

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

18 July 2016

Members Attending

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

Sir Peter Bottomley MP (Conservative) – APPG
Co-Chair

Milly Walker on behalf of Victoria Borwick MP
(Conservative)

Gareth Russell on behalf of Flick Drummond MP
(Conservative)

Kevin Foster MP (Conservative)

Rt Hon David Hanson MP (Labour)

Chris Matheson MP (Labour)

India Thomson on behalf of Jason McCartney MP
(Conservative)

Andy Slaughter MP (Labour)

Member Apologies

Margaret Ritchie MP (SDLP)

Nia Griffith MP (Labour)

Barbara Keeley MP (Labour)

Jessica Morden MP (Labour)

Rebecca Pow MP (Conservative)

Nadhim Zahawi MP (Conservative)

Baroness Featherstone (Lib Dem)

Also attending

Martin Lennon, Researcher and Policy Adviser, Diana Johnson MP

Liz Carroll, Chief Executive, The Haemophilia Society, Secretariat

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

Agenda

1. Discussion of the Proposals

Minutes of Proceedings

To start the meeting the Secretariat presented an overview of their analysis of the reformed support scheme for England.

The analysis included:

- The initial reaction to the overall proposals
- Groups who could be worse off

- Overlooked groups
- Information on the new annual payment amounts
- Commentary on the special appeals mechanism, discretionary support arrangements and the move to a single scheme administrator

The full analysis will be circulated to members by email or for a copy please contact the secretariat at jeff@haemophilia.org.uk.

Members agreed that there was a risk that some people would be worse off following the changes to discretionary support.

The concern was raised that as the number of beneficiaries eligible for access to the discretionary support increased, the level of support available would need to fall as there would not be enough money in the discretionary fund. For more detail members are referred to the briefing produced by Martin Lennon on discretionary support.

Members discussed the overall budget available for the scheme and concluded that it was insufficient.

Members agreed to table written questions related to these concerns and others raised in the analysis.

Other sources of funding were discussed including using funds from the sale of BPL. A meeting with the Treasury on this issue had been cancelled due to the government reshuffle.

Action – Chairs to approach new Chief Secretary to the Treasury regarding a meeting on BPL

Action – APPG to request a meeting with the Secretary of State for Health

The Members discussed providing more information to the media and other stakeholders on the history of the scandal.

Action – Commission a chronology of the events of the contaminated blood scandal and make it available on the APPG website

Action – Produce research on support arrangements and compensation schemes in other countries

It was confirmed that no oral ministerial statement was announced by the Government and the request of the chair for an urgent question was declined.

The members agreed to put forward the subject for a Backbench business debate

Action – Chairs to put in submission for a backbench business debate on the new support arrangements

The members discussed the impact of the change of Prime Minister and resulting Government reshuffle on the work of the APPG. As a result of their leaving government the APPG intends to invite Alistair Burt to re-join the APPG as a vice-chair. It was also suggested that David Cameron may want to become involved.

Action – Chairs to invite Alistair Burt and David Cameron to join the APPG