

Secretariat proposal

25th May 2021

Secretariat support for the APPG on Fair Business Banking:

The Athena Foundation will provide secretariat support for the APPG to support its 3 core workstreams:

- **Resilience of the financial sector** - continued engagement on the business support schemes during the economic recovery from Covid-19, with particular emphasis on CBILS, BBLS and unlocking the non-bank lending sector.
 - Improving transparency in the finance sector pushing for failure to prevent economic crime becoming a criminal offence and collaborating with the Transparency TaskForce
 - APPG Report: Levelling Up: Financing and Capitalising the UK's SMEs
 - This report will focus on the following questions:
 - *Proportional regulation*: what is the regulator's role in supporting the delivery of a more diverse business lending market.
 - *Funding models*: aside from big banks lending to small businesses, what other funding models work well in other countries and how could they be adapted to fit the UK market?
- **Fair Treatment of SMEs** - dedicated to collaborating with key stakeholders to end unfair treatment of SMEs, be that through tackling vulture funds, insolvency, or pushing through fairer dispute resolution.
 - APPG Insolvency Report:
 - The APPG, supported by the law firm Humphries Kerstetter, is to conduct an in-depth investigation into standards in the UK insolvency profession.
 - The work is aimed at building on and supporting governmental studies into regulation and standards in the industry, including the ongoing review of the regulatory system for the industry.
 - As part of its six-month project the APPG has already called for evidence from the main players in the industry including the major accountancy firms, the regulatory bodies and the Insolvency Service
 - Vulture Funds
 - Vulture funds, like Cerberus, are a threat to SMEs but also to individuals who took out high street loans, the APPG has been joining forces with mortgage prisoner campaigners to push these vulture funds into regulation.
- **Bankers for Net Zero**
 - The APPG has been spearheading the Bankers for Net Zero initiative in conjunction with Volans and Re: Pattern since April 2020.
 - The initiative facilitates the collaboration of the banking industry, small businesses, government, parliament, and key NGOs to enable banks to successfully support their business clients, accelerate the transition to net zero and deliver on the UK government's ambitions for addressing climate change.

The services provided to the APPG by The Athena Foundation are offered 'in kind' and are listed in the relevant reporting section for APPGs. The value of services provided for the above is calculated at £50,000 per workstream and includes:

- Organising and raising sponsorship for events
- Organising inquiries and stakeholder outreach
- Maintaining and updating the website and social media platforms and any associated costs
- Media outreach
- Any costs for travel and incidental expenses related to the work for the APPG

General secretariat support is included in the above, including:

- MP briefings
- Press releases and engagement
- organising meetings, AGMs, EGM, etc
- Monitoring of relevant subject matter in press and in parliament

The Athena Foundation is supported by individual grants, donations and support for individual projects. These donations are listed on the APPG website as per guidance on funding for secretariats.



Chair of the APPG on Fair Business Banking and Registered contact:

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An All Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) is an interest group that occupies a strategic and effective position within Parliament. It is cross-party, with a minimum number of parliamentarians from the Government and the official opposition, and cross-house, made up of both peers and MPs. The APPG on Fair Business Banking is a platform through which businesses, professionals and trade bodies can discuss issues regarding commercial banking and its role in the life cycle of a business, and through which parliamentarians can access information on banking, finance and related issues, including business rescue and insolvency, on behalf of constituents. As a cross-party group, the APPG is an effective vehicle to effect meaningful change via the Parliamentary system. The Group's status is that of an APPG is bound by the rules set out by [The Office of the Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards](#). It does not have charitable status, or official status in the House, nor is it funded by Parliament. It relies wholly on the participation and contribution of parliamentarians, industry members and stakeholders committed to creating a strong platform for business in the UK to thrive. The APPG is coordinated and administered via the APPG on Fair Business Banking Secretariat.

The APPG on Fair Business Banking processes personal data. Further information on the processing of personal data for constituents is found on our [Data Protection Privacy Notice for Constituents](#) and for members and affiliates of the APPG on our [Data Protection Privacy Notice](#). We hold your information securely on Parliament's digital network and keep your information for one year after the current Parliament ends (maximum of 5 years). We will not share your personal data with a third party unless we have your express consent. You have the right to access your data, withdraw consent for the APPG to hold your data, to have your data corrected or to restrict the use of your data at any time. Please contact buchananh@parliament.uk in order to do so. The data controller is the Chair of the APPG.