



## ALL PARTY PARLIAMENTARY GROUPS: WHAT PURPOSE DO THEY SERVE?

Anthony Belchambers, Industry Chairman, All-Party Parliamentary Group for Financial Markets and Services

Webinar

Thursday, 16 September, 09.00 BST

# A Word From Today's Chairman



**Ian Harris**

Director

Z/Yen Group



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# Today's Agenda



- 09:00 – 09:05 Chairman's Introduction
- 09:05 – 09:25 Keynote Presentation – Anthony Belchambers
- 09:25 – 09:45 Question & Answer

# Today's Speaker



**Anthony Belchambers**

Industry Chairman

All-Party Parliamentary Group for Financial Markets and Services





# All Party Parliamentary Groups: What Purpose Do They Serve?

Anthony Belchambers

# WHAT IS THE ROLE OF ALL PARTY PARLIAMENTARY GROUPS (APPGs)?



- APPGs are informal cross-party groups which can be influential, but which have no official standing in Parliament. They should not be confused with select committees.
- First established in 1930, their purpose is to provide an opportunity for dialogue on specific subjects, sectors and countries.

## WHAT SUBJECTS ARE COVERED BY APPGs?



All APPGs are listed on a Register which is updated every 6 weeks. Their number has nearly trebled since 1996 to 718. They comprise:

1. 130 country groups ranging from the Polar Regions to the Pitcairn Islands
2. 588 subject groups ranging from Aerospace to American Football



## HOW ARE APPGs ADMINISTERED?



- Some are run by their officers and their staff; others by external bodies. Some are comparatively dormant; others are very active.
- There are concerns where they are run by special interest groups or public relations firms and over how any financial support is used e.g travel and hospitality.

## WHAT DO APPGs DO?



- Their activities range from holding educational briefings and debates on topical issues to issuing reports. Some conduct surveys and inquiries. They may even introduce private members bills.
- In all cases, they exist to meet the needs of parliamentarians and must take their lead from the officers of the APPG.

1. Do they draw an effective line between providing information and overt lobbying?
  2. Are conflicts of interest being adequately managed eg members who are also special advisers?
  3. Are financial contributions properly monitored and allocated?
  4. To what extent are country APPGs used by foreign governments?
- In October 2020 the Standards Committee announced its intention to review the role and practices of APPGs.

# ADVANTAGES OF APPGs



1. They can facilitate a cross party approach on key issues
2. They promote a better understanding of the differing priorities between parliamentarians and non-parliamentarians
3. They produce specialist reports on key issues
4. They provide a forum for experts to inform on special interest or complex topics.

## AN EXAMPLE OF AN APPG AT WORK (1)



- The APPG on Financial Markets and Services was founded in 2003 and currently has 60 members drawn from both Houses and Observer members drawn from the PRA, the FCA and the Bank of England.
- It holds 6 1 hour breakfast briefings and 1 Annual Dinner with a senior guest speaker per year. It holds additional smaller dinners for visiting senior speakers from abroad. It has issued 2 research reports. All agendas are cleared with the officers.

## AN EXAMPLE OF AN APPG AT WORK (2)



- The APPG is administered by an Industry Advisory Group comprising a cross-section of trade bodies and market infrastructure operators. It does not include individual firms (who may join as Associate Members). All costs and expenses are scrutinised carefully and do not include individual travel and hospitality expenses.
- The APPG is compliant with the Rules governing APPGs and its financing is fully transparent.







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- Thu, 23 Sep (16:00-16:45) This Is How They Tell Me The World Ends: The Cyberweapons Arms Race
- Fri, 24 Sep (09:00-10:00) Launch Of Global Financial Centres Index 30
- Mon, 27 Sep (15:00-15:45) Modern Monetary Theory: Something Old, Something New, Something Borrowed, Something True

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