**All-Party Parliamentary Group on Microplastics
AGM Minutes, 23.11.2022**

**Attendees**

* Baroness Bakewell of Hardington Mandeville
* Alberto Costa MP
* Liz Twist MP
* Afzal Khan MP
* The Rt Hon Sir Iain Duncan Smith MP
* Sarah Champion MP
* Harriet Main- Office of Alberto Costa MP
* Emma Holland-Lindsay- APPG Secretariat (National Federation of Women’s Institutes)
* Fiona Thomas- APPG Secretariat (National Federation of Women’s Institutes)

**Apologies**

* Selaine Saxby MP

**Meeting Minutes**

**Welcome and introductions**

* Alberto Costa MP welcomed attendees to the meeting and gave an overview of the aims of the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Microplastics. Alberto Costa MP outlined the successes of the 2022-2023 year for the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Microplastics, including meetings with DEFRA representatives and policy roundtables with global washing machine manufacturers.

**Election of officers**

* Alberto Costa MP was elected as Chair of the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Microplastics.
* Liz Twist MP was elected as Vice Chair of the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Microplastics.
* Harriet Main outlined that Selaine Saxby MP wished to remain as a Vice Chair of the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Microplastics. This was accepted by the meeting attendees and Selaine Saxby MP was elected as Vice Chair of the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Microplastics in absentia.
* Sarah Champion MP was elected as Secretary of the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Microplastics.
* Afzal Khan MP was elected as Vice Chair of the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Microplastics.

**Plans for next year**

* Harriet Main outlined that the Microplastic Filters (Washing Machines) Bill had been tabled for its Second Reading on3 February 2023.
* Harriet Main outlined that the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Microplastics would like to further explore the issue of Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) for textiles in the UK.
* Harriet Main outlined that the goal of the All-Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) on Microplastics was to encourage further MPs and Peers to get involved in the work of the APPG on Microplastics.
* Harriet Main outlined the APPG on Microplastics would be exploring the feasibility of producing a microplastic fibre testing kit for MPs and constituents to use in natural water sources within their parliamentary constituencies with a UK-based university.
* Emma Holland-Lindsay reflected that sampling for microplastics in natural water sources would be a powerful way to raise awareness of the extent of microplastic fibre pollution to MPs. Emma Holland-Lindsay reflected that there would also be opportunities to raise awareness of microplastic fibre pollution in the House of Lords.
* Baroness Bakewell reflected that asking oral questions in the House of the Lords about microplastics would be an effective way of raising awareness of the issue
* Liz Twist MP asked if there would be potential to link up with water companies to raise awareness of microplastic fibre pollution.
* Harriet Main outlined that Severn Trent were supportive of Alberto Costa MP’s Bill (Microplastic Filters (Washing Machines) Bill) as installing microplastic fibre filters into all new UK washing machines from 2025 would be faster and cheaper at reducing microplastic fibre pollution than installing further stages of water filtration at wastewater treatment plants.
* Alberto Costa MP reflected that we did not know the extent of microplastic fibre pollution but we did know that microplastic fibres were impregnating the environment, which was likely to pose problems for the wider environment.
* Sarah Champion MP outlined that having local testing kits would allow for a local press release in local/regional media. Sarah Champion MP asked if the APPG on Microplastics knew of links between microplastic fibre pollution and animal health.
* Harriet Main outlined that whilst the APPG on Microplastics had not worked on this issue specifically, we understood that microplastic fibres were being ingested by marine life and entering into human food chains.

**Next steps**

* APPG Secretariat to draft template oral questions for use by Peers in the House of Lords.
* APPG Secretariat to explore setting up policy roundtables for the 2023-2024 to explore microplastic fibre pollution and Extended Producer Responsibility more broadly.
* Office of Chair of APPG on Microplastics to table for Westminster Hall and Adjournment Debates to raise parliamentary awareness of microplastic fibre pollution.
* APPG Secretariat to produce draft media packs for MPs to use to raise awareness of microplastic fibre pollution digitally.

**AOBs**

No AOBs.

Alberto Costa MP thanked all meeting attendees and closed the meeting.