



# All-Party Parliamentary Loan Charge & Taxpayer Fairness Group

[www.loanchargeappg.co.uk](http://www.loanchargeappg.co.uk)

17<sup>th</sup> May 2023

Victoria Atkins MP  
Financial Secretary to the Treasury  
HM Treasury  
1 Horse Guards Road  
London  
SW1A 2HQ

Dear Victoria,

## **Request for a meeting with you regarding the Loan Charge and associated issues**

At the recent AGM of the Loan Charge and Taxpayer Fairness APPG, it was agreed that we would write to you to request that you agree to meet with members of the APPG to discuss with you our serious concerns regarding the Loan Charge and associated HMRC action. We hope that you will accept this request.

As you know, a number of colleagues have mentioned their serious concerns to you and it was agreed that a meeting is needed, for colleagues to be able to discuss these with you.

As you know, HMRC confirmed in March that a tenth person took their own life facing HMRC action related to the Loan Charge and with the recent wave of demands sent to thousands of households, there is serious concern about the impact on mental health and on family stability. There have already been a significant number of families that have suffered marital or family breakdown as a result of the pressure of the Loan Charge and related demands from HMRC.

We note your recent letter to us (which was a response to the open letter signed by 156 Parliamentarians, to which we had requested a response from the Chancellor). This letter doesn't actually respond to the very serious points we made and the plea for the Treasury to engage on this issue and discuss a resolution. This is extremely disappointing, and we will respond to it in due course, however we wish to pursue a meeting with you, in person and members of the APPG at this stage.

You state in your letter *"Since I was appointed as Financial Secretary to the Treasury in October 2022, I have carefully considered the issue and concerns raised"*. We have seen no evidence at all that you have done so, other than listen to your officials and to HMRC and we therefore implore you to actually hear the testimonies of those affected by this and to genuinely listen to colleagues' concerns.

Co-Chairs: Sammy Wilson MP, Greg Smith MP, Baroness Kramer  
Vice-Chairs: Gerald Jones MP, Sarah Olney MP, Dave Doogan MP, Adam Holloway MP

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It is clear from the pre-prepared content of your letter that you are being given a wholly unrealistic picture of the reality of the situation people (and their families) are in and of HMRC's treatment of them. The APPG has been sent countless examples of the ruthless way HMRC are pursuing people for sums that people simply cannot afford and on payment terms that are impossible. It is also palpably unfair, when people were recommended to use these arrangements by Chartered Accountants and accredited tax advisers, who assured the schemes were legal and compliant; and when HMRC themselves failed to act at the time in warning people, collecting PAYE from agencies or shutting down the schemes.

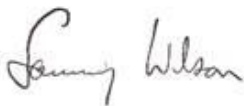
The Loan Charge and Taxpayers Fairness APPG has 255 members, making it one of the largest All Party Parliamentary Groups and there continues to be very considerable concern about the whole approach and the devastating impact it is having on people. We urge you to accept that there should be a dialogue about how to resolve the situation to prevent further, without numerous bankruptcies, families having to sell homes and the strong possibility of further suicides. The current approach does not avoid these devastating outcomes and simply writing letters to colleagues with the same pre-prepared lines, that do not bear any relation to the reality faced by people, does not help. We therefore urge you to agree to meet with the APPG and discuss all of this.

We note at the end of your letter you state "*I continue to listen to the concerns raised by you and others*" ...and "*I continue to give this matter my attention.*" If those things are true and genuine, we implore you to meet with us and hear the serious concerns of so many of us, that are not in any way alleviated by template letters.

Such a meeting will need an hour and a half of your time, for it to be meaningful and for you to hear the concerns of the many colleagues deeply worried by the Government's approach on this. Considering that this policy and whole approach has been linked to ten suicides (and other suicide attempts) we really hope that you will find the time in your busy diary to do this. If you can provide us with dates and times you can do, we will then look to book an appropriate room.

We look forward to hearing from you and, we hope, to hearing that you are happy to meet with Parliamentary colleagues to discuss this very important matter.

Yours sincerely,



Sammy Wilson MP  
Co-Chair



Greg Smith MP  
Co-Chair



Baroness Kramer  
Co-Chair

Co-Chairs: Sammy Wilson MP, Greg Smith MP, Baroness Kramer  
Vice-Chairs: Dr Lisa Cameron MP, Gerald Jones MP, Sarah Olney MP

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