



## All Party Parliamentary Group on Spinal Cord Injury

Monday 27<sup>th</sup> November 2023 from 2.30-3.30pm

***Present:***

Andy McDonald MP  
Chris Stephens MP  
Rob Butler MP  
Gill Furniss MP  
Yvonne Fovargue MP  
Chris Green MP

***Apologies:***

Ben Everitt MP  
Helen Morgan MP  
Mark Tami MP  
Margaret Greenwood MP

***Secretariat:***

Dharshana Sridhar, Spinal Injuries Association  
Glyn Hayes, Spinal Injuries Association

**1 Welcome and apologies for absence**

Andy McDonald MP welcomed everyone to the APPG meeting.

The apologies for absence were noted as above

**2 Election of Officers**

Chair	Andy McDonald MP
Co-chair	Chris Stephens MP
Officer	Helen Morgan MP
Officer	Margaret Greenwood MP
Officer	Ben Everitt MP
Officer	Rob Butler MP

**3 Minutes of last meeting – 8<sup>th</sup> November 2023**

The minutes of the last meeting were discussed, and positive comments were raised in relation to the presentations delivered.

There was a discussion about a disturbance during the live stream and how it had been investigated with no firm conclusion. To eliminate future disturbances it was agreed that live streams would now be presented to the public as webinars allowing more control on who can speak.

**4 Review work carried out during the year**

The Officers discussed the work carried out during the year, noting that the presentations had all been informative.

The Chair expressed his displeasure at the late and lacking in detail responses from Government to the Questions written to them over the use of Amicapsil as a treatment for Pressure sores. As pressure sores have been raised again in another context at the APPG meeting on the 8<sup>th</sup> November the chair proposed asking for a Westminster debate on the issues to get more detailed answers to the solutions that can be offered. This was agreed upon and left with the Chair to follow up.

The Secretariat made the APPG aware of issues that had come to light recently with women's health. Women living with spinal cord injury are often unable to get cervical smear tests and Mammograms via usual routes. In many cases this has led to them not getting any early diagnoses at all. There are questions being submitted on the issues.

All MPs expressed this was not good enough and asked that they be kept up to date as things progressed.

**5 Note MPs and Peers agreeing to be Members**

Gill Furniss MP  
Mark Tami MP  
Dawn Butler MP  
Lord Allan of Hallam  
Baroness Hollins

**4 Any Other Business.**

None

**5 Date of next meeting.**

EGM in early February 2024 after new rules come into effect.

Date to be confirmed.