



All-Party Parliamentary Loan Charge & Taxpayer Fairness Group

www.loanchargeappg.co.uk

Meeting of the Loan Charge APPG Tuesday 9th November 2021, 2:30-4:00pm

Meeting via Zoom

Minutes

In attendance:

Parliamentarians

Greg Smith MP (Co-Chair and Meeting Chair), Rt Hon Dr Julian Lewis MP, Mohammad Yasin MP (Co-Chair), Rt Hon Sammy Wilson MP (Co-Chair), Gerald Jones MP (Vice-Chair), Christina Rees MP, Andrew Griffith MP, Rebecca Long Bailey MP.

MP's Staff

William Hickey (Nigel Evans MP), Kieran Smith (Sarah Olney MP), Gabriel Apolloni (Dan Carden MP)

Other Attendees

David Logan (Tag Tax), Tom Wallace (WTT), Maria Hauret (facing the Loan Charge and an LCAG member), Gareth Parris (LCAG), Greg Mulholland (APPG Secretariat), Richard Clancey (APPG Secretariat)

Points 1-3 with APPG members and Secretariat in attendance only

1. Apologies

Apologies received from:

Rt Hon Sir Roger Gale MP, Bambos Charalambous MP, Ben Everitt MP, Barry Gardiner MP, Clive Lewis MP, Drew Hendry MP, Layla Moran MP, John McNally MP

2. APPG activity update

- The latest Open letter to PM and Chancellor containing extracts from FOI requests and asking the Government to explore all options to resolve the has received 143 Parliamentarian signatures. The Chair asked how signatures for the open letters were obtained and it was explained that the Secretariat send requests for signature to APPG members and LCAG contact LCAG members asking them to lobby their MPs to sign. The Secretariat also confirmed that a few MPs (less than 5 that the Secretariat is aware of) had opted to write their own letter rather than add their signature to the open letter. This letter has not yet been replied to. **ACTION:** It was proposed by the Chair and agreed by the meeting that he will approach Lucy Frazer QC MP, the Financial

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Secretary of the Treasury, asking for a reply on this and on other letters sent to the Treasury (see below). It was also suggested that the APPG should seek a meeting with her.

- The APPG now had 245 members making it potentially one of the largest groups in Parliament. The Chair asked for some research could be done to look into the largest groups. **ACTION:** Secretariat to look into the largest APPGs currently in existence.

3. APPG Correspondence

Correspondence Sent

The APPG has recently sent the following correspondence:

- Letter to the Chancellor 4th November 2021 requesting HMRC provide a 24-hour suicide prevention helpline for those affected by the Loan Charge. This was in response to APPG officers receiving requests from their constituents explaining that LCAG could no longer provide this facility. No response had been received (but this had only been sent 4 days ago).
- A letter was sent to the FCSA 21st October 2021 expressing concern to changes of their Charter which they believed allowed subscribers of their code to use the sort of off-shore arrangements that have played a significant role in the Loan Charge scandal. A reply was received from the FCSA on 22nd October which explained that the APPG had misunderstood the change and that the wording of this would be changed to provide additional clarity. The FCSA also objected to the APPG's comments that HMRC only used FCSA approved organisations. The APPG sent a response to this on 1st November explaining that it was HMRC themselves who had stated that they only use FCSA approved contractors and that the FCSA may wish to investigate why HMRC had been shown to be non-compliant with the FCSA code of conduct. A further reply to the APPG's response was received 8th November.
- Letter to the new Financial Secretary to the Treasury, Lucy Frazer QC MP, on 27th September 2021 welcoming her to the role requesting a further review of the Loan Charge in view of evidence now revealed via FOI requests. No response had been received to this. Sammy Wilson asked whether the Secretariat would chase a response to this letter and Greg Smith offered to speak to Treasury PPSs to do so. **ACTION:** Greg Smith MP to speak with Treasury PPSs about responses to APPG Letter sent to the Financial Secretary to the Treasury on 27th September 2021.

Correspondence Received

The APPG has recently received the following correspondence

- The APPG was copied into a letter from the Loan Charge Action Group sent to Lord Morse on 21st October 2021. This letter explained evidence that was not known at the time of his report that renders his report conclusions to be flawed. The letter asked him to accept this and back a further review. The Secretariat was not aware that any response to this letter had been received by the Loan Charge Action Group and has not received anything.

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Sammy Wilson MP said that despite Treasury and HMRC promises to resolve Loan Charge related issues, the feedback from his impacted constituents indicated to him that they had not done so. He suggested it would be worth meeting with HMRC officials to understand why the promises they'd made in the past were not being fulfilled as they seemed impervious to change. The Chair agreed and the meeting also agreed. **ACTION:** Co-Chairs and Secretariat to discuss how to seek and organize such a meeting.

Guest speakers/witnesses joined the meeting

4. Loan Charge Update – contributions and discussion

The following guest speakers/witnesses joined the meeting:

- David Logan, SME Tax Consultant, Tag Tax – has clients who face the Loan Charge
- Tom Wallace, Director of Tax Investigations, WTT – has clients who face the Loan Charge
- Maria Hauret, speaking as a victim of the Loan Charge and a member of LCAG
- Gareth Parris, speaking as a victim of the Loan Charge and a member of LCAG

The purpose of the discussion was to establish and discuss what the current situation is for people facing the Loan Charge and what is expected to happen next. Each speaker spoke to the meeting giving evidence of their experience. It was a very enlightening discussion with valuable contributions.

The Chair thanked all guest speakers for their evidence and explained that the meeting recognised how difficult it was to give personal accounts. The Chair said that it was their job as members of the APPG to “shine a light” on the reality of what has happened to victims of the Loan Charge and to try to make the Treasury to see sense and agree that a resolution is needed. The APPG would collate all the evidence from the meeting and then present it to the Treasury Ministers and HMRC in a clear and concise way so that a case could be made for all victims of the Loan Charge. **ACTION:** A short report will be produced covering the key points of this session to assist with the understanding of the current situation. The Secretariat will compile the key points from the evidence and share with Officers. Before anything is published, the four witnesses will have the opportunity to read it and ensure there is no confidential information.

5. Next Meeting

The next meeting is planned for December. Proposed date is either the 1st or 8th December. The Chair asked if Officers could agree the time by email. **ACTION:** Secretariat to email Officers to establish which date is most convenient.

6. AOB

There was no further business raised by any member.

Meeting finished at 15:50.

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