



FUEL POVERTY & ENERGY EFFICIENCY

All Party Parliamentary Fuel Poverty & Energy Efficiency Group

Annual General Meeting

Date: Wednesday 25th April 2023, 1pm – 2pm, Portcullis House, Room M

Attendees: Ben Lake MP, Afzal Khan MP, Peter Aldous MP, Alan Whitehead MP, Sir Peter Bottomley MP, Alison Thewliss MP, Lord Whitty, Lord Stunell, Matt Copeland (NEA), Peter Smith (NEA)

1. Welcome and introduction from current chair Ben Lake MP
 - Ben welcomed the group to the meeting and set out the terms for voting.
2. Election of Officers
 - All previous officers up for election. All elected.
 - i. Caroline Lucas – Green
 - ii. Alan Whitehead – Labour
 - iii. Afzal Khan - Labour
 - iv. Alison Thewliss - SNP
 - v. Peter Aldous - Conservative
 - vi. Lord Stunell – Liberal Democrat
 - Ben re-elected chair.
3. Election of Group Secretariat
 - Proposed that NEA would continue as secretariat. NEA took the group through the achievements of the last year (appendix 1). Group elected NEA as the secretariat.
4. Priority issues and potential activity for the year ahead
 - All agreed that group would continue mainly with private briefing sessions to enhance knowledge of fuel poverty and energy efficiency
 - Lord Stunell suggested that there needed to be a session that focussed on long term plans for energy efficiency. NEA agreed to set up a briefing session later in the year with key stakeholders.
 - Next event is a private dinner alongside the Sustainable Buildings Coalition, which all present were invited to.

Appendix 1: Meeting review 2022-2023

2nd March 2022, Zoom

AGM

A virtual Annual General Meeting, where Ben Lake MP was elected as chairs, and the officers of the group confirmed. NEA provided a policy context overview, and activities for 2022/23 were agreed. Additionally, Caroline Flint, the new Chair of the

Committee on Fuel Poverty, gave an overview of the upcoming priorities of the committee.

16 March 2022, Terrace/Dining Room A, House of Commons

APPG Dinner

A parliamentary dinner that focussed on the beginning of the energy crisis, covering increases in energy prices, the impact this will have on fuel poor households, the Government support that's in place, and what is happening in the policy calendar to provide further support and clarity. It was attended by APPG members, representatives from energy companies, the regulator and the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy. Solutions to the energy crisis were discussed, including how to provide financial support to households and how to improve the energy efficiency of fuel poor homes.

17 May 2023, Energy Retail Market

A meeting whereby APPG members could hear from National Energy Action and representatives from E.ON and Fair By Design on how the energy retail market had been developing, and options for market interventions to help the most vulnerable households through the energy crisis and beyond. This included a robust discussion on the merits of prepayment meters, and whether they were fit for purpose in the current energy market.

4th July, Atlee Suite, Portcullis House

Overview of Social Tariffs across Utility Markets

A parliamentary event where representatives from Charities, NGOs, and utilities gave their views on the potential to develop social tariffs in water and energy markets. Representatives across the Houses of Parliament, on a cross party basis, gave their reflections on these proposals. This, among other briefings, led to a significant number of parliamentary interventions from APPG members, which in turn led to the UK Government committing to working *“with consumer groups and industry to consider the best approach to consumer protection from April 2024, including options such as social tariffs, as part of wider retail market reforms. The objectives of this new approach will be to deliver a fair deal for consumers, ensure the energy market is resilient and investable over the long-term, and support an efficient and flexible energy system”*.