

**All-Party Parliamentary Group for Theatre**  
**Minutes of the meeting held on 16 July 2019**

**In attendance**

Giles Watling MP (Chair)  
Tracey Brabin MP (Co-Chair)  
Andrew Lewer MP  
Stephen Metcalfe MP  
Andrew Fellows, Andrew Lewer's office  
Dan Russell, Giles Watling's office  
Cassie Chadderton, SOLT and UK Theatre  
Hannah Gagen, SOLT and UK Theatre  
Katie Kerry, SOLT and UK Theatre  
Annie Waugh, SOLT and UK Theatre

**Welcome**

- The purpose of the meeting was set out – to decide the priorities for the APPG for Theatre.

**Priorities for theatre in the UK**

- SOLT and UK Theatre outlined UK Theatre's member priorities and business plan priorities and as a result suggested that during the first year, the APPG focuses on the following topics: theatre and the economy, workforce development. Access, diversity and inclusion run through all topics.
- SOLT and UK Theatre will draw up a terms of reference for each topic.
- SOLT and UK Theatre will draft a template letter for members to send to their MPs, inviting them to join the APPG.

**Visits to theatres**

- Visits to theatres arranged as part of the APPG will be in line with the first two priority topics.
- Separately, SOLT and UK Theatre will encourage theatres across the UK to invite their local MPs to visit them.

**Structure of APPG meetings**

- It was agreed that there would be 3-4 APPG meetings per year, where speakers would be invited in to give evidence on topics.
- It was agreed that the output of the two priority topics are written as reports to share with DCMS, DfE any other relevant departments.

- It was noted that this APPG has notified other relevant APPGs of its registration and would like to work with them where appropriate.

### **Theatre APPG Launch Event**

- It was agreed that the launch event will take place in Autumn and will feature one or more performances and external speakers from the commercial sector and regional theatre.

### **AOB**

- A webpage has been set up on the UK Theatre website for the APPG:  
<https://uktheatre.org/theatreappg/>