



All-Party Parliamentary Group on Brain Tumours

Minutes of the virtual meeting held at 10:30 on 14th July 2020 via Zoom link.

PRESENT:

- **Parliamentarians** – Derek Thomas MP, Baroness Masham, Jane Hunt MP, Jeff Smith MP, Stephen Timms MP, Jim Shannon MP & Lord Carlile.
- **Representatives of Parliamentarians** - Siobhan Baillie MP, Caroline Ansell MP & Gavin Robinson MP.
- **Secretariat** – Sue Farrington Smith MBE (Brain Tumour Research), Hugh Adams (Brain Tumour Research).
- **Speakers** – Nisha Tailor (Association of Medical Research Charities), Mike Batley (National Institute for Health Research, NIHR).
- **Support** – Dan Jones (PB Consulting), Ben Rowden (PB Consulting).

APOLOGIES:

- **Parliamentarians** - Hilary Benn MP, Helen Hayes MP, Greg Smith MP, Mark Pawsey MP, Maria Caulfield MP, Dr Philippa Whitford MP, Sir Gary Streeter MP, Drew Henry MP, Chris Bryant MP & Paul Bristow MP.

PROCEEDINGS

1. WELCOME

Derek Thomas MP welcomed parliamentary colleagues and guests to the virtual 2020 meeting of the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Brain Tumours.

2. PRESENTATION BY NISHA TAILOR, DIRECTOR OF POLICY AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS, AMRC

Nisha introduced herself and the role of the AMRC in supporting medical research charities. She explained the sector's footprint, highlighting the spending and funding role of Medical Research Charities (MRC).

Nisha explained how medical research charities have been helping through COVID:

1. Research.
2. Redeployment of staff.
3. Supporting patients.

Discussing the impact of covid-19 on medical research charities she explained that:

1. Up to £368 Million has been lost from funding.
2. Charity grants provided by medical research charities often sustain early career research, much of which is now at risk.

Nisha then explained that the AMRC is pushing for a Life Sciences Charity Fund to bridge the gap in funding and she encouraged members on the call to sign the AMRC's open letter to the Chancellor on the Exchequer this point.

To sign the letter members can contact r.bundell@amrc.org.uk.



3. PRESENTATION BY SUE FARRINGTON SMITH MBE, CHIEF EXECUTIVE, BRAIN TUMOUR RESEARCH

Sue Farrington Smith outlined the impact which COVID-19 has had on Brain Tumour Research; its operational ability and its ability to support research. She called for Government support for the medical research charity sector.

4. PRESENTATION BY MIKE BATLEY, NIHR

Mike Batley spoke on the theme of the £40 Million promised for brain tumour research in 2018:

- In 2017 there were 10 applications for brain tumour related research through the programmes
 - In 2018 there were 27 of which 4 successful.
 - In 2019/20 there were 27 applications, so far 3 have been successful but there are 9 under consideration.

Mike Batley explained to the group that NIHR is aiming to restart research as soon as possible following COVID-19. He also explained that of the £40 million so far around £6 million has been invested for programmes (not infrastructure).

5. AGREED OUTCOMES

- The group agreed to invite someone from the MRC to speak at the next meeting.
- Derek Thomas MP is to work with colleagues to push the AMRC match fund.
- Parliamentarians are to be encouraged to sign the AMRC open letter.
- The group will develop the argument about the value of research charities.
- The group should take the AMRC letter to the APPG on Cancer.
- Derek Thomas MP is to meet with the Secretariat in the near future to discuss the above actions.
- It was agreed that there would be an Autumn meeting for the APPG.

5. CLOSE OF MEETING

Derek Thomas MP formally closed the meeting and thanked everyone for their participation.