

Minutes of the All Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) on Haemophilia and Contaminated Blood

08 February 2017

Members Attending

Diana Johnson MP (Labour) –Co-Chair, Chairing the meeting

James Vickery representing Kevin Foster MP (Conservative)

Andy Slaughter MP (Labour) – Vice Chair

Catherine West MP (Labour)

Jason McCartney MP (Conservative)

Nadhim Zahawi MP (Conservative)

Member Apologies

Margaret Ritchie MP (SDLP)

Caroline Lucas MP (Green Party)

Richard Bacon MP (Conservative)

Graham Evans MP (Conservative)

Kelvin Hopkins MP (Labour)

Jim McMahon MP (Labour)

Baroness Meacher (Crossbencher)

Also attending

Tom Stephens, Parliamentary Researcher, Diana Johnson MP

Liz Carroll, Chief Executive, The Haemophilia Society, Secretariat

Jeff Courtney, Policy and Public Affairs Manager, The Haemophilia Society, Secretariat – Minutes

Stuart Mclean, Campaigner

Adrian Melson, Campaigner

Maxine Melson, Campaigner

Clair Walton, Campaigner

Barry Ward, Campaigner

Agenda

1. Introductions and Apologies
2. Update on the call for a Hillsborough-style independent panel
3. Passporting to benefits for those affected by the Scandal
4. Developments in the implementation of the new Support Scheme
5. AOB

Minutes of Proceedings

Item 1 – Introductions and Apologies

Those present introduced themselves and apologies were received from members as listed above.

Item 2 - Update on the call for a Hillsborough-style independent panel

The chair updated members on the meeting of the 7th December. At this meeting Andy Burnham MP shared his experiences of campaigning for an inquiry into the events at Hillsborough and discussed parallels with campaigning on the Contaminated Blood scandal.

The recent publication of the Bishop James Jones Review terms of reference was discussed (<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-statement/Commons/2017-01-18/HCWS419>). The focus of the review is the experiences of the Hillsborough families, however, it will also cover the conduct of past police investigations and their engagement with public authorities.

Action – Members agreed that the Chair should write to him about whether he would support chairing a Hillsborough-style contaminated blood inquiry

Members noted that Andy Burnham intends to seek a debate on changes to accountability of public bodies and authorities. He will also be introducing a private members bill under the ten-minute rule motion on the 29th March to propose these changes.

Item 3 - Passporting to benefits for those affected by the Scandal

A proposed submission to the consultation on the Health, Disability and Work Green Paper was introduced and discussed.

Members present suggested minor changes.

Action – Members agreed that the Secretariat would circulate the proposed submission and seek further input from members who were not present.

Decision – Members agreed the submission in principle pending wider consultation and the minor changes discussed in the meeting.

Item 4 - Developments in the implementation of the new Support Scheme

The Secretariat updated members on developments on the introduction of the new Support scheme. An update is available at: [http://www.haemophilia.org.uk/news/view?id=94&x\[0\]=news/list](http://www.haemophilia.org.uk/news/view?id=94&x[0]=news/list).

Members and campaigners asked questions and in particular discussed the process for the appointment of the new Scheme Administrator and the continuation of the schemes after March 2017.

Action – Members agreed to write to the Health Secretary addressing three main points: Seeking a guarantee of the continuation of discretionary and non-discretionary payments after March 2017, the legality of winding up the Macfarlane Trust and the mechanisms for ensuring no one is worse-off under the new scheme.

There was a discussion of the transparency and accountability of the existing scheme administrators and their trustees.

Action – Members agreed to write to the existing scheme administrators inviting senior managers and some trustees to address the APPG at a future meeting.

Item 5 – AOB

Members discussed future meetings and the need to schedule meetings future in advance and publicise meetings more widely.

Action – Members agreed to announce dates for the next three APPG meetings which will be in late March, early summer and November.

Action – Members agreed that the Secretariat should add representatives from campaigning groups and other members of the affected community to the APPG mailing list