



APPG ON VULNERABLE GROUPS TO PANDEMICS 2022 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING: MINUTES

Tuesday 11 January 2022, 09:30

Attendees

Virendra Sharma MP (VS)

Lord Jon Mendelsohn (JM)

Bob Blackman MP (BB)

Rachael Maskell MP (RM)

Ruth Cadbury MP (RC)

Tracey Allen - advisor to Lord Mendelsohn (TA)

Abbie Johnson - RPP UK Ltd Associate Director (AJ)

Benjamin Smith - RPP UK Ltd Researcher (BS)

Inquiry report update

- BS noted that the report was in its final stages of drafting and is likely to be ready for publication by the end of January or in early February.
- BS reported that many patient groups had shown interest in the report and requested a copy upon publication. He also noted that a case study into the cancer backlog and other promotional materials have been created to help increase the influence of the report.

Election of officers

- The new officers for the group are as follows:
 - Co-chairs: Bob Blackman MP (registered contact) and Lord Mendelsohn
 - Vice Chairs: Virendra Sharma MP, Ruth Cadbury MP, Rachael Maskell MP
 - Andrew Lansley MP, Lisa Cameron MP and Jim Shannon MP were nominated to role of vice-chair. As they were not present this will be finalised outside of the meeting.
 - JM and TA offered to become the new secretariat of the group.
 - All those in attendance, eligible to vote, agreed to these appointments.



- RPP offered to continue to provide an informal advisory service for the group and expressed their commitment to the aims of the APPG. It was explained that their stepping away from the formal secretariat position was in the best interests of the group given the recent Standards Committee inquiry.
- JM and TA noted that they will look into making the necessary declarations in their parliamentary work given their new role as the secretariat.

APPG direction 2022

- JM emphasised two potential areas of focus for the group over the next year: 1. Working to protect clinically extremely vulnerable (CEV) people as Covid-19 becomes an endemic disease; 2. Influencing potential new ministerial portfolios to ensure that policy is created by the government to protect these groups.
- TA proposed a launch event for the upcoming inquiry report to increase its impact. VS also noted the importance of a formal launch event for the report. RPP and TA agreed that they would discuss planning this event in the near future.
- BB raised the issue of the parliament recess squashing the impact of the report if it were published in February. He noted that 26 January is the review of the 'Plan B' Covid-19 restrictions which could be an opportune time.
- RM noted that the government have promised to publish a paper about 'living with Covid' which has the potential to marginalise vulnerable groups who are still at risk.
- TA requested that parliamentarians forward any advice from the government about CEV people.

AOB

- JM thanked VS for all his work over the last year and for beginning the group. He recognised that it continues to be an important initiative.
- TA requested members to contact her about the frequency of meetings. VS suggested that this be at the discretion of the co-chairs. RC noted that it is often dictated by government time tables and suggested a planned strategy so meetings can be timed to respond to key government dates/publications. This idea was supported by the group.
- It was agreed by members to circulate APPG information using MP's networks, for example the WhatsApp health group.