**APPG for Frozen British Pensions**

**Annual General Meeting Minutes**

**Date: 19th March 2019**

**Time: 10am**

**Location: Room Q in Portcullis House**

1. Apologies for Absence

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Steve McCabe MP – Labour | Angela Smith MP – Independent  |
| Sir Graham Brady MP – Conservative  | Martyn Day MP – Scottish National Party  |
| Steve Baker MP - Conservative | Dame Cheryl Gillan MP – Conservative  |
| Esther McVey MP – Conservative  | Sir Henry Bellingham MP – Conservative  |
| Pauline Latham MP - Conservative | Tracey Crouch MP – Conservative  |
| Caroline Lucas MP – Green  | David Drew MP – Labour/Co-operative |
| Clive Lewis MP – Labour  | Jon Cruddas MP – Labour |
| Steve Brine MP – Conservative  | Alex Cunningham MP – Labour  |
| Mhairi Black MP – SNP  | Sir Vince Cable – Liberal Democrat |
| Tom Brake MP– Liberal Democrat | Baroness Howe of Idlicote – Cross Bench |
| Lord Cormack – Conservative | Baroness Scott of Needham Market – Liberal Democrat |
| Baroness Masham of Ilton – Cross Bench  | Lord Archbishop of Canterbury – Bishops  |
| Lord Shipley – Liberal Democrats | Lord Selkirk of Douglas – Conservative  |
| Baroness Neville-Rolfe – Conservative | Baroness Manzoor – Conservative  |
| Baroness Lister of Burtersett – Labour | Baroness Eaton – Conservative  |
| Lord Jones of Birmingham – Crossbench  | Baroness Stedman-Scott – Conservative  |
| Lord Stoddart of Swindon – Independent  | Lord Fox – Liberal Democrat |
| Lord Hannay of Chiswick – Crossbench  | Lord Dubs – Labour  |

1. List of Attendees

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| --- | --- |
| Sir Roger Gale MP – Conservative  | Sammy Wilson MP – DUP |
| Tonia Antoniazzi MP – Labour  | Sir Peter Bottomley MP – Conservative  |
| Lord German – Liberal Democrat  | Jeremy Lefroy MP – Conservative . |
| George Howarth MP – Labour  | Paul Gaffney – Campaign to End Frozen Pensions |
| Katie Reade – Campaign to End Frozen Pensions  |  |

1. Formal Appointment of Officers

Members were elected to the following positions:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Chair | Sir Roger Gale MP |
| Vice Chair | Tonia Antoniazzi MP |
| Officer  | Sir Peter Bottomley MP  |
| Officer  | George Howarth MP  |
| Officer  | Lord German  |

1. The Ramifications of Brexit negotiations for the issue of frozen pensions and opportunities to further the campaign
* The link between the campaign for the half a million former UK residents with ‘frozen’ pensions and current UK pensioners living in the EU is acknowledged
* Sir Roger Gale said that he receives considerable correspondence from former UK residents abroad who are frightened and scared for their health
* Lord German said that there are no reciprocal agreements arranged with any the EU countries for after Brexit
* Roger Gale said that in a no deal scenario the Government might freeze the pensions of all UK residents leaving after Brexit
* Lord German said that he believes an arrangement with the Republic of Ireland has been made on uprating UK residents’ pensions and that the APPG should investigate this
* Sir Roger Gale said he will write to the Prime Minister on where we stand in regards to pensions of UK residents in the EU
* The group acknowledges that we need to unite those who care about the issue of frozen pensions
* The group discusses submitting FOIs and parliamentary questions asking:
* when the UK started uprating the pensions of other countries
* for the reciprocal agreements currently honoured to examine the basis of these
* whether UK pensions will be uprated in the Republic of Ireland in a no-deal Brexit
1. Update from the Campaign to End Frozen Pensions
* Updated the members on a recent meeting with Shadow Minister with responsibility for pensions Jack Dromey MP who has recently joined the APPG on Frozen British Pensions and looks forward to working with the campaign
* Updated the members on the case of Anne Puckridge, the 94 year-old war veteran and pensions activist who has written to Theresa May asking for a meeting and plans to return to the UK this year
* The group agreed that Sir Roger Gale and Lord German will lay parliamentary questions with support from the Campaign to End Frozen Pensions
* The laying of the Social Security Uprating Regulations was discussed and the unfair inclusion of increases in carers allowance and the commitment to freezing the pensions of 510,000 overseas residents in the same Statutory Instrument
* Sir Peter Bottomley said that he will put down an EDM praying against this S.I to draw attention to the issue
1. It is agreed that the next meeting will be scheduled on 30 April – invitations to members will be sent in due course

For further details concerning this meeting please contact appg@frozenbritishpensions.org