

All Party Parliamentary Group for Parkinson's Disease
AGM
4 pm, 9 June 2009, Room 2 A, House of Lords

1. Welcome, introductions

Baroness Gale welcomed members of the APPG and thanked them for a successful first year.

2. Attendees and Apologies

Attendees:

Baroness Gale, Lord Harrison, Lord Walton of Detchant, Lord Cobbold, Baroness Masham of Ilton, Earl Howe, Betty Williams MP.

Helen Kirrane, Emily Cogbill, Val Buxton, Anjuli Veall – Parkinson's Disease Society

Apologies:

Mark Hunter MP, Richard Spring MP, Mark Durkan MP, Dr Evan Harris MP, Angela Browning MP, David Evennett MP, Jeremy Browne MP, Baroness Finlay of Llandaff, Jeremy Wright MP, Lord Evans of Parkside, Lord Preston of Candover, Lord Ashley of Stoke, Paul Burstow MP, Anne Milton MP, Tim Boswell MP, Lyn Brown MP, Roger Gale MP, Albert Owen MP, Phil Willis MP, Ann Clwyd MP, John Hayes MP, Baroness Howells of St David's.

3. Election of Officers – AGM business

Baroness Gale asked members whether they were happy to confirm the current Officers and Chair to continue in their roles for the next year.

Lord Harrison supported the motion and Baroness Masham of Ilton seconded it.

The following Officers were therefore re-elected:

- Baroness Gale as Chair
- Mark Hunter MP, Baroness Finlay of Llandaff and Anne Milton MP as Vice-Chairs
- Jeremy Browne MP as Treasurer
- Madeleine Moon MP, Paul Burstow MP and Lord Brooke of Sutton Mandeville as Secretaries to the Group.

4. Update on the Inquiry Report

Baroness Gale updated the Group on the Inquiry and its Report, including details of the number of submissions of evidence the Group received.

Baroness Gale also outlined a number of the key findings from the Inquiry

The Group was informed that the Inquiry Report is currently in draft form and if members wish to see a copy of the second draft of the Report they should contact Emily Cogbill.

5. Update on launch of Inquiry Report

Emily Cogbill updated the Group on launch of the Inquiry Report.

The launch of the Report is taking place at a Parliamentary Reception on 8 July 2009 in the Macmillan Room, Portcullis House.

Emily informed the Group that Ann Keen MP, Under Secretary of State for Health Services has confirmed that she will be attending and speaking at the event.

Lord Harrison thanked members of the Inquiry Panel and the Secretariat for all their work on the Inquiry and the Report.

Lord Harrison asked whether the Inquiry had received evidence on GPs not wanting information to be put in their surgeries.

Lord Walton of Detchant and Baroness Gale informed Lord Harrison that the Inquiry had not heard evidence on this specific issue but that it had heard evidence on problems people faced in getting information.

Lord Walton of Detchant told the Group how impressed he was with the first draft of the Report.

Lord Harrison asked how many people had responded saying they could attend the Reception on 8 July.

Emily Cogbill informed the Group that invitations were currently being sent to all MPs, Peers, key stakeholders (particularly those who had given evidence to the Inquiry).

6. Parliamentary activity to highlight and secure implementation of Report recommendations

Baroness Gale ran through a list of possible additional parliamentary activity which members of the Group could take part in to increase the awareness of the Report.

Members discussed the possibility of doing a short debate in the House of Lords.

Lord Harrison asked whether the Group could link the people with Parkinson's and carers who submitted evidence to the Inquiry with their MPs to help engage MPs. The Group agreed this would be a good idea.

Lord Harrison also suggested that photos of people from the Reception could be used to attract local press.

Emily Cogbill informed the Group that this was already planned and a photographer has been booked for the event.

Action: Members to pursue ideas around additional parliamentary activity and Emily Cogbill will coordinate the activity and provide briefings where necessary.

7. AOB

Baroness Gale thanked the Secretariat for all their work over the last year.

Lord Harrison asked whether MPs and Peers from Scotland would be invited to the Report Launch.

Baroness Gale explained that they would be invited.

Lord Walton of Detchant suggested that the Report should be sent to the Scottish Health Minister and the Chief Medical Officer in Scotland.