



All Party Parliamentary Group for the Waterways

Annual General Meeting

Tuesday 24th February 2026

09.30-10.30 am Portcullis House Room Q

Present: Bill Esterson MP, Luke Murphy MP, Alistair Strathern MP, Baroness Jones, Lord Curry

In attendance: Matilda Handley, assistant to Lisa Smart MP, Amy Tillson (Inland Waterways Association)

1. Apologies: Received from Lord German, Lee Dillon MP, Ruth Cadbury MP, Ruth Jones MP, Simon Opher MP, Helen Morgan MP, Lisa Smart MP.

2. Welcome and introductions

3. Appointment of Chair and Officers

Chair: Bill Esterson

Officers: Lord German, Uma Kumaran, Wendy Morton

All in approval: the Chair and Officers were approved.

4. Approval of Proposed topics for 2026 (see appendix)



The Inland Waterways Association provides the secretariat to the All Party Parliamentary Group for the Waterways.

Appendix: Proposed Topics for 2026

Water Access and Health Equity in Urban Areas

Promoting access to blue spaces for health and active travel

Organisation who may wish to participate:

- Walk Wheel Cycle Trust
- Sport England
- Paddle UK
- Blue Health Network

Social Prescribing and Water-Based Activities

Connecting health organisations with waterways for preventative healthcare

Organisation who may wish to participate:

- National Academy for Social Prescribing
- Blue Health Network
- Canal and River Trust Waterways Wellbeing Social Prescribing programme

Waterways Freight and HVO Fuel Transition

Exploring barriers to sustainable freight and decarbonisation

Organisation who may wish to participate:

- Commercial Boat Operators Association /IWA Freight Group
- Port of London Authority
- Logistics UK

Residential Boating

Exploring issues affecting residential boating and moorings provision

Organisation who may wish to participate:

- Association of Inland Navigation Authorities
- National Barge Travellers Association
- Residential Boaters Owners Association



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- National Association of Boat Owners

Skills, Apprenticeships and Green Jobs in Waterways

Exploring the waterways' role in training and local employment

Organisation who may wish to participate:

- Canal & River Trust
- Institute for Apprenticeships and Technical Education
- National Skills Academy
- National Historic Ships (Shipshape programme)



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