



APPG for International Students

Minutes of the AGM 2023

21 March 2023 13:00-13:30

House of Lords, Committee Room 1

Attendees:

Paul Blomfield MP (Co-Chair)
Alison Thewliss MP (Vice Chair)
Baroness Garden (Vice Chair)
Baroness Warwick (Vice Chair)
Drew Hendry MP
Baroness Uddin (Treasurer) (delayed until 13:26)

Apologies:

Lord Bilimoria (Co-Chair)
Lord Willets (Vice Chair)
Ben Lake MP (Vice Chair)
Afzal Khan MP
Henry Smith MP
Carol Monaghan MP (Staff in attendance)
Lord Jo Johnson
Baroness Lister
Baroness Blackstone
Lord Wigley
Lord McConnell
Lord McNally
Lord Brennan
Lord Boswell of Aynho
Bishop Atwell

13:15 Welcome

Co-Chair Paul Blomfield MP welcomed members and apologies for the delayed start.

13:15 Minutes from 2022 AGM

APPROVED

Report of Activity 2022-2023 including Approval of Income and Expenditure Statement

APPROVED

13:20 Election of Officers:

APPG Officers standing for re-election/election:

Co-Chair (named contact): Paul Blomfield MP (Lab)
Co-Chair: Lord Bilimoria (Crossbench)
Secretary: Mark Logan MP (Con)
Treasurer: Baroness Uddin (non-affiliated)
Vice Chair: Alison Thewliss (SNP)

Vice Chair: Baroness Warwick (Lab)
Vice Chair: Lord Willetts (Con)
Vice Chair: Ben Lake MP (Plaid Cymru)
Vice Chair: Baroness Garden (Lib Dem)
Vice Chair: Afzal Khan MP (Lab) (NEW ELECTION)

ELECTED (By show of hands)

13:20 Approval of APPG Secretariat 2023

IHE noted the change of staff which resulted in fewer events in 2022 and some cancelled events has now been addressed.

Secretariat APPROVED

APPG activity in 2023

- The APPG will launch their short inquiry on Graduate Route in May 2023 to be completed by July 2023.
- From the 2022 concerns raised the APPG has not yet addressed the challenges for students that come from countries the Home Office have identified as higher risk. Those students who come from countries labelled by the Home Office as low risk have access to faster and less burdensome visa processes. It was agreed this could be considered alongside the governments wider plans which may lead to a restriction on international students, or on access to the graduate route.
- The group agreed to look more closely at the response to the APPG letter on the International Education Strategy. There was a strong response from the Rt Hon Gillian Keegan, Secretary of State for Education who outlined their work to improve cross governmental working, in particular their work with Foreign Office, Overseas Aid and Trade staff. The group noted the lack of engagement from the Home Office in cross government activity to support the International Education Strategy.
- We have had a request from the APPG on British Council to host a joint event on the value of and our support for Alumni of UK education. The group agreed to move forward with this request, specifically as it supports areas of concern outlined in our letter to government on the International Education Strategy.

AOB and Close

The meeting finished at 13:27

Following the AGM:

13:30 The International Student Journey

Following the AGM, the APPG held a roundtable on The International Student Journey which explored the international student recruitment process and the role that Agents play in supporting students and UK schools, colleges and universities. All APPG members and parliamentarians were invited to join the roundtable which included students sharing their journey and why they chose the UK, Recruitment Agents on their role in this process, and school, college and university representatives on their engagement with students and Agents. The British Universities International Liaison Association (BUILA) presented their UK Agent Quality Framework and the British Council outlined their Hub for Agents and Counsellors. The wider education sector commented on how they are looking to maintain and enhance the standards of support for students in the recruitment process..

15:45 Close of meeting