



Economic Issues and Welfare Benefits

Virtual Meeting Minutes

7 October 2020, 16:30 – 17:30 pm

Attendees

Parliamentarians

Carol Monaghan MP
Stephen Timms MP
Stephen Metcalfe MP
Fiona Bruce MP
Scott Mann MP
Baroness Scott MP
Emma Lewell-Buck MP
Dr James Davies (Representative)
Jane Hunt MP

Speakers

Ann Innes
Person with ME
Dr William Weir

Guests

Dr Charles Shepherd, ME APPG Secretariat
Countess of Mar
Carolyn Leary, Trustee, Sheffield ME Group

Apologies

Kerry McCarthy

1. Welcome

Carol Monaghan MP, Chair of the ME APPG, welcomed all attendees and introduced the topic (economic issues impacting ME sufferers) and guest speakers.

Dr Charles Shepherd, ME APPG Secretariat, briefly introduced himself and highlighted the key economic problems faced by those with ME.

2. Presentations

- a) Ann Innes, Welfare Rights Adviser, ME Association
 - This presentation provided an overview of the disability benefits system and the main difficulties faced by people with ME when applying for disability benefits.

- b) Person with ME
 - This presentation focused on the experience of applying for Personal Independence Payment (PIP) and Employment and Support Allowance (ESA) whilst having ME.

- c) Dr William Weir, Consultant Physician, Medical Adviser
 - This presentation focused on the issues faced by ME sufferers when claiming private insurance and also discussed the various medical perspectives on ME which influence the process of applying for disability benefits.

3. Q&A Discussion

The following topics were covered:

- The impact of Covid-19 on benefits assessments
- The physiological vs. psychological view of ME
- Scientific research into Long-Covid and post-viral ME
- The upcoming inquiry of the Work and Pensions Select Committee on disability benefits assessments

4. AOB and Close

Carol Monaghan MP thanked the speakers for their insightful comments and suggestions and mentioned the provisional date for the next ME APPG meeting: 17 November 2020.