

**All-Party Parliamentary Group for Myalgic Encephalomyelitis**  
**Minutes of the meeting on ME Research and the DHSC Delivery Plan held on 15 November 2023 at**  
**2pm in Room T, Portcullis House**

Parliamentarians and Staffers Present: Carol Monaghan MP (Chair)  
Debbie Abrahams MP (Vice Chair)  
Siobhan Baillie MP  
Philip Hollobone MP  
Baroness Scott of Needham Market  
Representative of office of Jason McCartney MP  
(Officer)

Apologies: Baroness Finlay of Llandaff (Vice Chair)  
Wendy Chamberlain MP  
Jane Hunt MP

In attendance: Sonya Chowdhury (APPG Secretariat and Chief  
Executive of Action for M.E)  
Professor Chris Ponting of the Medical Research  
Council Human Genetics Unit at the University of  
Edinburgh.

**1. Welcome & Introductions**

- Carol Monaghan MP welcomed parliamentarians and guests to the APPG's meeting in Westminster.

**2. Approval of Minutes**

- Minutes from the previous APPG meeting were formally approved by the Group

**3. Update on DHSC's Consultation and progress with Delivery Plan**

- Sonya Chowdhury updated the Group on the progress of the DHSC's [consultation](#) 'Improving the experiences of people with ME/CFS' (which closed in October 2023), as well as discussing the timeline for publication of the finalised Delivery Plan on ME/CFS

**4. 'Parliamentary Champions' Programme**

- Sonya Chowdhury discussed plans to launch a 'Parliamentary Champions' programme to raise the profile of ME in Parliament

**5. Invitation to new Secretary of State to meet with APPG**

- The Group agreed to write to Victoria Atkins, extending an invitation for her to meet with the APPG to discuss the challenges facing the ME community

**6. 'Decode ME' – study seeking to uncover the biological roots of ME/CFS**

- Presentation from Professor Chris Ponting on the background, aims, and next steps of the Decode ME Study at the University of Edinburgh

**7. Any Other Competent Business**

- The next APPG meeting is scheduled for mid-February

The meeting ended at 3pm