**APPG for WHISTLEBLOWING**

**AGM 14th June 2022 – 1630 Room Q PCH**

**Attending:** Mary Robinson (MR) Chair, Dame Margaret Hodge (MH), Simon Fell (SF), Kevin Hollinrake (KH), Lord Berkeley (LB), Paul Howell(PH), Andrew Lewer(AL), Baron Sikka(PS), James Grundy(JG),

**Secretariat WhistleblowersUK:** Iain Mitchell QC (IM), Georgina Halford-Hall (GHH)

**Observers** – Hatty Turner (office of Philip Davies)

**Apologies:** Dame Maria Miller, Philip Davies, Rosie Cooper, Lord Cromwell, Chris Green, Lord Sharkey, Baroness Neville Jones, Scott Mann, Baroness Fox, Neale Hanvey, Rebecca Long-Bailey, Yasmin Qureshi, Alexandra Stafford, Lord Hendy, David Davis, Lord Triesman, Chris Laws

**Agenda**

1. Minutes of Last Meeting

Mary Robinson chaired and opened the meeting and presented the minutes of the previous meeting for approval. Minutes Approved LB & MR

Income and Expenditure – Approved

1. Election of Officers

Mary Robinson MP (Con) – nominated by Margaret Hodge, seconded Lord Berkeley

MR Elected Chair.

Vice Chairs - Dame Margaret Hodge, Simon Fell, Kevin Hollinrake, Lord Berkeley, Paul Howell, Andrew Lewer, James Grundy, Baroness Claire Fox, Rebecca Long-Bailey, Lord Sharkey, Dame Maria Miller, Philip Davies, Rosie Cooper, Lord Cromwell, Chris Green, Lord Sharkey, Baroness Fox, Neale Hanvey, Rebecca Long-Bailey, Yasmin Qureshi, Alexandra Stafford, Lord Triesman, Chris Laws

Members – Lord Prem Sikka

1. Reappointment of the Secretariat – unanimous

Chair moves a vote of thanks to WhistleblowersUK for their work as secretariat with particular appreciation to Iain Mitchell QC for this role in the delivery of the Whistleblowing Bill and Georgina Halford-Hall for her commitment and support, unanimously supported.

1. Chair introduces and summarises the work of the previous year and the proposed workplan and ongoing call to evidence thanking everyone again for their support of the Whistleblowing Bill on the 26th April.
2. General Discussion
   1. The Whistleblowing Bill (WBB), too big to be a PMB but commitment to lobby the government to adopt the Bill, saying the mood music is positive.
   2. General discussion led by KH questioning whether secondary legislation could be an interim solution. GHH & IM were invited to address these questions. All agreed to abandon secondary legislation. JG proposes WBB and the Office of the Whistleblower as the “capstone” for the APPG and the insertion of WB clauses into all new legislation. The Chair proposed that the APPG support JG’s proposal - Agreed unanimously.
   3. Chair proposed a BBB / Westminster Hall Debate “The Future of Whistleblower Protection” – Agreed by all present.
   4. Objective of this year to obtain national support and greater engagement with the press. Agreed by all present.
   5. Approach to be made to Paul Johnson to collaborate re tax fraud. AP
   6. MH suggests developing a code of practice to be presented to the cabinet office for its adoption – Agreed by all present, Action Point Secretariat
   7. Questions were posed about costing of the OWB, PS stated that this would be zero cost. Secretariat will work with PS to produce a paper. Action Point
   8. Quarterly informal meetings to be diarised – Action Point Secretariat
   9. LB reminded the meeting of the plight of the HS2 whistleblowers. The Chair agreed to write to the PM. Action MR
3. Chair thanked Navex Global for their assistance with the production of the APPG report – “The Whistleblowing Bill” and circulated copies to the meeting.
4. Chairs closing remarks

MR summarised the agreements and action points stating that the APPG would be ambitious and committed to leading on the Whistleblowing Bill and pushing for the introduction of an Office of the Whistleblower Before closing the meeting MR thanked everyone for attending and for the majority who had stayed in excess of the hour planned.

Meeting Closed 1735