

# All Party Writers Group AGM Minutes

## 27<sup>th</sup> June 2018

### **Attendees**

#### **Members**

Rt Hon John Whittingdale MP (Chair)

Pete Wishart MP (Vice Chair)

Lord Clement-Jones (Vice Chair)

Lord Dubs (Treasurer)

Giles Watling MP

The Earl of Clancarty

Lord Balfe

#### **APWG Secretariat**

Barbara Hayes

Luke Alcott

Janet Anderson

### 1. Introductions

Chair of the All Party Writers Group (APWG) Rt Hon John Whittingdale MP welcomed all attendees after a round of introductions.

### 2. Election of officers

The previous year's officers were re-elected with the addition of Giles Watling MP in the position of Vice Chair.

Full results:

Chair, John Whittingdale MP , Conservative

Vice Chair, Pete Wishart MP, SNP

Vice Chair, Lord Tim Clement-Jones, Lib Dems

Vice Chair, Giles Watling MP, Conservative

Secretary, Baroness Floella Benjamin, Lib Dems

Treasurer, Lord Alf Dubs, Labour

### 3. Review of the year

The group was updated on the work undertaken in the past year, including the full extension of Public Lending Right to e-lending and the hosting of the Educational Writers' Award and Ruth Rendell Award in December 2017.

### 4. Authors' earnings inquiry

The group was updated on the launch of the APWG Authors' Earnings inquiry. The group discussed the organisation of oral evidence sessions, with members present volunteering to sit on the inquiry panel. The dates and final composition of the panel remain to be confirmed.

### 5. Priorities of the group for the next year

The group established the following priorities for the next year:

- Authors' earnings: The APWG has launched an inquiry into authors' earnings to further our understanding of how authors' earnings have changed and what can be done to improve the situation of authors. After taking evidence the APWG will report on its findings at the Winter Reception in December.
- Fair contracts: the APWG will continue to encourage authors' organisations to work with industry to establish high-level principles and best practice standards to apply to contracts between authors and those exploiting their works. In addition to this the APWG will support efforts to raise the issue in parliament and suggest potential legislative measures that would establish a better baseline for authors' contracts.
- Brexit and copyright reform: As we leave the EU we will need to transfer a significant amount of EU legislation on copyright into UK legislation. Throughout these processes and debates we must argue for a balanced approach preserving a writer's right to be fairly remunerated for the use of their works.

### 6. Any other business

The group discussed the funds for Public Lending Right ahead of the spending review, acknowledging that this would be an issue that the APWG should act on through parliamentary questions.