

ALL-PARTY PARLIAMENTARY GROUP on MODERN LANGUAGES



Chair: Dame Nia Griffith MP (Lab); Co-Chair: Baroness Coussins (CB);
Vice-Chairs: Tonia Antoniazzi MP (Lab); Lord Dykes (CB); Baroness
Garden of Frognal (LD); Lord Sherbourne of Didsbury (Con).

APPG on Modern Languages: Annual Report (reporting year 27 January 2022- 26 January 2023).

1. New Secretariat

From April 2022, the Chartered Institute of Linguists (CIOL) became the Secretariat for the APPG with the support of the British Academy and the British Council, with additional support from UCML in an advisory capacity.

The three funders have agreed to continue supporting the APPG for a further year (FY 2023-24) on the same basis as for FY 2022-23.

2. Meetings held

28 January 2022:

Report launch: 'The economic value to the UK of speaking other languages' by RAND Europe and University of Cambridge; funded by the Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC).

31 March 2022:

AGM of the APPG ML.

All Officers were re-elected.

11 July 2022:

Languages TedX: What's new in languages? A series of short presentations on languages and policy:

- 1. An introduction to the Chartered Institute of Linguists, the new Secretariat for the APPG:** John Worne, Chief Executive Officer, CIOL
- 2. An introduction to the Polish Embassy and its support for Polish in the UK:** Szymon Szaran and Clarinda Calma, Embassy of the Republic of Poland in London.
- 3. The 2021 Language Trends survey of primary and secondary schools in England:** Vicky Gough, Schools Adviser, British Council.
- 4. The World of Languages and Languages of the World: a curriculum package for primary and secondary schools:** Steffan Griffiths, Head, Norwich School.

1 November 2022:

Languages for Everyone: John Worne (CEO, CIOL) in conversation with Luis Von Ahn, Founder and CEO of Duolingo.

Organised by the CIOL and hosted by Baroness Coussins.

16 January 2023:

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Artificial Intelligence and Machine Translation: How the AI revolution is transforming industry and public services, creating a 'regulatory gap'.

Speakers:

- Dom Hepplethwaite and John Worne, Chartered Institute of Linguists
- Neil Coulson, CommSoft, Sabine Braun and Felix do Carmo, University of Surrey.
- Lucas Nunes Vieira, University of Bristol.
- Guto Dafydd, Welsh Government Translation Service.

30 January 2023 (technically outside of the reporting year):

Report launch: 'Languages Provision in Further Education' by the British Academy and Queens University Belfast.

Jointly hosted by the APPG ML and the APPG on Further Education and Lifelong Learning.

Speakers:

- Sarah Cowan, Head of Policy (HE & Skills), British Academy
- Ian Collen, Director, Northern Ireland Centre for Information on Language Teaching and Research (NICILT) at Queen's University Belfast; with Minchen Liu, Research Fellow, School of Social Sciences, Education and Social Work, QUB; Leanne Henderson, Lecturer in Education Studies; Aisling O'Boyle Senior Lecturer, Education; and Jennifer Roberts, Lecturer, Centre for Evidence and Social Innovation
- Caroline Cordier, Lecturer in French, Edinburgh College.
- Eddie Playfair, Senior Policy Manager, Association of Colleges
- Karen Thomas, Director, Tourism and Events Research Hub Canterbury Christ Church University and lead author of UKinbound's 2018 report *Breaking the Language Barrier: Equipping our tourism workforce for the UK's future*.

25 May 2023 (technically outside of this reporting year):

Celebration of United Nations World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development. Organised by Sanskruti with the support of the APPG, hosted by Baroness Garden.

3. APPG activity

- In January 2022, Nia Griffith MP and Baroness Coussins **met the Schools Minister** Robin Walker on behalf of the APPG to discuss languages education policy.
- In January 2022, Nia Griffith MP, Baroness Garden and Lord Sherbourne **visited the Polish Embassy** on behalf of the APPG and met the Chargé d'Affaires and education team.
- In June 2022, the APPG submitted a response to **Parliament's [consultation](#) on the role of APPGs.**
- In October 2022, the **Times Education Commission** was [debated in Parliament](#); the Commission adopted some of the APPG's recommendations on languages education.

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The Times published a leader on the importance of improving language learning in early December.

- In December 2022, the APPG issued a [response to the DfE's announcement of millions of pounds in funding for MFL Hubs and a new German Promotion Programme](#).

To note (technically in the following reporting year):

- On 10 March 2023, the APPG submitted a response to the [DCMS Committee Inquiry on Minority languages](#).
- The APPG began looking for mechanisms to **submit evidence in favour of language learning and skills to political parties' policy fora**. For example, in March 2023, the APPG submitted evidence to the Labour party's Policy Forum.

4. Activity of the Officers of the APPG (relevant to the APPG's work):

- In January 2022, Baroness Coussins tabled an [amendment](#) to the **Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Bill** which led to the **Ministry of Justice setting up an independent inquiry into the qualifications and experience required of court and tribunal interpreters**. (NB this tabling was done in her own capacity, it was not APPG activity). This issue has been examined several times by the APPG in recent years.
 - The MOJ invited Baroness Coussins to attend a meeting in March 2023 to brief her on progress being made on the new translation and interpreting framework.
- In October 2022, Baroness Coussins was confirmed as **Patron of ALL**.
- On 4 October 2022, Baroness Coussins presented the **FCDO Languages Award**.
- On 18 October 2022, Baroness Coussins [tabled a debate](#) on the **Council of Europe's Recommendation on the importance of plurilingual and intercultural education for democratic culture** which was co-written by two UK nationals, Terry Lamb (University of Sheffield) and Sarah Breslin (CEO of the European Centre for Modern Languages) and to which the UK is a signatory.]

To note (technically in the following reporting year):

- On 2 March 2023, Baroness Coussins tabled an [Oral Question for debate in the House of Lords](#), seeking assurances from the Government that the **revocation of EU laws** will not affect currently established rights to translation and interpretation across the different parts of the criminal justice system.
- On 28 April 2023, Baroness Coussins presented the **National Police Language Services Awards** at Leicestershire Police HQ.