

A Short Guide to All Party Parliamentary Groups

What is an All Party Parliamentary Group?

All Party Parliamentary Groups (APPGs) are informal, cross-party, interest groups. They have no official status within Parliament and are not accorded any powers or funding by it. APPGs should not be confused with select committees, which are formal institutions of the House.

How are APPGs run?

APPGs are run by and for Members of the House of Commons and House of Lords. The officers set the groups agenda and steer the direction of the work. Mostly APPGs are run by backbenchers

Many groups choose to involve individuals and organisations from outside Parliament to provide the secretariat for the APPG which provides administrative support for the group's activities.

In the instance of the All Party Parliamentary Chronic Pain Group (APPCPG), Policy Connect provides the secretariat.

How many parliamentarians need to be involved in an All Party Group?

Each group needs 20 Members of Parliament to act as qualifying members. The formal support of the qualifying members for the stated aims and objectives of an APPG allow it's establishment and operation.

APPGs require a minimum of two Parliamentary Officers, one from each of the Commons and the Lords. One must act as the group's Chair, with groups also electing a Vice-Chair, Secretary, and Treasurer.

At least one officer must be present at every group meeting.

What is the purpose of the All Party Parliamentary Chronic Pain Group (APPCPG)?

The All-Party Parliamentary Chronic Pain Group is a cross-party group of MPs and Peers with an interest in chronic pain and its associated conditions. The aim of the group is to raise awareness of how those with chronic pain are treated and to work for earlier and better care. The Group aims to raise awareness of the condition amongst parliamentarians, to influence legislation and policy makers in order to improve the lives of people affected.

Why is the APCPG called an All Party group as opposed Associate Parliamentary Group?

The title of any group depends in part on whether or not persons other than MPs and Peers are allowed full membership, namely voting rights. If they are, the term Associate Parliamentary Group is applied; if they are not then the words 'All-Party Parliamentary Group' must be included, as in the case of the APPGCP.

What is the current membership of the APPCPG?

The group's qualifying members are listed below. The rules on all party groups state that each group must have a minimum of two officers; the All Party Group on Chronic Pain currently has a chair and a secretary.

Outgoing Chair - Dame Anne Begg MP

Incoming chair - Linda Riordan MP

Secretary - Baroness Masham

Qualifying members

Government Party	Main Opposition Party	Other
Lord Colwyn - Con	Kevin Barron	Lord Luce
Rob Wilson – Con	Jim Dobbin	Baroness Finlay of Llandaff
John Howell – Con	John McDonnell	Baroness Masham of Ilton
James Gray – Con	Linda Riordan	
Andrew George – LD	Lord Harris of Haringey	
Philip Hollobone – Con	Baroness Thornton	
Norman Lamb – LD	Lord Dubs	
Annette Brooke – LD	Barry Sheerman	
Tony Baldry – Con		
Lord Taylor of Holbeach – Con		

Further Information

For more information about APPGs, please visit www.parliament.uk
