

## INAUGURAL MEETING OF THE ALL PARTY PARLIAMENTARY GROUP

Pandemic Response and Recovery  
Thursday, 08 September 2021, 15.00

### MINUTES

**In Attendance:** Rt Hon Esther McVey MP, Sir Graham Brady MP, Graham Stringer MP, Emma Lewell-Buck MP, Sammy Wilson MP, Philip Davies MP, Baroness Foster of Oxton, Baroness Morissey, Lord Robathan, Baroness Fox of Buckley, Lord Moylan.

**Guest speakers:** Dr John Lee, Professor Robert Dingwall.

**Apologies:** Derek Twigg MP, Andrew Rosindell MP, Sir Charles Walker MP, Miriam Cates MP, Ian Paisley MP, Baroness Noakes, Lord Moonie, Baroness Meyer.

#### 1. Election of the Chair of the APPG on Pandemic Response and Recovery

Esther McVey MP was elected Chair of the APPG unanimously.

#### 2. Election of Co-Chair of the APPG on Pandemic Response and Recovery

Graham Stringer MP was elected Co-Chair of the APPG unanimously.

#### 3. Election of Vice Chairs of the APPG on Pandemic Response and Recovery

Sammy Wilson MP, Emma Lewell-Buck MP, Miriam Cates MP & Baroness Foster of Oxton were elected Vice Chairs of the APPG unanimously.

#### 4. Discussion about Secretariat

It was agreed that Collateral Global could be appointed to act as the APPG Secretariat.

#### 5. Agree the wording of the objectives of the APPG:

Baroness Morissey and Baroness Foster tabled amendments to the objectives to reflect a wider range of areas and expertise, which were unanimously agreed. The Objectives now read:

*To provide a forum for politicians, scientists, health professionals, economists, business leaders and other experts; to facilitate broad, balanced and open debate; to inform a more focussed and flexible approach to government policy; to reach for new solutions in pandemic management which prevent avoidable suffering and loss in the future.*

#### 6. Agree the Terms of Reference of the APPG.

The Terms of Reference were unanimously agreed.

#### 7. Talks given by Dr John Lee and Professor Robert Dingwall

Each addressed three areas of concern. Points discussed included the contentious data, lack of context, precautionary principle, scientists declaring financial interests, the balance between health and other aspects of life, moving on from the emergency and crisis response to an endpoint, proportionality of measures.

Members were invited to ask questions and engaged in a lively exchange of ideas in which consideration was given to the APPG programme and the subject matter of future hearings. A decision on the subject of the first hearing will be taken nearer to the date of the next meeting.

#### **8. APPG Meetings and hearings**

The group decided to meet every six weeks and hold ad hoc meetings as and when the work of the APPG demanded.

The date of the next meeting will be Tuesday 16 November, 6-7.30pm.