

APPG on State Pension Inequality for Women: **Annual General Meeting**

Minutes from
18th May 2022

Attendees:

Andrew Gwynne MP (Co-Chair)
Peter Aldous MP (Co-Chair)
Christina Rees MP
Mohammad Yasin MP
Beth Winter MP
Valerie Vaz MP
Nia Griffith MP
Gavin Newlands MP
Yvonne Fovargue MP
Marion Fellows MP
Lord Davies of Brixton
Griffin Mosson (Office of Andrew Gwynne MP)
Tom Yeldon (Office of Peter Aldous MP)

Apologies

Barbara Keeley MP
Dr Philippa Whitford MP

1. Introduction

ANDREW GWYNNE opened the meeting, thanked attendees, and noted that this was the first in-person formal meeting since the start of the pandemic. He explained that this AGM will give colleagues the opportunity to nominate Vice-Chairs for the next reporting year, as well as provide an opportunity for an update on the current state of play.

He then handed over to PETER ALDOUS to chair the election of Officers.

2. Election

It was unanimously decided that Andrew and Peter would remain Co-Chairs of the APPG, and that Andrew would remain registered contact.

It was unanimously decided that the following colleagues would remain Vice-Chairs of the APPG:

Dr Philippa Whitford MP
Liz Saville-Roberts MP
Ruth Cadbury MP
Jason McCartney MP
Gavin Newlands MP

It was unanimously decided that the following colleagues would be elected to the position of Vice-Chair:

Mohammad Yasin MP
Valerie Vaz MP
Nia Griffith MP
Yvonne Fovargue MP
Marion Fellows MP
Barbara Keeley MP
Christina Rees MP.

Peter concluded the substantive part of the AGM, thanked colleagues, and handed over to Andrew to provide an update on the year ahead.

3. Update

Andrew informed colleagues that the APPG was still keenly awaiting the publication of the second stage of the PHSO report, which the APPG made a written representation to earlier this year. He told colleagues that both he and Peter had tried to seek a provisional timeline from the PHSO but that this had not yet been received.

Beyond the PHSO report, Andrew reminded colleagues of recent research commissioned by WASPI that 220,000 women had died whilst waiting for pension injustice to be resolved and reiterated the urgency of need for a solution.

Andrew then informed officers that the APPG was in the preliminary stages of organising a work programme for the year ahead. This would obviously need to adapt upon the release of the second stage of the PHSO report. Andrew expressed his and Peter's desire for the APPG to do some work exploring further policy interventions to help 1950s-born women, and that this could come alongside the ongoing work calling for a solution to the injustice.

Peter agreed with this assessment and made the point that the PHSO advised the Government to be proactive whilst it was conducting its investigation. Peter stated that he would make this case in any further discussions with the Government.

Andrew then opened the floor to further discussion or any other business.

4. A.O.B.

Colleagues expressed their support for the work programme, and there were also calls for the APPG to do more work on a cross-nation basis with groups in Scotland and Wales. Andrew and Peter agreed with this, and Andrew expressed interest in formally welcoming campaigners from Scotland and Wales to future APPG events.

It was highlighted by a number of colleagues that there is a reluctance on the part of the Government to engage on the issue of State Pension Inequality, and that wherever possible parliamentarians need to put pressure on the Government to do more.

There was also clarity requested on which groups the APPG is engaging with. Andrew and Peter reiterated their commitment to keeping the APPG accessible, and to work constructively with all 1950s-born women groups as much as possible.

Andrew and Peter again thanked colleagues for their time and noted the good attendance and genuine cross-party desire within the APPG. He advised colleagues that Griffin and Tom would be in touch with further information on upcoming events and closed the meeting.

ENDS