Spokesperson for Scotland, Wales and Work and Pensions  
**Sean Cudmore**, Deputy Editor, Scotland Policy Conferences