



## All-Party Parliamentary Group on Brain Tumours

Minutes of the virtual meeting held at 09:00 on 13/07/2021 via Zoom link

### PRESENT

- **Parliamentarians** – Derek Thomas MP, Joy Morrissey MP, Ben Lake MP, Lee Rowley MP, Alex Sobel MP, Siobhan Baillie MP, Holly Mumby-Croft MP, Jane Hunt MP, Mark Pawsey MP, Hilary Benn MP, Mike Amesbury MP, Ruth Cadbury MP, Stephen Timms MP, Lord Polak
- **Secretariat** – Sue Farrington-Smith (Brain Tumour Research), Hugh Adams (Brain Tumour Research)
- **Support** – Ben Rowden (HCC), Peter Hand (HCC), Tomas Morel (HCC)

### APOLOGIES

- John McDonnell MP (sent a representative), Huw Merriman MP (who sent a representative), Fiona Bruce MP (who sent a representative), Baroness Cotes, Paul Bristow MP, Greg Smith MP, Jim Shannon MP, Peter Aldous MP, Sir Charles Walker MP, Lord Carlile, Bim Afolami MP, Lord O'Shaughnessy, Johnny Mercer MP

### PROCEEDINGS

#### 1. WELCOME

Derek Thomas MP welcomed parliamentary colleagues and guests to the virtual 2021 meeting of the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Brain Tumours.

#### 2. SECRETARIAT PROVIDED AN UPDATE ON WORK OF APPGBT SINCE AGM

The Secretariat reported on PQs submitted by Sarah Olney, Seema Malhotra, John McDonnell, Lisa Cameron and Collen Fletcher plus meetings held by Chair and Secretariat with Dr Ian Frame, CEO of NCRI, Channel 4 Television and Darren Jones MP Chair of BEIS Committee

#### 3. PRESENTATION FROM CHAIR AND SECRETARIAT TO ANNOUNCE LAUNCH OF APPGBT INQUIRY

The Chair explained that the APPG is now seeking to open an inquiry into research into brain tumours and examine what the challenges are facing researchers and present proposals to Government following the inquiry.

The Secretariat outlined the historic work of the APPGBT is supporting the petitions committee report, the T& F 2018 and its previous inquiry report of 2018 a cost too much to bear and its previous report produced in 2016; the new inquiry will seek to build on this and examine what has worked, what has not and what must now change in the research landscape.

The Secretariat officially confirmed that the APPGBT was launching the new inquiry to provisionally be called, *Pathway to a cure, breaking down the barriers*.

The Secretariat outlined the following provisional areas for examination by the inquiry:

- Funding
- Role of BEIS, UKRI and MRC
- Current scientific and research landscape
- Opportunities presented by repurposing of drugs



- Learnings from COVID-19 for researchers
- How to ensure funding can be spent efficiently in the long term; the development of infrastructure

The Secretariat outlined the inquiry panel structure and the planned process for the inquiry as follows:

- Chair (Derek Thomas)
- 3 Parliamentarians who are supporters of the APPG
- Sue Farrington Smith MBE Chief Exec Brain Tumour Research
- Representative from another brain tumour charity
- Scientist / senior clinician
- Academic from allied neuroscience
- Industry representative

The inquiry will run on the following timescale:

Two evidence sessions per term through the 2021/22 parliament, meaning six sessions in total which will end in Summer 2022. With updates at each APPGBT meeting (expected to be four). The final report will then be written and released in early 2023.

A discussion was held on the timings of the APPGBT inquiry.

#### *4. PRESENTATION FROM DR IAN FRAME, CEO OF NCRI*

Dr Frame presented to the APPG on the role of the NCRI and areas the NCRI could be able to assist the APPG with the inquiry, as well as a brief discussion on timescales around how best to secure funding into brain tumours.

Dr Frame outlined the role of the Strategic Advisory Group and how they would be able to assist the inquiry. He outlined the current state of funding into brain tumours, as well as the wider structure of the NCRI; their partners and various groups.

Finally, Dr Frame offered reflections on tactics for the group and suggested the following:

- Ensuring there is a detailed roadmap to where you want to be
- Collaboration
- Learn from other diseases
- Ensuring the highest quality applications for funding

A group discussion with Dr Frame was then held.

#### *5. DISCUSSION ABOUT TOM PARKER*

The Secretariat explained that The Wanted singer Tom Parker had been due to join the APPG for the meeting but is currently unwell. Mr Parker has been diagnosed with a brain tumour and is currently working with Channel 4 on a film for Stand Up to Cancer.

Tom has reached out to the APPG Secretariat and the Secretariat has been working with Tom to facilitate Tom meeting with the APPGBT officers.

#### *6. GENERAL DISCUSSION*

A general discussion was held.

#### *7. CLOSE OF MEETING AND AOB*



Derek Thomas MP formally closed the meeting and thanked all supporters of the APPG.