

SCOTTISH EXPERT ADVISORY PANEL ON THE COLLABORATIVE ECONOMY

Terms of reference

Background

During 2016, the Regulatory Review Group (RRG) undertook an initial review of the regulatory environment within Scotland for key sectors (including tourism) affected by digital disruption to ensure that it remains appropriate to encourage and support innovation while maintaining a level playing field. In November 2016, the Minister for Business, Innovation and Energy approved RRG's recommendation that an independent expert advisory panel be established to advise Scottish Ministers on how Scotland can position itself to take advantage of the opportunities of the collaborative economy as well as the challenges that it will present.

Remit

Members of the Scottish Expert Advisory Panel on the Collaborative Economy will:

- Provide advice, expertise and experience to on-going policy development on the collaborative economy.
- Make recommendations to Scottish Ministers on how Scotland can position itself to take advantage of the opportunities of the collaborative economy and overcome any regulatory, economic and social challenges.

Key Considerations

In conjunction with the Scottish Government, the panel has identified that the key considerations are how to:

- ensure that regulation is fit for purpose and that an appropriate balance is struck to allow competition to flourish;
- protect and empower consumers and identify clear routes to redress;
- develop digital leadership skills to enable Scotland's business base to digitally transform and compete in the evolving market place;
- prepare Scotland's current and future workforce for the digital workplace by ensuring they can access courses to gain or update skills; and
- ensure that the wider economic, social and community impacts, including taxation, social inclusion and employment conditions are taken into account and embedded into the final recommendations.

Membership

Organisations represented on the panel – Nesta, ScotlandIS, PriceWaterhouseCooper, Airbnb, Uber, Codebase, Scottish Council for Development & Industry, VisitScotland, Social Value Lab, Shepherd and Wedderburn LLP, Regulatory Review Group & Scottish Trades Union Congress.

Accountability

In December 2017 the Chair of panel will present a report to Scottish Ministers who will consider the recommendations made and respond in early 2018.

Lifespan

The panel will meet over a seven month period and submit a report to the Scottish Government which details its findings and recommendations. The Scottish Government will provide the secretariat function and meetings will be held between Edinburgh and Glasgow.