

# Cross-Party Group on WASPI

23 April 2024

Minute

Present

MSPs

Katy Clark  
R Leonard  
N Bibby

Non-MSP Group Members

C Houston  
L Paterson  
M Eley  
W Millar  
F Brown  
L Carmichael  
R Dickson  
C McMillan  
C Martinez  
M Dawson  
A Jackson  
A Wallis  
T Jones  
T Laird  
A Wenn  
C Jardine  
R Meiklejohn  
L Craighead  
S McKellar  
M Martin  
M Donnelly  
Sadie ?  
Barbara ?  
Anne Potter (Secretariat)

Apologies

C Haughey  
M Chapman

Peter Aldous  
M Grierson  
M Cochrane  
K Birney  
C Scott  
S Gibson  
A Ferguson  
V Ilendo  
O Sharpe  
E D Daly

## WASPI Groups Update

Katy Clark welcomed all. Apologies offered for delay in starting meeting & for issues in accessing teams.

## PHSO/APPG Update

AP explained the main topic of this meeting would concentrate on the recent PHSO report which was delivered to UK Government & complainants March 21 2024.

We are now anxiously awaiting a statement from Mel Stride SoS for Work & Pensions as to how the government plan to respond.

We will continue to lobby politicians of all parties.

Every political party has to clarify their position on their plans to include WASPI campaign in their manifesto as we lead up to a General Election.

The general feeling is the suggested compensation of less than £3k is not good enough despite maladministration & injustice proven by PHSO.

## MSP/MP Support

RL started off the discussion by confirming he had been involved with Labour proposals for 2019 manifesto & any future manifesto should include a fair & just settlement.

KC also stated she had been involved in previous manifesto working closely with trade unions. This WASPI issue is complex for various reasons but we have a lot of allies.

NB agreed politicians need to come up with compensation package to be included in manifesto. This has still to be discussed & agreed but will require to be investigated & costed.

KC has suggested she will speak to Paul O'Kane who is shadow minister for Social Security.

It is hoped Maggie Chapman of Scottish Greens will continue to pursue the aims of the campaign.

FB of Ayrshire WASPI group confirmed they are working on their next “challenge to politicians” project highlighting the money wasted by UK Gov & is keen to have input from CPG. AP suggested Carmen Martinez of SWBG may be able to help & she has agreed to contact FB when time permits.

RD commented that the PPI claims was proof compensation contributes towards GDP. She also confirmed motion was passed by UNITE.

RD said she felt the Alan Brown 10 minute bill similar to Labour Party proposals 2019 & she had found polls in papers interesting particularly the Telegraph & Express.

Barbara emphasised manifestos so important as women are dying every day.

She also asked if Scottish Gov could do anything to help, by providing small payments in advance.

WM stressed Mel Stride really has to make a statement so we understand where we go from here.

LC emphasised this is an urgent situation, women are desperate & 1 in 13 die before receiving any SP.

The amount of compensation suggested by PHSO is not enough.

LC also made a plea to all parties to work together & not to use campaign as a political football.

CJ asked if Tax allowances could be adjusted to assist but RL responded by saying Scottish gov unable to change tax allowances.

Sadie added that many people are suffering & are not receiving any help.

She would also like to see more involvement by political parties at the CPG.

In summing up AP confirmed – as stated in PHSO report,

“Compensation should be efficient, effective & value for money”

“Finite resources should not be used as an excuse for failing to provide a fair remedy”

## **AOB**

Date of next meeting June 18<sup>th</sup> at 5.30 in Holyrood with hybrid facility on Teams.

KC thanked all for attending, apologised for technical problems & closed meeting .

