

WASPI Scotland CPG

Minutes of meeting no 4 19 APRIL 2022

Attendees

MSPs/Government officials

Katy Clark (Chair)
Beatrice Wishart
Eva McFarlane on behalf of Carol Mochan

MP Gavin Newlands

WASPI/CPG Members

Linda Carmichael
Wendy Millar
Frances Brown
Christine McMillan
Marjorie Eley
S McKellar (SWC)
Lynn Paterson
Catriona Melville (Age Scotland)
Christine Houston
Ann Jackson
Lynne Craighead
Anne Potter (Secretariat)

Apologies

MSPs

S Brown
Monica Lennon
Jackie Baillie

WASPI

Anne Campbell
Mary Dawson

1. Welcome Intro & Apologies

Katy C welcomed all to the meeting.

2. Anne P updated the action points. AP1/3,4/3 - Letters prepared & sent by KC
AP2/3 Pamela Judge of 2018 Campaign responded by email to say the Steering group agreed to revisit the Ayrshire papers once PHSO recommended compensation. AP 3/3 KC/BW to invite APPG to CPG, AP1/2 Volunteers required to work on subcommittee to refresh campaign.

3. WASPI Campaign Update. All agreed not much happening event wise. Still carrying out Zoom meetings though certain areas are managing limited meet ups.

4. Regional Update. LC,FB,LP,WM,LC & AP attended Holyrood exhibition March 29-31 & all agreed their attendance was really worthwhile. We engaged with many MSPs across all parties & obtained 70 signed pledges for fair & fast compensation once PHSO complete their investigations. An evening event was held on March 29 with many WASPIs taking part & speeches by BW,FB, LC & Scottish Borders being well received. The Ayrshire research was particularly interesting & played a large part in the event & exhibition. Many MSPs felt they would make use of the documents for their own constituencies to gauge the effects on their local economy. LC wanted to record special thanks to AP for all work involved with organizing. KC apologized for her absence since she had COVID. The motion has achieved the required support & hopeful of debate being granted. It was agreed to continue with obtaining support via pledges & important to be seen cooperating & working with other similar groups. FB commented it is essential to communicate with all politicians especially after spending time with Douglas Ross explaining PHSO & relevance of Ayrshire documents .It was notable several Scottish tory MSPs showed a great deal of interest but disappointing they failed to sign any pledges. WM also felt the exhibition & event was worthwhile, as is the continuing work on the Refresh Campaign which aims to raise the profile of the campaign & looking for new ways to increase interest in the 50's born women situation. Anyone keen to get involved let LC know. Worth noting the reinstatement of the pledge arose from the Refresh team. Concern was raised not all MP's & MSP's pictures signing the pledges visible on website as its important to demonstrate our thanks for their support regardless of their ranking or political party & disappointing Campaign 2018 focusing only on certain politicians. After communicating with Ian Blackford he has asked Alan Brown SNP Pensions spokesperson to assist in arranging a similar event in Westminster & initial meeting taking place April 19.

5. APPG. Gavin Newlands MP & APPG member attended to update us on the Westminster activities regarding our campaign & PHSO. He confirmed WASPI has been a hot topic for a number of years though been overshadowed by certain issues, Brexit, Covid & now Ukraine however, we are still on the agenda. GN explained the APPG is there for a purpose, namely to assist in achieving our goal of compensation. It was disappointing to note there had been issues

with an element of 50's born women who had been abusive to chair & co-chair of APPG which led to a change in the team. GN advised their AGM is April 28. Whilst waiting for PHSO he suggested there should be wider parliamentary activity on our behalf & is hopeful of another WASPI debate. Guy Opperman continues to respond in his usual way. GN emphasized the need for the campaign to maintain communications with all politicians. He is of the opinion the campaign has to create a ground swell of support, even though we may hear warm words from certain Tories we need to challenge all council candidates. He reminded us that Douglas Ross is not a fan of BJ & we should focus our attention on Scottish Tories which in turn may put pressure on Westminster. LC expressed concern Campaign 2018 not taking up on Ayrshire initiative & their restriction on those politicians asked to sign pledge. LC feels its important to keep momentum going & push forward. LC keeps in touch with Douglas Ross & one of his constituents in Moray. LP stated its really important to keep campaigning & no point in waiting for PHSO & not in agreement with 2018 approach. BW said the Holyrood events went so well with lots of positivity demonstrated by all. She recommended to keep momentum going & involve all tory politicians by keeping them in the picture. BW is using Ayrshire documents in her constituency of Shetland currently awaiting feedback on their findings. FB stressed the importance in demonstrating money lost in area as meaningful information for politicians & feels strongly that sashes, t shirts & banners are not working & instead we should be adopting government language like, "Levelling up, Recovery & Economy" which they appear to react to. GN said the protests & marches work though aware there's been restrictions over the last 2 years but he felt FB comment regarding using Government language is a very good point. GN will feedback to Andrew Gwynne & Peter Aldous & encourage them to attend CPG. KC thanked GN for taking time to attend as did WM who is a constituent.

6. Date of Next meeting – TBA.