

# **ALL-PARTY PARLIAMENTARY GROUP ON PENAL AFFAIRS**

**Inaugural Meeting – 6.00-7.00pm, Tuesday 17 June 2025,  
Committee Room 19, House of Commons**

## **Note of meeting**

### **Attendees**

1. Pam Cox MP
2. Baroness Prashar CBE
3. Lord Carlile of Berriew CBE KC
4. Lord Garnier KC
5. Ruth Cadbury MP
6. Lee Pitcher MP
7. Baroness Healy of Primrose Hill
8. Andy Slaughter MP
9. The Bishop of Lichfield OBE
10. Marie Goldman MP

### **Observers**

1. Mark Day, clerk to APPG
2. Emily Evison, assistant to clerk, APPG
3. Adam Fox, senior parliamentary assistant to Pam Cox MP

## **1. Opening**

Mark Day (clerk to the group) opened the meeting and welcomed parliamentarians to the inaugural meeting of the APPG on Penal Affairs. Mark explained PRT's role as secretariat to the APPG on Penal Affairs.

## **2. Election of Chair**

Mark announced that Pam Cox MP has indicated her willingness to be nominated as chair of the group. No other nominations have been received.

Mark confirmed the meeting is quorate.

There were no objections from attendees. Mark confirmed Pam Cox MP as chair of the group. Pam chaired the remainder of the meeting.

## **3. Nominations of other officers**

Pam listed the names of the other officers of the group:

- Tessa Munt MP (who sends her apologies)
- Lord Garnier
- Baroness Prashar

No other nominations have been received.

Pam proceeded on that basis.

Pam provided background information as to why she is interested in this group, including being a member of the Justice Select Committee.

Pam set out some thoughts on the group. Officers will meet and work out a work programme.

#### **4. Chairs remarks**

Pam thanked the officers and members of the group for their support.

Pam also thanked the trustees of the Barrow Cadbury Trust for their commitment to funding the secretariat.

Pam also thanked the Prison Reform Trust for the groundwork they have done to support the group.

#### **5. Ambitions for the group**

Attendees made a number of suggestions for future meetings and focus of the group including:

- Inviting other NGOs with key specialisms
- The state of the crown courts
- Community sentences
- Low literacy levels and overrepresentation of those with SEND needs and dyslexia in prisons.
- Transitions from custody to the community
- Ensuring inclusion of people who have lived experience of the criminal justice system.
- Learning and sharing best practice across different regions.
- Women in prison with children
- Private contractors

Attendees also made several suggestions for potential speakers at future meetings including:

- HM Chief Inspector of Prisons, Charlie Taylor
- Interim Chair of the CCRC, Dame Vera Baird

#### **6. Close**

Pam Cox MP thanked attendees and closed the meeting at 6.20pm.