

Cross Party Group on the UK: Changing Union

Minutes: 16 July 2014 Meeting, 8.30-9.30am, Conference Room 21, Ty Hywel

Members: David Melding AM (Chair), Mike Hedges AM, Rhodri Glyn Thomas AM, Simon Thomas AM, Professor Richard Wyn Jones (Director, Wales Governance Centre at Cardiff University), Llew Williams (Project Coordinator UK Changing Union, Group Secretary).

Present: David Melding AM (Chair) Mike Hedges AM, Llew Williams (Secretary), Julie Morgan AM

Apologies: Rhodri Glyn Thomas AM, Simon Thomas AM, Professor Richard Wyn Jones

External invitees: A full list of external attendees can be found at the end of the minutes.

1. Welcome

Chair welcomed members and external invitees to the meeting of the Cross Party Group on UK Changing Union noting that this would be the last meeting ahead of the referendum. The Chair noted that the group will assess the outcome of the referendum after the September 18, but that today's session will look at the possible impacts of the referendum on Wales.

2. Guest panel: Adam Price, Lee Waters and Valerie Livingston

Chair welcomed the Cross Party Group's guest panel for meeting (named above) to discuss the subject "what will the impact of the Scottish referendum be on Wales".

Valerie Livingston raised concerns over constitutional tinkering in Wales and felt that people were avoiding the big questions facing Wales.

Lee Waters noted that he whilst the polls noted that it was likely to be a NO vote in Scotland, that a YES vote was still plausible. Lee also noted that we simply don't know what the effect of the referendum will be on Wales.

Adam Price said that the British political class hadn't woken up to the possibility of a Yes vote in Scotland yet. Adam also called for contingency plans to be put in place if Scotland votes for independence.

The chair then took questions to the panel from the invited audience. The topics that were raised included the EU referendum, the motivation of activists in both YES and NO campaigns in Scotland, the acceleration of devolution in Wales and what would the outcome of a narrow YES vote in the referendum be.

3. Close of meeting

Chair thanked the panel for their contributions. Chair duly closed the meeting.

Date of the next meeting: To be confirmed

List of external invitees who attended:

Richard Bettley	National Assembly for Wales
Craig Lawton	Office of Suzy Davies AM
Julie Morgan AM	
Steven Morris	The Guardian
Brenig Davies	
Mark Hinge	The Bay Public Affairs
Carys Evans	Welsh Government
Hugh Rawlings	Welsh Government
Peter Edwards	
Dafydd Cadog	
Nick Wall	Office of Mick Antoniw AM
Tomos Davies	Office of David Melding AM
Mike Hedges AM	
Adam Jones	
Syd Morgan	Swansea University
Rachel Cable	Higher Education Wales
Rhys Clayton	
Gareth Price	National Assembly for Wales
Anna Daniel	National Assembly for Wales
Elin Hughes	National Assembly for Wales