

All-Party Parliamentary Group on the Future of Work

AGM 17th January at 4.45 pm in House of Lords, Committee Room G

Attendees: Lord Jim Knight, Matt Warman MP, Lord Des Browne, Kevin Brennan MP, Kirsten Oswald MP, Baroness Pola Uddin, Lord Tim Clement-Jones, Lord Robin Hodgson, Lord Ian Austin

IFOW attendees: Anna Thomas, Caroline Fry, Kester Brewin, Claddagh NicLochlainn

MINUTES

1. Jim welcomed the group and noted that the meeting was quorate.
2. Financial statement - the reporting date for the group is unchanged (3rd Nov 22-2nd Nov 23). The attached financial statement shows £14k in group income (donations/memberships) and just under £19k in group expenditure to pay for pro-rated Secretariat salaries.
3. There are new APPG rules ([here](#)) are coming into effect from 31st March 2024, salient parts include:
 - An APPG must have at least 20 members (of either House)
 - APPGs must have four officers and no more, including at least one from the government party (or parties) and at least one from the main opposition party. At least two officers must be from the Commons
 - Future AGMs/EGMS must have:
 - An external chair, appointed by the Speaker
 - A quorum of 8 parliamentarians
 - The publication and approval of an Annual Report, due diligence statement, and an income and expenditure statement
4. Election of 2024 Officers
 - Jim to remain as Co-Chair
 - Matt to remain as Co-Chair
 - Lord Tim Clement-Jones to remain as Vice Chair
 - Kirsty Blackman to remain as Vice Chair
 - Baroness Uddin volunteered herself as Vice Chair
 - (Noted that an EGM will be held before end of March to move VCs to four, including two MPs)

5. The meeting then moved on to talk about the 2024 membership model and the UK Future of Work Review. Jim and Anna opened this discussion by noting several suggestions:
- Shift business model to bring in more revenue to support the group.
 - Run two public sessions per parliamentary term, and joint events with other APPGs.
 - Complete the UK Future of Work Review being undertaken by the Co-Chairs.
 - Collaboration with other existing APPGs.

Comments from the room:

- Baroness Uddin is part of the Women at Work and Modernising Employment APPGs and suggested that both could be useful to investigate for collaboration.
- She also flagged the fact that many organisations in the borough of Tower Hamlets are primarily led (from mid-manager-level upwards) by white people coming to work from outside the local area (even though approximately one-third of the local population is Bangladeshi).
- Lord Browne – there are 850 APPGs currently, many of which are almost purely in existence for lobbying reasons; the new rules will shrink this number and make the APPGs more accountable. It makes sense that we should come together with APPGs of a similar interest.
- He also explained his interest in probing more about the legal basis for AI.
- Anna – the APPG on the Future of Employability is no longer continuing, so we are in touch with their members. IFOW has pulled together a list of groups working on similar topics for collaboration. This should be discussed by the Officers imminently.
- Lord Hodgson and Baroness Uddin debated the link between AI and diversity.
- Lord Browne suggested that this APPG meet with the Department for Business and Trade, discussing novel ideas, and improving literacy of parliamentarians on some of these issues.
- Lord Clement-Jones noted an interest in thinking about the humans, not just the tech. He also advised that the group should proceed with confidence as the Future of Work is such a vital area, especially in the area of the *human* elements, rather than just the workings of the machines. The chairs agreed.

It was agreed that the Officers would meet to discuss these matters further, including areas of collaboration with other APPGs, and a schedule of events for 2024.

6. AOB

Anna pointed out two relevant bills which are due to be debated:

- The Digital Markets, Competition and Consumers Bill's committee stage begins on 22nd January in the House of Lords.
- The Data Protection and Digital Info Bill's committee stage has not yet been announced for the House of Lords, but the second reading completed on 19th December so is likely to be imminent.