

# ECONOMY AND FAIR WORK COMMITTEE

## 12<sup>th</sup> Meeting, 2022 (Session 6), Wednesday 4 May 2022

### Town Centres and Retail

#### 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 town centres and retail.
2. The remit of the inquiry is to—  
Identify the new realities of retail and ecommerce in Scotland and the resulting impact on town centres. What is the subsequent policy response needed to create living and resilient town centres?
3. The Committee launched a call for views on Tuesday 1 February which closed on Wednesday 16 March. Responses can be accessed [here](#).
4. On 24 March, the Scottish Government published its retail strategy "[Getting the Right Change](#)" with the aim of delivering successful, profitable retail businesses, creating new, better jobs and to become an exemplar for inclusive growth.

#### Evidence Session

5. The main theme of this session is ecommerce in Scotland, the Committee will hear evidence across two panels as follows—
  - Gillian Crawford, Managing Director, [Lily Blanche](#);
  - Carolyn Currie, Chief Executive, [Women's Enterprise Scotland](#);
  - Stuart Mackinnon, Head of Communications and Public Affairs; [Federation of Small Businesses Scotland](#); and
  - Dr Peter Mowforth, Chief Executive, [Indez](#).

And then from—

- Hugh Lightbody, Chief Officer, [Business Gateway](#);
- Neil Francis, Managing Director, [Scottish Development International](#);
- Siobhan McDermit, Team Leader, Digital Trade Services, [Scottish Enterprise](#).

6. Future evidence sessions will focus on keeping town centres alive.

**Clerk to the Committee  
29 April 2022**