

## All-Party Parliamentary Group on Relocation – AGM Minutes

Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> June 2023, 16.30-17.10 Room Q, Portcullis House, Parliament

### Present:

Daniel Kawczynski MP	(Shrewsbury & Atcham, Conservative)
Neil Coyle MP	(Southwark and Old Bermondsey (Labour))
Duncan Baker MP	(North Norfolk, Conservative)
Rob Roberts MP	(Delyn, Independent)
James Sunderland MP	(Bracknell, Conservative)
Mima Hillier	(Association of Relocation Professionals)
Adrian Leach	(Chair of Association of Relocation Professionals)
Anna Barker	(Association of Relocation Professionals)
Lembit Öpik	(Association of Relocation Professionals)
George Byczynski	(Office of Mr Kawczynski)

### Members who have indicated their agreement to join the APPG

Chris Law	(Dundee West, SNP)
Pete Wishart	(Perth and North Perthshire, SNP)
Robert Syms	(Poole, Conservative)
Dan Carden	(Liverpool Walton, Labour)

### 1. Welcome

Mr Daniel Kawczynski MP welcomed those present to the meeting, and offered his introductory remarks. It was noted that a quorum had been achieved, according to the rules for APPGs.

### 2. Election of Officers

*The following Member was elected (unanimously) to be Chair and as Registered Contact:*

Mr Daniel Kawczynski MP

*The following Members were elected as Officers:*

Neil Coyle MP	Vice Chair
Duncan Baker MP	Vice Chair
Rob Roberts MP	Vice Chair
James Sunderland MP	Vice Chair

### **3 Address by Chair of Association of Relocation Professionals, Mr Adrian Leach**

Mr Adrian Leach presented the role of relocation – a vital element in attracting inward investment to the UK. He expressed the commitment of the relocation sector to work proactively with Parliament, through the APPG, to enhance the sector’s £7bn per annum direct contribution and £21bn per annum consequential contribution to the British economy. He expressed the hope and expectation that this collaboration would be a real benefit to the sector and to the country it serves.

There was a discussion regarding the following areas of interest:

- Inflation in the relocation sector, and the failure of the relocation threshold to have been updated – ever: it remains at the original level of £8,000 since the early 1990s. Reform of the allowance system might be the way to proceed on this.
- Visas complexity and processing issues act as a barrier to entry to the UK, including those visas for partners and spouses.
- The industry needs to achieve recognition in Parliament to increase its influence.
- The APPG can help create policy change to make useful improvements to the relocation regime in the UK.
- There is a need to really drill down to clear, specific key issues in need of focus. These issues then need to be prioritised in order of importance.
- The APPG needs to be bold in stating what matters most, for example relating to issues in the housing and serviced accommodation markets.
- The APPG should present a collective, cross-party front to Minister, with all Officers jointly signing requests on specific areas of concern and focus.
- The ARP Board will talk to the members, and establish the key focus on behalf of APPG.
- If anything needed in terms of relocation issues by MPs, the APPG will provide a comprehensive service to deliver what is required. In other words, the APPG will benefit from the ARP’s commitment to being the central resource to MPs and Peers on these matters, including specific cases.

- Introduce a more sensible and proportionate infrastructure regarding anti-money laundering legislation relating to relocation. The UK is the only place in Europe where some of these checks must be done.

As a modus operandi, the APPG agreed to use the following methods:

- PQs
- Name Day Questions
- Interventions in debates
- Meetings with Ministers
- A Westminster Hall debate
- CEBR research – to identify the true value of relocation to the British economy

#### **4. Outline of key projects**

The following areas were noted as being of particular strategic interest to the relocation sector. These will be debated and progressed in detail over time in a structure fashion:

- a) Working with Dept for International Trade
- b) Supporting UK inward investment
- c) Tax threshold revision
- d) Visa simplification
- e) Property sector regulation

#### **5. *Implications of property regulation changes for MPs' accommodation.***

*It was also noted that there is a potential issue – an unintended consequence – from regulatory changes that may affect serviced accommodation used by MPs. This will be explored in more detail at a future meeting.*

#### **6. Next steps**

The next steps are to note the discourse at the meeting and commence the implementation of the modus operandi, with the relocation sector, through the Association of Relocation Professionals providing the core resource to Members.

#### **7. A.O.B.**

It was emphasised that the clearer the APPG is on the issues it seeks to affect, and the more united the messaging, the greater the chances of success. Mr Leach also expressed his enthusiasm and positive impressions of what he had learned at the meeting.

## **8. Date of next meeting**

The date of the next meeting will be confirmed shortly.

Mr Kawczynski expressed his optimism about the outcome of the meeting, including the presence of the quorum and election of officers. He added that he looked forward to an energising and productive impact on the future of British economy, thanks to the work of the APPG.

### ***Lembit Öpik***

Strategic Consultant for Political Engagement

Association of Relocation Professionals (ARP)

lembitopiklimited@gmail.com

+44 (0) 7973 891 365