

## British Parliamentarians discuss Tibet issue in Westminster

[28 March 2017] The All-Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) for Tibet held its second meeting of 2017 on Monday 27 March in the Palace of Westminster. Tim Loughton MP, Chairman of the APPG for Tibet, chaired their bi-monthly meeting.

The MPs reviewed Minutes from the last meeting, which was held on 8th February. At that meeting, Ms Dhardon Sharling, Information Secretary at the Department of Information and International Relations (DIIR), Central Tibetan Administration (CTA), gave a presentation on the CTA's work and forthcoming plans. Riki Hyde-Chambers, Chair of Tibet Society, and co-founder/adviser to the All-Party Parliamentary Group for Tibet, updated the meeting on his recent visit to Dharamsala, where he met with key CTA stakeholders. This latest meeting also discussed some exciting plans to advance Tibet advocacy in the British Parliament including parliamentary exchanges between London and Dharamsala in the near future.

Amongst the MPs present were Tim Loughton of the ruling Conservative Party, Chris Law of Scottish National Party (SNP), Nic Dakin of Labour Party and Patrick Grady's (SNP) senior case worker. The meeting was also attended by several Tibetan observers - Tsering Tashi (former Representative of His Holiness the Dalai Lama) and Thupten Tenzin (Tibet Society's Treasurer).

Tsering Passang, who is a staff member at the Tibet Society, coordinated the parliamentarians' meeting. The Society acts as the Secretariat to the All-Party Parliamentary Group for Tibet ever since its founding in 1986.

The All-Party Parliamentary Group for Tibet consists of MPs and peers from all the main parties who have an interest in and concern for the Tibetan cause and Tibetan people. The purpose of the group is: "To put pressure on Her Majesty's Government to encourage negotiations between the Chinese government and the Dalai Lama and the Tibetan government in exile, whilst recognising that Tibet is an occupied country which had independent links with Britain."