

APPG on the Rule of Law AGM 2022

Minutes of a meeting of the All Party Parliamentary Group on the Rule of Law (the 'APPG') held on Wednesday 8th June 2022 at 16:30 at Room Q, Portcullis House, SW1A 0AA.

Parliamentarians in Attendance:

- Sir Bob Neill MP (Chair);
- Lord Anderson of Ipswich KBE QC (Lords Chair);
- Lord Pannick QC (vice Chair);
- Lord Sandhurst QC;
- Baroness Whitaker;
- Mr Jonathan Djanogly MP.

Also in Attendance:

Andrew Hodge (Co-ordinator of the APPG on the Rule of Law); Ronan Cormacain (Bingham Centre for the Rule of Law); Vanessa Michna (Office of Sir Bob Neill MP).

Apologies:

Baroness Jones of Moulsecoomb (vice chair); Sir Tony Lloyd MP (vice chair); Baroness Lister of Burtersett (vice Chair); Lord Dubs; Baroness Hayter; Lord Thomas; Baroness Jay; Lord Carlile; Lord Wolfson; Joanna Cherry QC MP.

Quorum

The Chair noted that there was a quorum of 1 MP and 5 members of either House present, and the meeting was duly opened.

Business of the meeting

The business of the meeting to comply with the rules for APPGs by re-electing officers and

Election of Officers

The following officers were duly re-elected unanimously:

- Sir Bob Neill MP (Chair and registered contact);
- Lord Anderson of Ipswich (Lords Chair);
- Lord Pannick (vice-chair);
- Joanna Cherry MP (vice-chair) - *in absentia*;
- Baroness Lister of Burtersett - (vice-chair);
- Sir Tony Lloyd MP (vice-chair) - *in absentia*;
- Baroness Jones of Mouselcoomb (vice-chair) - *in absentia*.

The following new officers were elected as vice-chairs, unanimously:

- Lord Sandhurst QC;
- Lord Macdonald of River Glaven QC - *in absentia*;

Financial Matters

The members present considered financial matters noting that the group has no income or expenditure.

The members present approved registration of the following benefits in kind received during the reporting period:

- Secretariat of the APPG provided by the Bingham Centre for the Rule of Law in the amount of between £16,501 and £18,000.

The Chair noted that the formalities of the AGM were complete, and moved to open discussion on the aims and objectives of the APPG for the next reporting year.

Discussion of the Rule of Law and Objectives for 2022-23

The members present discussed Rule of Law points arising from events, policies and legislation and identified the following as being of importance to the APPG:

- proposals for a Bill of Rights, and reform of the Human Rights Act 1998;
- the Northern Ireland Troubles (Legacy and Reconciliation) Bill;
- legislation relating to the Northern Ireland Protocol;
- legislation relating to retained EU Law.

Other matters raised during the discussion included:

- Henry VIII Powers and 'skeleton Bills';
- access to justice and the post-pandemic court backlog;
- public order policing powers;
- the Online Safety Bill.

It was agreed to continue discussions about the timing and topic for the next meeting of the APPG before coming to a decision.

The Secretariat was instructed to make the required filings with the registrar.

The meeting was drawn to a close by the Chair.