

WASPI Scotland CPG

Minutes of meeting no 5 25 July 2022

Attendees

MSPs/Government officials

Katy Clark (Chair)
Beatrice Wishart
Eva McFarlane on behalf of Carol Mochan
Siobhian Brown
Katrina Faccenda
Tom Yeldon

Vicky M

MP Peter Aldous (APPG)

WASPI/CPG Members

Linda Carmichael
Wendy Millar
Frances Brown
Christine McMillan
Marjorie Eley
Lynn Paterson
Ann Jackson
Lynne Craighead
Elizabeth Devine Daly
Lorraine McColl
Anna White
Lorelei Welsh
Rosie Dickson
Mary Dawson (UNISON Retired Members)
Joyce Stevenson (CWU)
Eileen Cawley (Scottish Pensioners Forum)
Anne Potter (Secretariat)

Apologies

MSPs

Carol Mochan
Jackie Baillie

WASPI

Anne Campbell
Catriona Melville
Susan McKellar
Christine Houston

MP

Gavin Newlands

1. Welcome Intro & Apologies

Katy C welcomed all to the meeting. Delighted Peter Aldous MP able to join us, especially since he had agreed to attend postponed meeting in June.

2. Anne P updated the action points. AP1/4,1/5 – “Challenge to MSP/MSPs” (previously known as Ayrshire papers) Being reviewed for circulation. AP2/3,2/4,2/5 Pamela Judge of 2018 Campaign responded by email to say the Steering group agreed to revisit the Ayrshire papers once PHSO recommended compensation & their policy unchanged. AP 3/3 KC/BW to invite APPG to CPG, Peter Aldous MP attended, DISCHARGED, AP1/2, Volunteers required to work on subcommittee to refresh campaign. ONGOING. AP 3/5 KC will invite Prem Sika to join our CPG, AP4/5 SB asking for meeting with Campaign 2018 SG.

3. WASPI Campaign Update. See item 4.

4. Regional Update. Lynne C Scottish Borders started the ball rolling by pointing out there had been a good article on campaign on Womens Hour. Her group attended the Durham Miners Gala. ITV news are seeking input on the effect of inflation & why many are coming out of retirement in order to deal with the cost of living crisis. Angela Madden of WASPI Ltd won an award. Lynne emphasized she is still keeping going raising awareness with the campaign even though we are one year on from PHSO stage 1 result. Eileen Cawley asked if we could raise a question with government regarding the situation with compensation. Rosie D advised there had been a Radio Scotland phone in on retirees coming out of retirement & what the ideal age would be for retiring. RD would like to know what the Government policy is for 50's born women. RD also pointed out that our age group had been affected by so many factors ie, Covid, Ukraine war. Lorraine McColl highlighted the recent publishing of PHSO Annual Report which stated on page 23 they expect stage 2 result late 2022. Eileen C stated she had been involved with State Pension Review & met with Baroness Rolf & been able to provide useful evidence supporting

the need to lower SP age since life expectancy is declining & they were considering SP at age 72. Siobhian B reported she had been working on producing template letters for WASPI women. She has also met with representatives of Higgins Strategy. She discussed the "Challenge to MP's" & effects on local economy. Siobhian wrote to Guy Opperman to request a meeting but disappointingly he declined. Frances B reported that they had carried out 5 training sessions so far & mostly well received. Disappointed at the lack of engagement with English MPs mainly Tories with no response from key people. Lynne P expressed her concern the Campaign 2018 Steering group are not keen to use the documents nationally. Siobhian B asked if a meeting with Steering group could be arranged.(AP3/5) Lynne P agreed it would be useful to have a National agreement. RD asked if Scottish government could help to promote. (AP4/5) Elizabeth Devine Daly confirmed she is on SG & used the papers in West Dunbartonshire. Her MP showed some interest but had not fed back on his findings. EDD suggested the documents may need tweaked & tax issues clarified. Mary D has been involved with Pension age review. She is interested in rolling out the Challenge docs to retired members.(AP5/5) BW heard the Radio Scotland phone in & found it interesting. She has circulated the challenge papers to her local media & awaiting feedback. She also said Wendy Chamberlain MP is very aware of the campaign & encouraging all to keep lobbying MPs. Lynne & Frances expressed their thanks to Unison locally for their support. Linda C updated the progress on the Campaign Refresh group reflecting that the politicians pledge to support arose from the group discussions & had made an impact on keeping the focus on Fair & Fast compensation. LC is continuing to promote "Challenge to MP/MSP" especially after the Holyrood event proved so successful. LC is keen to see a national roll out but so far Campaign 2018 have stated they would review at a later stage, perhaps after Ombudsman stage 2. Linda feels all trade union contacts are useful as is the relationship with Scottish Pensioners forum & Age Scotland.

5. **APPG.** Peter Aldous APPG Co Chair was in attendance & thanked the CPG for the invite. He pointed out both Andrew Gwynne & Gavin Newlands were on holiday otherwise they too may have attended. He started off by saying he realizes all must be feeling downcast especially regarding cost of living & pleased to see WASPI are still continuing to campaign. He expressed his thanks to Lorraine McColl for the information she shared relating to PHSO annual report which indicated that it may be towards the end of year when stage 2 outcome published. PA felt that at least is hopeful, now they have mentioned rough timescale. He stated that the Government should be preparing for the eventual decision even during this leadership contest & we are doing the right thing raising the issue. He assured us that support in WM & Holyrood is there with some Tories quietly supporting the campaign. The APPG AGM was May 18 & reaffirmed they are still keen to continue to work with all 50's born womens groups & going forward they will be looking at their policy. RD asked if APPG could be broadcast & PA replied shared meetings may be possible as the technology is there & interested parties could take part. Before closing the meeting KC went on to say the WASPI motion could be resubmitted as we were timed out last session. FB asked if it would be appropriate to contact local councils to highlight effect on local economy using the challenge to MP/MSPs. KC agreed it might be useful if she approached her Ayrshire councils. (AP4/5) FB also suggested preparing a letter ready for PHSO stage 2 outcome covering both positive & negative outcomes. It was mentioned that refresh group currently looking at this issue. KC expressed her thanks to all for their input with special thanks to PA for attending also to Siobhian for stepping up to chair the Festival of Politics August 11 2022.

6. **Date of Next meeting** – AGM August 2022 date to be confirmed.