



All Party Parliamentary Group on

Small Modular Reactors

## All Party Parliamentary Group for Small Modular Reactors

### Minutes of the 2024 IGM

12:30, Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> November 2024, Room S, Portcullis House

#### Attendees:

Baggy Shanker MP (Lab, Derby South),  
Baroness Brown of Cambridge (Crossbench),  
4<sup>th</sup> Baron Mountevans (Crossbench),  
Liz Saville-Roberts MP (PC, Dwyfor Meirionnydd),  
Jonathan Brash MP (Lab, Hartlepool),  
Baroness Neville-Jones (Con),  
Andrew Bowie MP (Con, W Aberdeenshire & Kincardine),  
Baroness Bloomfield (Con),  
Llinos Medi MP (PC, Ynys Mon),  
Baroness Neville-Rolfe (Con),  
Baron Cameron of Dillington (Crossbench),  
Martin Vickers MP (Con, Brigg & Immingham),  
Jonathan Hinder MP (Lab, Pendle and Clitheroe),  
Baroness Golding (Lab),  
Baron Liddle (Lab).

**Also in attendance:** Baron Spellar (Lab), Baron Walney (Crossbench).

**Non-parliamentarians:** Havard Hughes (Barndoor Strategy); Dr Seth Thévoz (Barndoor Strategy);  
Sophia Fearon (Chief of Staff to Andrew Bowie).

#### Apologies:

Josh McAlister MP, George Freeman MP, Elsie Blundell MP, Lord Browne of Layton, Lord Nasby, Lord Lucas, Lord Hayward, Baroness Bakewell of Hardington Mandeville, Catherine Atkinson MP, Andrew Snowden MP, Jo White MP, Lee Pitcher MP, Jonathan Hinder MP, Susan Murray MP, Baroness Verma, Lord Vinson, Viscount Hanworth.

#### 1 Introductions

Baggy Shanker MP opened the meeting and attendees announced themselves.

#### 2 Election of Officers - The following officers were elected unanimously:

- Andrew Bowie MP (Con)
- Catherine Atkinson MP (Lab)
- Lord Walney (Crossbench)



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### **3 Appointment of Secretariat**

Barndoor Strategy were unanimously elected as the Secretariat of the APPG

### **4 Income & Expenditure**

Havard Hughes on behalf of the Secretariat, reported that the group had received no income nor made any expenditure during its previous existence, save for the support received from the Secretariat.

### **5 Future Work Programme**

The Chair noted the scope for work which had been discussed by the previous APPG. This included:

- The UK's SMR competition
- Benchmarking of UK SMR delivery compared to international comparisons?
- The current status of firms seeking to build in the UK
- The UK nuclear supply chain
- Nuclear skills
- Regulation

There followed a discussion, including the following points:

Lord Mountevans stressed British business as a priority area of interest, a point echoed by Andrew Bowie MP and that there was a need to convince HM Treasury that nuclear was a vital technology.

Baroness Brown and Andrew Bowie MP spoke on the importance of competition as a topic with Bowie referencing the commitment of winners to build their supply chain in the UK.

Baroness Bloomfield stated that she would like to see SMRs up and running within 3-4 years, and was worried about not enough being done to meet the energy gap. There was too much chat and too little getting done.

Lord Cameron of Dillington agreed, stating that he did not want progress to be bogged down in a 10-year plan.

Jonathan Brash MP suggested that the APPG would have a role to play in convincing departments of the case for SMRs. It was further suggested that the APPG may have a role to play in advocating for nuclear beyond those firms engaged in the competition. There was a need to go faster. SMRs is about jobs and communities.

It was pointed out that Lord Vallance's new innovatory group would be looking at regulation, but that it was far from clear whether nuclear power would even be in his remit; but that there could be considerable savings in redesign by pursuing common regulation with other areas.



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Baroness Brown stressed that clarity would be needed from the government on the likely future role of Great British Nuclear, as this would affect everything.

Llinos Medi MP argued that it would be important to tie in the group's work with industrial strategy.

There was also widespread concern from attendees around the precise status of GB Nuclear and GB Energy following the Energy Bill discussion in the Lords and a suggestion that the APPG should take an active role in Nuclear Week.

Andrew Bowie MP cited a US example of how spokespersons for the nuclear sector could cut across to the public more effectively giving the example of nuclear engineer Grace Marie Stanke who also had the role of Miss America. Such figures had broken down barriers for nuclear energy.

Baroness Brown believed that it was a dead end in arguing over which form of energy was cleanest and greenest, compared to a straightforward argument about the need for energy diversity.

Lord Cameron of Dillington agreed on the importance of community, pointing to an example from Denmark in how the profits from nuclear energy is channelled into communities. There was further discussion on the role of community, with much common ground.

The Chair stressed that while the APPG would have a role to play in informing MPs but not in such a way as to get bogged down in technical detail. The APPG should advocate for nuclear energy as the cleanest and safest form of energy.

**Action: The Secretariat were requested to assemble a set of proposals for a programme and dates, with items such as inquiries with expert witnesses, and to circulate these for comment and approval within a fortnight.**

## **6 Closing remarks and any other business**

There was no further business. The meeting looked forward to seeing proposals for the APPG's programme.

Meeting closed at 12:55.