

STAJAC Meeting 24 June 2015 - Paper 10.5

Membership of cross party group on Consumer Affairs

From: Patrick Hogan <Patrick.Hogan@cas.org.uk>
To: "marieke.dwarshuis@btinternet.com" <marieke.dwarshuis@btinternet.com>
Sent: Tuesday, 5 May 2015, 9:11
Subject: Membership of Cross-Party Group on Consumer Affairs

Dear Marieke,

Consumer protection and regulation, and promoting consumer education, are areas of significant interest for policymakers, businesses and the public alike. Be it finding out more about consumer rights, about access to appropriate redress, protection from payday lenders, or issues with the regulated industries of post, energy or water, consumer issues affect us all. Indeed, there could be an increasing focus on consumer rights over the coming months if more power over consumer advice and advocacy is devolved to Scotland as part of a new Scotland Bill, as looks possible.

At present, there isn't a regular forum in the Scottish Parliament in which to discuss consumer issues with political stakeholders. Recognising this, Citizens Advice Scotland is currently seeking to establish a Cross-Party Group on Consumer Affairs in the Scottish Parliament which will enable political, consumer, third sector and business stakeholders to come together to meet and discuss emerging consumer affairs issues and to provide a platform to raise awareness of consumer regulation and protection.

Dave Thompson MSP (SNP, Skye, Lochaber and Badenoch) has kindly agreed to convene the Cross-Party Group, and Citizens Advice Scotland will provide the secretariat for the group. We are aiming for the first meeting to take place in late June.

As a key stakeholder, I would like to extend an invitation to you to join this important new group. Owing to the tight timescale within which we must gain approval from the Scottish Parliament's Standards, Procedures and Public Appointments Committee for the new CPG, I would greatly appreciate it if you were to confirm by email return whether your organisation would like to be a member of the CPG by **Friday 8 May**, and that you are happy for this to be confirmed in the documentation which must be submitted to the committee in support of Mr Thompson's application to establish the Cross Party Group on Consumer Affairs. Please also feel free to share this e-mail with your networks if there are other organisations and groups which you believe would be interested in join the proposed Cross Party Group on Consumer Affairs.

Thank you for your time and I hope you are able to join us in this new endeavour.

Kind regards,

Patrick

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