



## **WASPI All-Party Parliamentary Group**

### **Minutes**

**19<sup>th</sup> July 2016, 1500**

**Barbara Keeley MP in the Chair**

- 1. Barbara welcomed all Members present. There was a strong turnout from all parties (40 MPs and Peers)**
  
- 2. Discussion of next steps and policy options**
  - The APPG's next steps were discussed. A number of MPs discussed the work they were doing with local supporters.
  - Tim Loughton MP said that he had already talked about WASPI with Damian Green MP, the new Secretary of State for Work and Pensions. Tim also talked about contact he had had with Saga magazine and how they had discussed how they might support the APPG. This included the option of polling WASPI supporters about different policy options.
  - Members agreed to seek a meeting for a cross-party delegation of MPs with Work and Pensions Secretary Damian Green MP. It was agreed to draft a letter from Barbara Keeley and Tim Loughton requesting the meeting.
  - It was agreed that a cross party group of MPs would put in for a debate on next steps to support the WASPI campaign. An application needs to go to the Backbench Business Committee as soon as possible for discussion at the committee in September.
  - A document which listed all the options for transitional arrangements which had been tabled or discussed in Parliament was distributed. It also included some suggestions from WASPI Supporters such as the '63 is the new 60' option. It was suggested that MPs who had other alternative options would make the Group aware of these.
  - There was much concern expressed about the 1950s-born women who are most affected by changes in the State Pension Age and how they could best be supported by constituency MPs. Many MPs expressed concern that the immediate needs of the women most affected should be addressed, as many were suffering real hardship.

- It was suggested that the Local Government Association could be contacted, asking for their support for WASPI campaign. Barbara Keeley agreed to draft a letter to the Local Government Association, asking for their support for WASPI campaigns in their authority area.
- Barbara said she had sent a letter to Frances O'Grady at the TUC and she will seek a meeting to discuss possible support from the TUC and Trade Unions for the WASPI Campaign.
- It was agreed that the upcoming Pensions Bill would provide opportunities to put forward amendments for transitional arrangements.
- All MPs were urged to put forward motions to support the WASPI Campaign at their Party Conferences in September.

### **3. Discussion of paper petition**

- Members talked about the WASPI paper petitions and signatures being gathered for them by local WASPI groups. It was agreed that **Tuesday 11th October** would be a good evening for a mass presentation of paper petitions.
- It was agreed that the wording and guide to the paper petition would be emailed to members with the meeting notes.

### **4. Any other business**

- Caroline Ansell MP talked about letters being sent to DWP by WASPI supporters about maladministration by DWP failing to notify women of their State Pension position. Caroline felt it would be helpful if APPG members shared a view on the letter and an MP response to it.
- It was agreed to circulate the template letter.