

Code of Governance – All-Party Parliamentary Sustainable Resource Group (APSRG)

Overview

1. The **APSRG** Code of Governance is an agreement between the (Co-)Chairs, Officers and external Members of the APSRG on the rules under which the **APSRG** operates and is administered. A copy is made publicly available on the website. The intention of the Code is to supplement the statutory information that the APSRG provides on its entry in the Register of All-Party Parliamentary Groups, in order to ensure full transparency.
2. The **APSRG** is committed to ensuring its activities and funding are entirely transparent. The **APSRG** is funded through a combination of core funding from external membership and ad hoc sponsorship of particular events and research, all of which is declared on the official Parliamentary Register of All-Party Groups [\[LINK\]](#). The **APSRG** does not endorse, support or campaign on behalf of one organisation. Rather, it campaigns for evidence based policy development in sustainable resource management. The APSRG operates according to a strict Code of Governance, and its work is driven by its Parliamentary Officers.
3. The secretariat services are provided by Policy Connect, a membership-based cross-Party think tank with an extensive network of parliamentary groups, research commissions, forums and campaigns working to inform and improve UK public policy. Policy Connect is committed to upholding the principle of transparency in UK parliamentary and public affairs and welcomes any questions you may have on its work and activities. Further details on this are provided below.

Parliamentary membership

4. The **APSRG** is an all-party parliamentary subject group on the approved list of all-party parliamentary groups, and abides by the rules and guidelines as laid down in the official booklet of all-party parliamentary groups compiled by the Office of the Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards.
5. The **APSRG** exists in order to help parliamentarians fully engage with **the sustainable management of waste**.
6. The **APSRG** is open to members of all parties and both Houses.
7. The **APSRG** must have a minimum parliamentary membership of at least 4 'qualifying' members at any one time. Each of the APSRG's Officers must be an MP or Peer and must be elected at the AGM. At least two of the APSRG's Officers (including the Chair, who must also be the group's registered Contact), must be MPs. At least one officer must be from the government party or parties and at least one from the main opposition party. Peers may be appointed to any position except for that of Chair and Registered Contact. The parliamentary membership does not have an upper limit. No membership subscription fee is charged of parliamentary members of the APSRG.
8. The agenda of the **APSRG** is set by the APSRG's Officers, in accordance with Article 18 (d) of the Guide to the Rules on All-Party Parliamentary Groups (March 2015). External members will be able to advise Parliamentary Officers but will have no executive decision-making powers over the content of the programme. Officers are elected annually at the AGM, which is open to all parliamentarians. Only parliamentarians have voting rights at

the AGM.

9. The Officers have executive authority over the APSRG. The (Co-)Chair(s) has/have (shared) overall responsibility for APSRG.

External membership

10. The external membership is open to non-parliamentary organisations.
11. Membership subscriptions from these organisations provide a source of funding that allows the **APSRG** to maintain a secretariat. The secretariat will facilitate the running of a regular meeting programme, parliamentary work and support information distribution such as the website.
12. The external membership also offers the APSRG a useful insight into present developments and the views of the relevant sectors.
13. External member organisations are invited to send representatives to all APSRG meetings and are registered to receive all official APSRG correspondence.
14. At meetings, external members are asked to participate actively in discussions, whilst recognising that the **APSRG** is intended as a means of disseminating impartial information and that parliamentarians have priority in their contributions.
15. External members are also invited to sponsor additional resources, research or meetings that fall outside the standard programme. No editorial influence is conferred by such sponsorship.

Secretariat

16. The **APSRG** is administered by a full time member of staff, responsible for executing the programme and activities of the APSRG agreed by the Officers.
17. The secretariat and other administrative services are provided by Policy Connect.
 - a. Policy Connect is a membership-based, not-for-profit cross-Party think tank working to inform, influence and improve UK public policy development and delivery. It leads and manages an extensive network of parliamentary APSRGs, research commissions, forums and campaigns working to bring together public and private sector with parliamentarians and leading experts on important issues. Policy Connect provides support services to a number of parliamentary groups and initiatives.
 - b. Secretarial and other administrative services include provision of: management staff; project and event management; shared costs of telephone, IT, web and email hosting; financial services; and shared office space.
18. The finances are administered as follows:
 - a. Annual membership subscriptions and any additional sponsorship for the APSRG are managed by Policy Connect. Policy Connect prepares annual accounts which are externally audited and published at Companies House. The work of Policy Connect is overseen by a separate scrutiny committee to ensure governance of the use of funds, and chaired by parliamentarians. Please find more information on Policy Connect's financial governance arrangements here:
<http://www.policyconnect.org.uk/policy-connect-financial-governance>

- b. The APSRG shares administrative and accommodation costs with other groups managed by Policy Connect.

19. The above arrangement acts as a safeguard to the financial liabilities of the Parliamentary Officers.

Other organisations

20. Where possible and appropriate, other relevant organisations are invited to participate in meetings and resources.

- a. Internal to Westminster, meetings and resources are open to other parliamentary bodies such as Committee and Parliamentary Office staff, the House of Commons and Lords Libraries, and Member's own research staff.
- b. External to Westminster, representatives from charity and voluntary sector agencies and other relevant organisations are invited to attend meetings at which their contribution is of relevance to the subject area.
- c. **Attendance at meetings must be by invitation of and response to the APSRG.**

Endorsement

21. This code of governance is endorsed by the Officers of the APSRG, representing an agreement on how the APSRG operates and is administered.