

APPG Theatre Inaugural Meeting

House of Lords, Residence Room 1, Tuesday 14 January 2020, 16.00-18.00

Parliamentarians In attendance

Giles Watling MP
Matt Western MP
Stephen Metcalfe MP
Lord Rupert Carrington
Andrew Lewer MP
Matt Western MP
Chris Matheson MP
Lord Bob Kerslake – Via Aline Ellins

Also in attendance

Dan Russell, Giles Watling MP's office
Andrew Fellows, Andrew Lewer MP's office
Hannah Gagen, UK Theatre & SOLT
Katie Kerry, UK Theatre & SOLT
Sebastian Cater, UK Theatre & SOLT

Meeting

Giles Watling opened the meeting and welcomed everybody (including history of APPG Theatre creation).

Parliamentarians nominated and seconded each other for officer roles, results below:

Chair & Registered Contact	Giles Watling MP	Conservative
Vice-Chair	Matt Western MP	Labour
Vice-Chair	Lord Kerslake	Crossbench
Vice-Chair	Stephen Metcalfe MP	Conservative
Vice-Chair	Andrew Lewer MP	Conservative

Hannah Gagen talked through the dates held for possible evidence sessions.

She also talked through top line some possible subjects the Theatre APPG could cover (based on conversations from 2019). These included: workforce, funding and income generation; regional growth and tourism. The full programme will need to be agreed with the new Vice-Chairs.

The Purpose of the Group was talked through (based on those drawn up before the election):

- To support the resilience and relevance of theatre in the UK for audiences, society and the industry.
- Identify and debate potential opportunities and issues for theatre in the UK.
- Support parliamentarians understanding of the theatre and performing arts industry at a national and local level.

There was agreement that this sounded right still.

Dates of the possible evidence sessions were run through. The first evidence session will be March 4 2020, and will be an introduction to theatre in 2020.

UK Theatre and SOLT talked through why they were involved and well-placed to be the secretariat, including what they do and their membership.

Questions from Parliamentarians were asked on:

- Whether actors are included? Not really, this is largely covered by the Performers Alliance APPG. But we would of course work across other APPGs on relevant issues
- Will access (in all its forms) be covered? Yes, both in terms of audience and workforce, including removing barriers to D/deaf & disabled people
- Will opera be covered? Yes, again working with APPG on Opera where appropriate. UK Theatre and SOLT have a number of major Opera companies in their membership

The meeting concluded with Daniel Russell and Hannah Gagen agreeing to fill out the relevant registration paperwork and circulating the meeting notes and any upcoming dates.