

WASPI Scotland CPG

Minutes of meeting no 3

Feb 8 2022

Attendees

MSPs/Government officials

Katy Clark (Chair)
Beatrice Wishart
Ishbel McGeorge

WASPI/CPG Members

Linda Carmichael
Rosie Dickson
Wendy Millar
Frances Brown
Christine Houston
S Brown
Mary Dawson
Carla O'Hara
Marjorie Eley
S McKellar
R Friel
Anna White
Lynn Paterson
Susan McKellar
Pamela Judge
Hilary Simpson
Anne Potter (Secretariat)

Apologies

MSPs

C Haughey
S Brown

WASPI

Anne Campbell
A Wallis
Joyce Stevenson
E D Daly
Catriona Melville
H Smith

1. Welcome Intro & Apologies

Katy C welcomed all to the meeting & pleased to see Pamela Judge & Hilary Simpson representing England & Wales WASPI Campaign 2018.

2. Anne P updated the action points.

AP1/1,2/1 - Letters prepared & with KC
AP3/1 Anne P prepared briefing & Motion & passed to KC. AP 5/1 Continuing to develop process to cascade Ayrshire findings to MSP's & MP's. AP1/2 Volunteers required to work on subcommittee to refresh campaign. AP2/2 Reps from England & Wales in attendance.

3. **WASPI Campaign Update.** All agreed not much happening event wise. Still carrying out Zoom meetings though certain areas are managing limited meet ups. RD confirmed Unite retired members branch will be donating. Mary D still waiting on paperwork for Unison Scottish retired members. AP Confirmed Free of charge stand at Scottish Labour party conference Glasgow Royal Concert Hall March 4-6. Holyrood exhibition March 29-31 organised with an Evening event on March 29 6pm-8pm. IWD Holyrood Sat March 5 2022 taking place with limited numbers due to Covid restrictions & via ballot only.

4. **Regional Update.** FB & LP discussed their research findings in Ayrshire which were collated using a detailed survey & a publication called "Where does Government get Money From". They have suggested preparing a paper for MSP's, MP's, Councillors & Unions. It was suggested that our campaign had focused on Rights & Injustice & their approach was leaning more towards Money & Finance. They have had assistance from finance experts & politicians in compiling their report & feel in Scotland whilst we have a great deal of support from Holyrood & Scottish MP's in Westminster there is a need to encourage others in England & Wales to engage with their politicians. KC suggested contacting APPG to look at paper plus perhaps communicate with MPS & House of Lords. (AP1/3) CH commented that she had used the format for her group in Aberdeenshire & was staggered at the figure of £48m lost in her local economy. RD added the figure in Glasgow is around £1.2bn & has alerted Alison Thewliss SNP Treasury Spokesperson regarding the economic effects & ONS figures. PJ confirmed the documents would be raised at the Steering Group meeting though felt the figures were relating to lost pension when we currently expect compensation.(AP2/3). PJ was of the opinion that WM politics are in a mess & this may not be a good time for this. HS added an issue is whether or not any compensation would be taxable. KC reiterated it was important to set up campaign refresh subcommittee. Following on from a previous CPG there will be a motion going forward

with a debate to follow. Once in place there is 6 weeks to sign the motion. AP commented it might fit in nicely with Holyrood exhibition where we can remind MSP s to support the motion. BW keen to progress with Motion & Debate & keep the focus on the Ayrshire work. KC will ask if an APPG member can attend CPG & BW will make contact with Lib Dems.(AP3/3) LC suggested having future meetings diarized to improve our chances of attracting MSPs to attend however BW feels it is difficult setting dates. FB interested in what is happening with Ayrshire research going forward & is happy to have it shared or circulated. KC happy to use it & circulate to MSP's (AP4/3) BW also keen to apply her Shetland stats to the format & feels the data will be useful. FB commented that even if a compensatory lump sum it could still be worth engaging with England & Wales as an exercise. FB is encouraging contact with Local Councils prior to Local elections in May & stated all Scottish MP's apart from 6 are supportive & there's little more we in Scotland can do. LC affirmed her support of the Ayrshire work & suggested it could be a useful tool particularly in Red Wall constituencies with the Local campaign groups making use of it to present to their politicians across all parties. HS expressed her concern there are lots of myths circulating & there are difficulties when trying to engage with MP's. The emphasis is on achieving an award of compensation & persuading MP's to accept if we succeed. The APPG report makes it clear but its still a waiting game. PJ stated she along with HS sit on APPG. S McK of Scottish Womens Convention confirmed the IWD event in Holyrood was taking place Saturday March 5 with 137 ladies attending & is being broadcast & on Social Media. WASPI issues will be on the agenda.

5. Date of next meeting April 19 (tentatively 10am & likely via Zoom)