

Cross-Party Group on Tibet

Thursday 27 April 2023, 2-4 pm & 5:30-6:30 pm

Minute

Present

MSPs

Ross Greer MSP (RG), Alex Cole-Hamilton MSP (ACH), Patrick Harvie MSP, Lorna Slater MSP, Pauline McNeill MSP, Donald Cameron MSP, Mark Ruskell MSP, Foyso Choudhury MSP

Non-MSP Group Members

Eleanor Byrne-Rosengren (EBR), Roger Eames (RE), Linda Hendry (LH), Martin Mills (MM), Jill Sudbury (JS), Ron Scrimgeour (RS), Lochoe Samten (LS), Sonam Frasi (SF)

Guests

Sikyong (President) Penpa Tsering, Central Tibetan Administration

Sherab Gyaltzen, Tibetan Community in Britain

Representatives from the local Tibetan and Hong Kong communities also attended

Apologies

Apologies were received from Collette Stevenson MSP, Mike Lean, Duncan Lunan, Ritchie Walker and Alex Staniforth

1. Welcome

On Thursday 27 April 2023, the Cross-Party Group on Tibet (CPGT) hosted a visit from Sikyong Penpa Tsering, President of the Central Tibetan Administration. RG initially hosted two drop-in meetings between 2pm and 4pm, which were attended by ACH, EBR, LS and SF from the Cross-Party Group as well as by the additional MSPs listed above. A short, formal session was held at 5:30pm, which was chaired by RG.

2. Approval of Minutes – 15 February 2023

Minutes of the February meeting were approved.

3. Address from Sikyong Penpa Tsering

Following on from RG's welcome, the Sikyong made a short presentation covering the situation in Tibet and his government's current advocacy priorities. He also took some questions from CPGT members and guests. Some time was then set aside for photographs and for the Sikyong to speak to some attendees personally. At the end of the meeting, CPGT members were invited to join the Sikyong at the Asia Scotland Institute, where he was giving a public talk followed by a reception.

Meeting ended 6:30 pm