

WASPI SCOTLAND

MINUTES OF MEETING No 6 NOVEMBER 13 2018, HOLYROOD, EDINBURGH.

ATTENDEES,

MSP's/Staff

Jackie Baillie , Shona Robison, Marilyn Harbert.

WASPI,

Lucinda Quinn, Linda Carmichael, Rosie Dickson, Elizabeth Mc Quarrie, Anne Campbell, Lynne Craighead, Clair Ramage, Frances Mc Cann, Alison Wallis, Pat Milligan, Anne Potter,- (Secretariat/Chair).

APOLOGIES

MSP's,- Sandra White, Monica Lennon, Elaine Smith, Ruth Maguire

WASPI,- Joyce Stevenson , Heather Dennis, Anne Dean, Andrea Gregory,

1- Welcome Intro & Apologies.

2- Action Points update. (See attached, App.1)

3-WASPI Campaign Update.

Rosie Dickson advised the forum a Scottish meeting with Jane Cowley, Angela Madden & Carole Archibald of WASPI Ltd, had taken place Nov 1st in Edinburgh & in response to their notes a further communication would be submitted to them regarding the issues in dispute, ie, Frozen Bank Account, Legal representation & use of logo.

Rosie also updated all on Westminster debate which is taking place on Nov 22 followed by the High Court Judicial Review on Nov 30. It is hoped that local events will be organised.

Chris Stephens MP is continuing to keep Rosie informed of the progress of Select Committee.

4.-Regional Activities.

Lynne Craighead reported on the recent event held in Kelso where MP John Lamont invited 50 plus groups but excluded WASPI, however Lynne & several others went along & resulted in quite a positive outcome.

Linda Carmichael reported that the Aberdeenshire tory MPs are still being pursued in an effort to encourage their support. She also mentioned that NE Tory MPs majority is same as the number of WASPI women in his constituency & this will be in their future plans as a target.

Linda also expressed concern Rachel Hamilton MSP has not attended CPG for some time & Lynne Craighead mentioned she had reminded her of the CPG meetings but to no avail!

Claire Ramage quoted from a John Lamont statement.

Shona Robison emphasised the importance of being tactical when looking at marginal seats, & to keep the WASPI message simple, & has offered assistance if required.

[Type here]

Rosie felt we need to capitalize on financial loss of up to £48k & proposed looking at ways of highlighting this by perhaps producing T Shirts with the message. Rosie confirmed there has been a great deal of support from SNP & Labour & that's appreciated but as a group we need to get out & spread the word about the campaign & injustice suffered. Rosie stated that for some time now WASPI had been overshadowed by BREXIT but we keep on campaigning. She also confirmed that Feisty Women a Fife group are now on board.

Shona reiterated that John Lamont really needs to be made aware of how his constituents feel about his lack of support or of the lack of recognition of the campaign.

Jackie Baillie suggested having dates for future CPG meetings diarised & this is to be organised.
AP1/6

Jackie also expressed disappointment that Esther McVey did not accept invitation to attend WASPI meeting. She also suggested that now men & women will be affected by SP delays to age 68 there may be an increase in the general awareness & interest & the group should focus on this in the future.

Linda Carmichael proposed approaching Age Scotland & Rosie Dickson agreed that was worthwhile & her group were already in contact with them.

Linda has been pleased about the reaction to the use of WASPI business cards as a means to providing the general public information.

Rosie Dickson reminded us all of the importance of the Judicial Review to be heard in London Nov 30 & hoped that Humza Yousaf might be able to suggest a similar review for Scotland.

Rosie also mentioned the ESA/JSA stats which are shocking & may prove to be a useful tool in our case.

Lucinda Quinn stated that she has been impacted by Local Authority equal pay issues as well as state Pension delays & felt very disillusioned.

Alison Wallis suggested we should go back to Esther McVey & Guy Opperman to stress how important attendance at a meeting is in order to hear of the many issues affecting WASPI women & their families.

5 – Judicial Review/New Ideas

Rosie Dickson raised concern about the length of time taken by PHSO. There are 6 test cases but unsure why their decision is taking so long. Rosie asked if there is any way to question the process. Jackie Baillie advised there is little that MSPs can do, however felt there may be more credence in inviting DWP Govt Ministers plus David Mundell (SoS). AP2/6

Anne Dalziel advised that Falkirk were organising a WASPI event very soon.

Linda Carmichael is looking to find ways of encouraging Tory MPs to attend any WASPI events.

Jackie Baillie suggested using Holyrood to raise awareness by organising an event or an exhibition.

Shona Robison proposed use of photos & Press releases as a useful method of raising awareness & Jackie Baillie agreed that Sandra White & her would sponsor such an event or exhibition associated with a members motion. AP3/6

AOB.

The meeting came to an end with no AOB.

Date of Next Meeting.

To be arranged..