

**ARGYLL AND BUTE POPULATION SUMMIT
FRIDAY 9 MAY 2014
QUEENS HALL, DUNOON**

Conference Chair: Mark Stephen

(Journalist and Broadcaster (radio Scotland) who has chaired wide range of conferences, including Scottish Government Resilience Conference last year, and Police Scotland Summit)

09.30 – 10.00	Registration and refreshments
10.00 – 10.05	Welcome/Opening Remarks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mark Stephen - Conference Chair
10.05 – 10.25	Overview/Argyll and Bute Context <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dick Walsh, Leader of Argyll and Bute Council • Sally Loudon, Chief Executive Argyll and Bute Council • Barry McEwan, Chief Superintendent, Police Scotland
10.25 – 11.15	Doing Business in Argyll and Bute <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aggregate Industries - Aggregate Industries quarries, manufactures and supplies a wide range of heavy building materials to the construction industry. (tbc) • Prof Lawrence Mee, Director Scottish Association for Marine Science (SAMS) – promotes marine research and education in Scotland. (tbc) • Connie Lovell - Mount Stuart – Bute is a key example of the challenges we face – has experienced 6 decades of population decrease, and has the highest unemployment rate across Argyll and Bute. Connie Lovell is also the co-chair of the Argyll and the Islands Strategic Tourism Cooperative. • James McGarry Chief Executive, GSS Marine Services Rhu – locally based marine engineering business with over 200 employees (40 based in Argyll and Bute). Supports MOD, offshore renewables, marine construction, civil engineering etc. (tbc)
11.15 – 11.30	Highland and Islands Enterprise – Growth Opportunities/ Regional Perspective <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alex Paterson, Chief Executive
11.30 – 11.50	Refreshment Break
11.50 – 12.10	Academic Perspective

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • tbc
12.10 – 13.00	John Swinney MSP – Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Sustainable Growth <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Speech/Q&A/Discussion
13.00 – 14.00	Lunch and Networking
14.00 – 14.20	Scotland Food and Drink <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • James Withers, Chief Executive (tbc)
14.20 – 15.00	Young People’s Perspective <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Selection of young apprentices, students, graduates, entrepreneurs from across Argyll and Bute
15.00 – 15.30	Closing Remarks/Next Steps <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Michael Russell MSP
15.30	Conference Close