

## Inaugural meeting of the Food and Drink Supply Chain APPG

**Date:** Monday 7<sup>th</sup> February

**Time:** 14:00-14:30

**Location:** Virtual, Zoom

**Minutes taken by:** Shauna Dubler, DGA Interel UK

### Members Present:

- Matt Vickers MP
- Sharon Hodgson MP - VC
- Tan Dhesi MP - VC
- Chris Loder MP - VC
- Jillian Mortimer MP - VC
- Robbie Moore MP - VC

### External guests:

- James Bielby – Chief Executive, Federation for Wholesale Distributors
- Lyndsey Cambridge – Head of Engagement, Federation for Wholesale Distributors
- Shauna Dubler – DGA Interel
- Adam Isaacs – DGA Interel
- Katherine Morgan – DGA Interel

### Minutes of the meeting – 14:00-14:30

**MATT VICKERS MP** welcomed everyone to the inaugural meeting of the Food and Drink Supply Chain APPG. Matt stated that the first action item was to define which MPs would take which roles in the APPG. Matt put himself forward as Chair of the APPG.

**SHARON HODGSON MP** seconded Matt Vickers MP to be Chair of the APPG.

**MATT VICKERS MP** is confirmed as Chair of the APPG. He asked if any members would like to put themselves forward for any positions on the APPG.

**TAN DHESI MP, SHARON HODGSON MP, CHRIS LODER MP, JILL MORTIMER MP** were all confirmed as Vice-Chairs of the APPG.

**MATT VICKERS MP** announced that the Federation for Wholesale Distributors (FWD) will be sponsoring the APPG. Matt gave the floor to **JAMES BIELBY**, the Chief Executive of the Federation for Wholesale Distributors to provide an overview of FWD.

**JAMES BIELBY** said that FWD is a trade association representing the food and drink supply chain into retail and across the whole food sector. He added that FWD members serve communities in every postcode and collectively support millions of jobs across the UK economy. James asserted that FWD is underrecognised in government and that is why it is so important to have this APPG.

**MATT VICKERS MP** asked whether the members are happy to have FWD sponsor the APPG.

**Members all agreed.**

**MATT VICKERS MP** asked whether members are happy to have DGA Interel take on the secretariat role of the APPG.

**Members all agreed.**

**MATT VICKERS MP** provided an overview of the Food and Drink Supply Chain APPG's workplan. He stated that the purpose of the group is to provide a forum for parliamentary discussions on the issues surrounding the food and drink supply chain. It also endeavours to support the food and drink supply

chain, celebrating its critical role in daily life, whilst providing evidence-based solutions informing policy decisions around the supply of food and drink to the public and private sectors. Matt stated that the short-term aim of the APPG is to successfully launch the APPG, develop its stature and position it as an authoritative voice on the food and drink supply chain in Parliament and beyond. He noted that the mid-term aim of the APPG is to deliver evidence-based policy solutions aimed at easing difficulties in the food and drink supply chain and having these adopted by the Government. Matt announced that the APPG would launch an inquiry into Covid-19 and the importance of the Food and Drink supply chain to the UK economy and launch the report in Parliament. An interim report would be conducted ahead of expected supply chain issues in April. Matt asked if there was any other business members would like to discuss.

**TAN DHESI MP** asked that the APPG ensure that the Bidfood wholesale in Slough is considered in the APPG's work.

**MATT VICKERS MP** confirmed that they would be considered.

**SHARON HODGSON MP** requested that the APPG also look at the pressures on the supply chain with regards to the delivery of food into schools.

**MATT VICKERS MP** confirmed that they would be considered and closed the meeting.