

**Inaugural Meeting APPG Vulnerable Groups to Pandemics**  
**Weds 4<sup>th</sup> September at 1330hrs in the TV Interview Room**

## **MINUTES OF THE MEETING**

### **ATTENDEES**

Johanna Baxter MP  
Lord Mendelsohn  
Lord Lansley  
Baroness Brinton  
Lord Polak  
Alex Mayer MP  
Alex Baker MP  
Connor Rand MP  
Rachael Maskell

### **APOLOGIES**

Andrew Murrison MP  
Ruth Cadbury  
Lord McNicol of West Kilbride  
Lord Harrington  
Baroness Altmann  
Bob Blackman  
Baroness Deech  
Daisy Cooper  
Baroness Ros Scott of Needham  
Market  
Lord Eric Pickles  
Baroness Hilary Armstrong

The quorum of 5 members was reached so the meeting was opened.

## **1. Welcome**

**Lord Mendelsohn** opened the meeting as a longstanding member and thanked everyone for attending and for their support to enable the work of the group to continue. He also asked members to note the importance of the group's external relationships with patients, clinicians and charities. In opening he also mentioned his personal experience of having a family member with blood cancer triggering his involvement in the group which had already been established under the chairmanship of Virendra Sharma MP.

In outlining the role of the APPG he discussed how the group has not yet been successful yet in achieving changes around the care, testing, access to treatments such as PreP, and prescribing of antivirals, but that it is vital to keep up pressure and expose areas that provide no effective policy for the vulnerable cohort of patients. Lord Mendelsohn noted that even Kate Bingham couldn't effect changes when she was Chair of the Vaccine Taskforce during the Pandemic! Whilst some progress was made in discussions with Sajid Javid when health minister, constant changes to the individuals in this role set the campaign back.

He asserted that the objective of this group would now be to carry on the campaign in recognition of those still shielding or living restricted lives due to fear of Covid 19. Areas of concern continue to be the prescribing of Paxlovid, confusion around the prescription process, access and consideration of pre-prescribing it to patients which is the model in other countries. Also, we want to ensure that pathways for



## All-Party Parliamentary Group on Vulnerable Groups to Pandemics

authorising new treatments are effective and emergency procedures are in place to expedite process when required. Each pandemic creates a threat for a vulnerable group, and we need to be a voice to ensure that Government considers those most at risk.

### 2. Election of Officers

Lord Mendelsohn asked for nominations and supporters for the role of Chair of the Group.

Proposed:

**Chair and Registered contact:** Johanna Baxter MP

Proposer: Lord Polak

Seconder: Baroness Brinton

AGREED

The Chair was then handed to Johanna Baxter

**Johanna Baxter** thanked Lord Mendelsohn and expressed her commitment to the work of the APPG particularly in laying the groundwork for future pandemic preparedness with regard to the vulnerable and learning from successes and mistakes.

She also recognised the importance of the specific objective of the group to ensure that the most vulnerable are included in planning and policy decisions and in working with patient groups, clinicians and charities representing the immunocompromised who are still vulnerable to Covid to ensure that they get the treatments they need to be protected.

She welcomed the work that has gone into producing the launch document and committed to ensuring that it would be considered by ministers and that the challenges ahead would be recognised and that the group would work with the new Government to mitigate those challenges.

Three officers were then proposed to the meeting

Proposed

**Co-chair Jon Mendelsohn**

Proposer Lord Lansely

Seconder: Alex Mayer MP

AGREED

**Officers**

**Lord Lansley**

Proposer: Baroness Brinton

Seconder: Dan Norris MP

AGREED

**Andrew Murrison MP** (in absentia)

Proposer: Lord Mendelsohn

Seconder: Dan Norris MP

AGREED

**3. Any Other Business**

It was AGREED that B.Brinton and L. Lansley would approach speakers in the upcoming Covid debates to join the group

B.Brinton proposed that the group raise parliamentary questions on the rising number of infections and hospital admissions, liaise with Charities on the evidence they have and look at the ONS reports on Covid deaths and raise FOI on this. Tracey will pick this up with B.Brinton and action.

It was NOTED that the Labour Shadow team had given specific responsibility for the clinically vulnerable to Andrew Gwynne and that he has retained this responsibility by choice in his ministerial role in the DHSC. The Chair of the Group would seek to meet with him next week to re-establish relations and to identify Government plans going forward.

The meeting was then closed