

## Report of the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Obesity 2024-25

27.3.24

### About the APPG

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#### Officers of the Group –

- Mary Glendon MP (Chair)
- Baroness Walmsley (Vice Chair)
- Baroness Jenkin (Vice Chair)
- Yasmin Qureshi MP (Vice Chair)

#### Members of the Group –

- Martyn Day MP
- Lord Brooke of Alverthorpe
- Lord McColl of Dulwich
- Carol Monaghan MP
- Lord Balfe
- Rachael Maskell MP
- Lord Hunt of Kings Heath
- Baroness Hollins
- Baroness Benjamin
- Tracey Crouch MP
- Henry Smith MP
- Fabian Hamilton MP
- Baroness Bennett
- Lord Krebs
- Damian Green MP
- Christina Rees MP
- Andrew Selous MP
- Bob Blackman MP
- Lord Hampton

PLMR Healthcomms acts as the secretariat for the APPG on Obesity.

### 2024 Aims and Objectives

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The policy objectives of the APPG on Obesity are to:

- Generate a public policy environment where obesity is recognised as a priority by politicians, the NHS and wider stakeholders.
- Drive increased involvement from wider Parliamentarians in the APPG's work and in obesity more generally, both before and after the General Election.
- Collaborate with decision makers and advocates to drive action on prevention and treatment.

### Summary of AGM Minutes

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The AGM for the APPG on Obesity took place on Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> March 2024, in Room Q, Portcullis House, 10-10:30am.

Attendees were:

Mary Glendon MP  
Baroness Walmsley  
Lord Hunt of Kings Heath  
Lord Hampton  
Jim Shannon MP

Attendees re-registered Mary Glendon MP as Chair of the Group.

Additional officers, elected as Vice Chairs are:

- Baroness Walmsley
- Baroness Jenkin
- Yasmin Qureshi MP

Members selected were:

- Martyn Day MP
- Lord Brooke of Alverthorpe
- Lord McColl of Dulwich
- Carol Monaghan MP
- Lord Balfe
- Rachael Maskell MP
- Lord Hunt of Kings Heath
- Baroness Hollins
- Baroness Benjamin
- Tracey Crouch MP
- Henry Smith MP
- Fabian Hamilton MP
- Baroness Bennett
- Lord Krebs
- Damian Green MP
- Christina Rees MP
- Andrew Selous MP
- Bob Blackman MP
- Lord Hampton

Attendees then discussed and signed off the Group's 2024 aims and objectives, noting the focus on the entire patient pathway to include both prevention and treatment. The policy objectives of the APPG are to generate a public policy environment where obesity is recognised as a priority by politicians, the NHS and wider stakeholders; drive increased involvement from wider Parliamentarians in the APPG's work and in obesity more generally, both before and after the General Election; and collaborate with decision makers and advocates to drive action on prevention and treatment.

Attendees then agreed on the name of the Group, and kept this as the APPG on Obesity.

Attendees then voted that they are happy for PLMR Healthcomms to continue as the Secretariat for the Group. The Secretariat noted that we are now known as PLMR Healthcomms, however Healthcomms Consulting Ltd is to remain as the name on the register for the Secretariat, as it is our official trading name.

**Mary Glendon MP** thanked the Secretariat for their support and work over the last twelve months.

The Secretariat then ran through the financial support for the last reporting year (May 2022-23) and this reporting year (May 2023-May 2024).

Mary Glendon MP, as Chair of the Group, signed the financial forms and these will be submitted to the Registrar.

The Secretariat then outlined the previous year's activity as well as upcoming activity for the APPG, asking for additional contributions from officers.

The meeting closed with the Secretariat outlining next steps, including submission of all relevant forms to the APPG register.

### **Annual Financial Report**

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Previous reporting year (January 2022-2023) estimated reporting band: £55,501 - £57,000.

Current reporting year (January 2024-2025) estimated reporting band: £16,501-£18,000.

Financial support is provided by the following organisations and is recorded in the APPG register:

- Slimming World provides funding to the APPG at the value of £17,000.

