

# Minutes

## All Party Parliamentary Group on Cancer

### AGM

Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> July 2017, 2.30pm, Room N (Portcullis House)

**Attendees:**

John Baron MP  
Baroness Masham  
David Tredinnick MP  
Colleen Fletcher MP  
Ruth George MP  
Baroness Greengross

**Apologies:**

Baroness Morgan  
Baroness Finlay  
Lord Ribeiro  
Mark Pritchard MP  
Albert Owen MP  
Grahame Morris MP  
Nic Dakin MP

**Other:**

Ben Yates, Parliamentary Researcher  
Amy MacConnachie, Secretariat  
Charlotte Nicholls, Secretariat

Rebecca Leech, Macmillan Cancer Support  
Tessa Duff, Macmillan Cancer Support  
Chris Carrigan, use MY data\*  
Alison Stone, use MY data\*  
Greg Judge, Brain Tumour Research  
Rebecca Miller, Keep Up with Cancer  
Carolyn Markham, with David Tredinnick MP

1.	<b>Welcome</b>	
2.	<p><b>Election of Chair and Officers</b></p> <p>The following MPs/Peers were elected as Officers, and John Baron was re-elected Chair with no objections from the Group:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• John Baron MP (Chair)</li> <li>• Nic Dakin MP (Vice Chair)</li> <li>• Albert Owen MP (Vice Chair)</li> <li>• Mark Pritchard MP (Vice Chair)</li> <li>• David Tredinnick MP (Vice Chair)</li> <li>• Ruth George MP (Vice Chair)</li> <li>• Baroness Morgan (Vice Chair)</li> <li>• Baroness Finlay (Vice Chair)</li> <li>• Baroness Masham (Vice Chair)</li> </ul>	5 min

<p>3.</p>	<p><b>Brief update on the ongoing APPGC inquiry and 2017 activities</b></p> <p><b>APPGC Inquiry</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The APPGC’s current inquiry into the England Cancer Strategy was launched two weeks ago at the annual Summer Reception (5<sup>th</sup> July) and is looking into the progress of the Cancer Strategy as it nears the half way stage to 2020, with a focus on both national and local level implementation. We want to hear about the opportunities and challenges facing those delivering the Cancer Strategy.</li> <li>• John spoke of the APPGC’s efforts towards improving one-year survival rates, such as making CCGs accountable for their own figures and recognising CCG’s that have most improved their one-year survival figures at the Summer Reception. John explained that, whilst progress is being made, we are still lagging behind European averages.</li> <li>• The call for written evidence is now open until 2<sup>nd</sup> August – exactly 2 weeks’ time - and we’re hoping to gather evidence from stakeholders, organisations and individuals from across the cancer community.</li> <li>• Two oral evidence sessions will be held: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ 6th September 9.30 – 11am</li> <li>○ 13th September 9.30 – 11am</li> </ul> </li> <li>• One will be with senior leaders with responsibility for the Cancer Strategy, including the new Minister, and one for Cancer Alliance Leads to discuss implementation on the ground.</li> <li>• Amy and John discussed confirmed speakers so far. One session is due to focus on national implementation and the other on Cancer Alliances and the local perspective. It was noted that the timings of these oral sessions could be flexible to accommodate witnesses.</li> <li>• The Secretariat will provide full briefings and questions ahead of the oral sessions.</li> </ul> <p><b>APPGC visit to Cancer Vanguard</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Secretariat is working with NHS England, we are hoping to arrange a visit to one of the Cancer Vanguard sites for APPGC Officers, as part of the Inquiry either in London or Manchester – late August early September</li> </ul>	<p>10 min</p>
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	<p>(date tbc).</p> <p><b>Britain Against Cancer 2017</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Britain Against Cancer 2017 is on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> December at Methodist Central Hall, Westminster.</li> <li>• We will launch our new Inquiry report giving keynote speakers the opportunity to respond to the report's findings and recommendations.</li> </ul> <p><b>Backbench Business debate</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We hope to secure a Backbench Business debate in the autumn, to discuss some of the initial findings from the inquiry.</li> <li>• John explained this will be submitted in September, for the debate to likely take place in the run up to Christmas, hopefully on the floor of the House of Commons.</li> <li>• John said he wished it to be a transparent, frank and honest debate, and he plans to send the Minister his speech in advance.</li> <li>• David Tredinnick MP asked whether it was possible for other APPGs to contribute to the Inquiry. John said that cancer specific APPGs meet quarterly to discuss the directions of their Groups.</li> <li>• David Tredinnick MP discussed three areas of concern including diet, access to treatments treatments and the Cancer Drugs Fund. John suggested that these were issues which it might be possible to raise during the inquiry. Greg mentioned the Cancer and Nutrition NIHR infrastructure collaboration, in relation to David's point on diet.</li> <li>• Baroness Masham brought up the importance of data collection.</li> </ul>	
<p>4.</p>	<p><b>AOB</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• As a first AOB, John discussed his recent communication with Chief Medical Officer Dame Sally Davies, following a visit to the Francis Crick Institute. Davies is working on developing blood tests as a way of diagnosis cancer early. John explained that he had written to Davies to ask her in Parliament can help the cause going forward, and a meeting is being arranged. Chris (use MY data*) said that he felt data would present more of a barrier than technology in the future.</li> </ul>	<p>5 min</p>

- Greg (Brain Tumour Research) asked how the NHS was addressing the fact that less common cancers are less survivable cancers. John agreed that this was an important area of focus, and explained that this work was key to improving one-year survival figures, a particular priority of the Group. John noted that he was speaking at the Less Survivable Cancers Taskforce launch that evening. John said he'd like to see Cancer52 contribute to the inquiry's line of questioning.
- Colleen Fletcher MP raised her concerns over sugar in patients' diets, saying it should be a matter of urgent question. John said this could be raised at the inquiry. Colleen mentioned another of her priorities is patient experience.
- The next APPG Chairs meeting is to take place in September.
- The latest edition of the APPGC's quarterly newsletter was circulated last week.
- Baroness Masham raised concerns over the stress that hospital car parking was placing on patients and staff. John said this could be raised as part of the inquiry.

John asked Chris Carrigan (use MY data\*) for an update on one-year survival figures. Chris said that whilst it is true that the UK's cancer survival rates lag behind other countries – and, whilst improvements are being made, there is still significant catching up to do - it's important to be careful which countries and data we compare. The aim within the Cancer Strategy is for one-year survival should reach 75% by 2020 for all cancers combined. Chris said that, as figures have only been improving by 0.1% year or year recently – currently at 70.4% - questions need to be asked about what can change going forward. John advised that Chris feed into the inquiry questions. Amy mentioned the new [CCG Improvement Assessment Framework \(IAF\)](#), which measures one-year survival rates alongside other metrics.

- David Tredinnick MP and Baroness Masham noted their thanks to John for all his work in the last Parliament and said Members applauded his efforts.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• John also noted his thanks to Macmillan Cancer Support for their Secretariat support.</li></ul>	
5.	<b>Presentation of accounts (private business)</b>	5 min