



All Party
Parliamentary
Group on
Dietary Health

APPG on Dietary Health: Inaugural General Meeting Minutes

External Document for Publication on Website

Context

These are the minutes for the Inaugural General Meeting of the APPG on Dietary Health. This meeting was held from 3pm to 4pm on Tuesday 17th March in Room W3 in the Palace of Westminster. This document will be published on the APPG's website, in accordance with the Rules for APPGs.

Attendees

The following parliamentarians attended this meeting:

1. Marie Goldman, Liberal Democrat MP for Chelmsford
2. Jim Dickson, Labour MP for Dartford
3. Baroness Anne Jenkin, Conservative Peer
4. Baroness Joan Walmsley, Liberal Democrat Peer
5. Dr Simon Opher, Labour MP for Stroud
6. Yasmin Qureshi, Labour MP for Bolton South & Walkden
7. Jas Athwal, Labour MP for Ilford South
8. Lord John Krebs, Crossbench Peer

In addition, members of staff from the Offices of the following MPs were present:

1. Marie Goldman, Liberal Democrat MP for Chelmsford
2. Jim Dickson, Labour MP for Dartford
3. Yasmin Qureshi, Labour MP for Bolton South & Walkden
4. Dr Becca Cooper, Labour MP for Worthing West

The following external attendees were present:

1. Katharine Jenner, Executive Director, Obesity Health Alliance
2. Alfred Slade, Government Affairs Lead, Obesity Health Alliance
3. Beth Bradshaw, Policy Lead, Obesity Health Alliance

Officers & Members

The Officers and Members of this APPG were confirmed, as of the date of the IGM, to be:

1. Co-Chair - Marie Goldman, Liberal Democrat MP for Chelmsford
2. Co-Chair - Jim Dickson, Labour MP for Dartford
3. Vice-Chair - Baroness Anne Jenkin, Conservative Peer
4. Vice-Chair - Baroness Joan Walmsley, Liberal Democrat Peer
5. Dr Simon Opher, Labour MP for Stroud
6. Ben Coleman, Labour MP for Chelsea
7. Sarah Dyke, Liberal Democrat MP for Glastonbury and Somerton
8. Yasmin Qureshi, Labour MP for Bolton South & Walkden
9. Becca Cooper, Labour MP for Worthing West
10. Chris Webb, Labour MP for Blackpool South



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11. Vikki Slade, Liberal Democrat MP for Mid Dorset & North Poole
12. Alex McIntyre, Labour MP for Gloucester
13. Jas Athwal, Labour MP for Ilford South
14. Helen Maguire, Liberal Democrat MP for Epsom & Ewell
15. Susan Murray, Liberal Democrat MP for Mid Dunbartonshire
16. Baroness Natalie Bennett, Green Peer
17. Baroness Tanni Grey-Thompson, Crossbench Peer
18. Baroness Cathy Bakewell, Liberal Democrat Peer
19. Baroness Alison Suttie, Liberal Democrat Peer
20. Lord John Krebs, Crossbench Peer
21. Baroness Rosie Boycott, Crossbench Peer
22. Lord Clive Brooke, Labour Peer

Meeting Minutes

This meeting was Chaired by Marie Goldman MP.

1. Welcome from the Parliamentary Co-Chairs
 - a. The Parliamentary Co-Chairs (Marie Goldman MP and Jim Dickson MP) shared brief opening remarks on the reasons for the creation of this new APPG and the importance of improving the nation's dietary health.
2. Introductions from all attendees
 - a. Attendees introduced themselves and a list of apologies for the meeting was noted.
 - b. It was confirmed that the meeting was quorate for the purposes of registering as a formal General Meeting, with eight parliamentarians in attendance.
3. Vote 1: Name of the APPG
 - a. The name of the APPG was confirmed as "The All-Party Parliamentary Group on Dietary Health".
4. Vote 2: Election of Officers
 - a. The following were elected as Officers of the APPG:
 - i. Co-Chair - Marie Goldman, Liberal Democrat MP for Chelmsford
 - ii. Co-Chair - Jim Dickson, Labour MP for Dartford
 - iii. Vice-Chair - Baroness Anne Jenkin, Conservative Peer
 - iv. Vice-Chair - Baroness Joan Walmsley, Liberal Democrat Peer
 - b. The list of parliamentarians who have confirmed interest in being Members of this APPG was read aloud.
5. Vote 3: Purpose Statement of the APPG:
 - a. The Purpose Statement of the APPG was confirmed as "To provide a cross-party forum to inform and promote parliamentary discussions related to policies to address poor dietary health and the health impacts of the commercial food system, with a focus on population-level interventions that will effectively and equitably prevent dietary-related illness."
6. Vote 4: Appointment of the Secretariat
 - a. *Please note, for this agenda item the attendees from the proposed Secretariat recused themselves.*
 - b. The Obesity Health Alliance was appointed as the Secretariat.



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- c. It was formally confirmed that the APPG will receive no funds from a foreign government in any form.
7. Vote 5: Governance Document
 - a. The Governance Document of the APPG was formally approved by the Officers.
 - b. Parliamentarians were particularly directed to the declaration of funding for the APPG's Secretariat and confirmation there will be no financial relationships between the APPG and any for-profit entities.
8. Vote 6: Workplan 2026/2027
 - a. The Workplan for the period March 2026-March 2027 was approved by the Officers.
 - b. The Group's reporting year was confirmed as 17th March 2026 to 16th March 2027.
9. Conclusion of Governance Discussions
 - a. Parliamentarians were invited to raise:
 - i. Particular areas they are keen to see this APPG work on in the coming year.
The following areas were noted:
 1. International examples of policy interventions, and where possible, evaluation of their impact.
 2. Early years interventions, including commercial baby food and the provision of food in early years settings.
 3. Exploring how companies are using brand advertising following the exemption in the less healthy food and drink advertising regulations.
 4. Inviting DHSC civil servants to come and talk to the APPG about current priorities
 5. Meeting with Sharon Hodgson and Dame Angela Eagle
 6. The Government's Food Strategy and opportunities to secure further policy commitments.
 7. The new Nutrient Profiling Model and its application to policy.
 - ii. No other business was raised.
 - iii. The formal governance discussions were concluded.
10. Presentation from the Secretariat
 - a. The newly appointed Secretariat of the APPG presented an overview of the key policy developments expected between March 2026 and March 2027, including a timeline, major milestones and where there will be expected legislation and parliamentary debates for the Officers' reference.

Actions for the Secretariat

During the meeting, the following actions were noted for the Secretariat to take forward:

1. Send invitations to meet with the APPG Officers to the following: to the Public Health and Prevention Minister Sharon Hodgson MP, the Defra Food Minister Dame Angela Eagle MP and the relevant civil service teams leading the implementation of the NHS 10 Year Plan "Moonshot to End Obesity" policies.
2. Develop materials for the Officers to review regarding asks for the Defra-led Food Strategy.
3. On an ongoing basis, provide summaries and information on international developments on interventions on dietary health, and where possible the evaluation of their impact.
4. Take forward the actions in the Workplan as agreed, and refine the Workplan as needed in line with legislative and policy developments.



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5. Explore work specifically on nutrition in early years interventions, potentially in collaboration with the Infant Feeding APPG if they are amendable.