### **Key activity undertaken by the APPG this reporting year**

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In H1 2023, the APPG continued to advance a number of projects relating to Officers' areas of interest, including calorie labelling, prevention in health and analysis of ICS weight management survey provision.

In H2 2023, the APPG concluded the ICS Forum Inquiry and developed the ICS Forum Report - which will now be used as an engagement tool with Parliamentarians and Policymakers – and delivered activity on the Major Conditions Strategy and ultra-processed foods.

In Q4 2023, the secretariat developed a new strategic framework for the APPG that will build a sustainable narrative and set of policy asks to drive forward in 2024, seeking support from across the weight management sector. The secretariat has also undertaken extensive engagement with Parliamentarians through the APPG rule changes set out by the Committee on Standards, securing 18 members out of the required 20 ahead of the 31<sup>st</sup> March deadline.

Ahead of engagement in 2024, the APPG has realigned the Strategic Council, Industry Supporters and Officers behind a policy platform and is in a strong position to achieve its objectives for 2024/5.

Additional activity:

- Submitted to the Health and Social Care Select Committee's Prevention inquiry.
- Submitted to the Department of Health and Social Care's Major Conditions Strategy consultation.
- Supporting the APPG for Health and APPG for Food and Nutrition to deliver a joint event on Ultra-Processed Foods.
- Sent and completed analysis of Freedom of Information requests to all ICSs to understand who is responsible for delivering healthy weight services, and for details on their policies and pathways for patients living with obesity.
  - Publication of results of all 42 ICS tiered systems for weight management, through an FOI request and analysis.

Core activity completed by the Secretariat:

- Weekly monitoring report sent to Officers, the Strategic Council and industry supporters.
- Regular industry supporter meetings, and quarterly meetings with the Strategic Council.
- Regular contact kept with the APPG officers in order to receive feedback and sign off on all external materials.
- Briefings circulated on any relevant updates, such as the NICE guidance on Semaglutide, Major Conditions Strategy, and further draft consultations.
- Submission of Parliamentary consultation responses, such as the Prevention Inquiry and Major Conditions Strategy.

**Focus for activity moving forward**

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**March-April 2024** - Develop a messaging document as an engagement tool to drive support for obesity amongst a wider cohort of Parliamentarians, focusing on the agreed narrative around the costs of obesity, implementing previous strategies and focusing on treatment availability for people already living with obesity. This will include working with stakeholders such as Dr Dolly Theis to support message development and insights.

**March-April 2024** – Build renewed focus and momentum on obesity by supporting Officers to contribute to debates and questions, and galvanise broader interest. For example, engaging with the House of Lords UPF Inquiry, and engagement on behalf of Officers with Party political decisions. Secondly, through engagement with a minimum of 3 patient groups to seek support for the APPG's narrative and contribution to galvanising interest from Parliamentarians. This will include groups such as Diabetes UK, Cancer Research UK, British Heart Foundation.

**May-June 2024** – Host a Parliamentary drop-in session using the narrative and agreed objectives, with support from newly engaged advocates. The drop-in session will aim to drive political support for the APPG's objectives and secure obesity as a policy priority. This will bring together supportive advocates to drive political momentum on agreed asks. If before the General Election (GE), this session will target safe seat Parliamentarians and position obesity within GE manifesto

discussions. If after the GE, the Group will target all new MPs and seek commitments on obesity from the next Government e.g. ‘100 days’ wins.

Additional ideas for **Q3-Q4 2024** include events that build on the drop-in session to drive forward action, e.g.

- An event in Parliament specifically on prioritisation and implementation of previously agreed obesity strategies (Prime Minister’s Obesity Strategy 2020, Prevention Green Paper).
- Creation of a one-pager on the causes and costs of obesity, hosting a small briefing session for Parliamentarians.
- Exploring ways to build on the ICS Forum Report, which was developed in 2023, and call for action on the recommendations, for example by expanding the website to include resources shared by those working in the NHS to share best practice across the system.

## Contact

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For further information relating to any information contained within this report please contact the secretariat: Rachel Kennedy, Account Executive, PLMR Healthcomms, [rachel@healthcommsconsulting.co.uk](mailto:rachel@healthcommsconsulting.co.uk).