

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: Review of 2022/Looking ahead to 2023

A summary of some of the APPG's (and APPG-related) activities this year, and a look ahead at some of the events and milestones coming up in 2023.

1) Review of 2022-23:

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.

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.

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16 January 2023:

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:

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.

Other notable developments:

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. 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.**

Relevant activity of the Officers of the APPG:

- 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.
- In October 2022, Baroness Coussins was confirmed as **Patron of ALL.**
- On 4 October 2022, Baroness Coussins presented the **FCDO Languages Award.**

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- 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.]
- 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.

2) Looking ahead:

Future meetings:

The APPG hopes to hold meetings on a range of topics in 2023-24, including looking at new GCSE reforms and the work of Embassies and Cultural Institutes.

Other notable developments and milestones expected in 2023:

- **The Ministry of Justice is expected to publish its review of the qualifications and experience required of court and tribunal interpreters.**
- **The House of Commons Digital, Culture, Media and Sport Select Committee will conduct an Inquiry into the future of the UK's Indigenous minority languages.**
- **The new GCSE MFL specification will become clearer** and the sector will respond.
- April 2023: **Baroness Coussins will present at Leicestershire Policy HQ**, who have led on UK-wide standards for translation and interpreting in the police.
- **The new GCSE in British Sign Language** is expected to be approved during 2023.