



**APPG for BAME Business Owners  
Minutes of Meeting on 4 June 2019  
Room U - Portcullis House, Palace of Westminster**

**Attendees Present**

1. Chi Onwurah, MP - Chair
2. Baroness Burt of Solihull – Co-Chair
3. Teresa Villiers MP
4. Eleanor Smith MP
5. Elizabeth McInnes MP
6. Lord Hastings of Scarisbrick
  
7. Professor Monder Ram, Centre for Research in Ethnic Minority Entrepreneurship (CRÈME)
8. Diana Chrouh, Chrouh Consulting, Special Adviser to the APPG for BAME Business Owners
9. Simao Paxi-Cato- Director, The Black Antelope Group, BAME Business APPG Secretariat
10. Jamilah Al-Sahar, Personal Assistant to Simao Paxi-Cato
  
11. Jennifer Davis- Parliamentary Assistant to Eleanor Smith
12. Dayo Okewale - Chief of Staff for Lord Hastings
13. Lina Bourdon - Federation of Small Business
14. Sharniya Ferdinand – Business Inclusion Programme Coordinator - NatWest Bank
15. David Apparicio – Chrysalis Programme
16. Isi Inyang SSEN Investment Ltd
17. Efuru Obua SSEN Investment Ltd
18. Femi Santos – Alchemy Ltd
19. Moslek Uddin - UK Curry Connect
20. Shah F. Athar- Director of Policy - UK Curry Connect
21. Hashmukh Pankhania Ethnic Minority Foundation

**Apologies:**

1. Afzal Khan – MP
2. Tanmanjeet Singh Dhesi - MP
3. Emma Coad-Dent - MP
4. Lord Karen Bilimoria of Chelsea
5. Naz Shah MP
6. Deborah Turner FSB, Arnab Dutt – FSB
7. Aminata Diaby - Senior Project Officer, Regeneration and Economic Development – GLA
8. Mike Conroy -UK Finance

1. **Chair Chi Onwurah:** welcome and introductions of attendees
2. **PRESENTATION OF THE APPG's FIRST PHASE FORWARD PLAN**

(Attendees were provided with copies of the First Phase Forward Plan objectives to discuss.)

**D. Chrouch:** highlighted the key points in the Forward Plan which included the following:

- Objective 1 - Create Vision & Mission for APPG for BAME Business Owners
- Objective 2 - Design a Data & Monitoring Framework Model
- Objective 3 - Design a Consultation Framework
- Objective 4 - Public Launch Event of the Consultation
- Objective 5 - Publish an Interim Report
- Objective 6 - Publish Final Report and Business Case

### 3. FORWARD PLAN DISCUSSION

#### 3.1 Vision

**C. Onwurah:** opened with support for the Forward Plan. She asked for the vision to be easy to describe in a maximum of three lines.

#### 3.2 DATA AND MONITORING

**M. Ram:** reviewed the Forward Plan and explained that the reason for its primary focus on data is because there is not enough authoritative data about BAME business owners. He talked about the good practice that he found on a trip to Sweden recently where they conduct a national census on minorities to enable effective data collection.

The APPG's plan for data and monitoring is to conduct research to identify where relevant data sources are available and to find those areas where there are gaps in knowledge.

The Data and Monitoring Framework Model will aim to encourage the government to capture data in a consistent manner so that we can compare like with like. Also, to enable them to take into account the fact that minority enterprises can be very different in different parts of the country.

#### 3.3 Public Consultation

**M. Ram:** The next part of the plan is to simultaneously hold public consultations to find what minority enterprises need and the barriers they face. This will inform the business case and provide continual engagement and feedback with business owners.

He explained that to get a more accurate picture we need to link research data to information from practitioners and academic data.

**Lord Hastings:** asked who will be consulted and whether the research will provide useful case studies

**M. Ram:** the objective is not only to produce a piece of evidence but also to provide a route map for how to collect evidence. It will be a catalyst for the change we want to see. We will know what needs to be changed, once we have the evidence so that we can make recommendation to key institutions like HMRC and the ONS.

**C. Onwurah:** commented that we cannot accurately know what will be in the final report for Objective 6 of the Forward Plan until we go through the consultation process with business owners. As a consequence, it is important to ensure that Objective 3 which plans for a public consultation is done before a final report is concluded and business case can be published.

**T. Villiers:** asked what funds are available to deliver the data and monitoring research.

**M. Ram:** CRÈME will be producing data on BAME owned businesses. However, what he cannot say at this stage is whether it will be sufficient for the purposes of the APPG.

**L. Bourdon:** FSB do not know the number of BAME businesses they have but they are currently holding roundtable meetings with representative businesses networks to try to obtain more information about them. She would like to see businesses like hers included as she is from Eastern Europe and considers herself a minority too.

#### 4. PUBLISHED REPORT

**C. Onwurah:** asked how long until the interim research is published

**M. Ram:** October/November

**C. Onwurah:** In the meantime, we should invite small businesses to tell us their qualitative experience

**M. Ram:** there is no reason why the qualitative research cannot be undertaken alongside the research to be published. We need to find BAME owned businesses that are representative of certain sectors and find out how policy decisions can hinder or promote their growth.

**Lord Hastings:** talks about his plans to meet with KPMG's Olu Odubajo. He also highlighted that one of his assistants is running a new private sector business which is already in the £500,000 range.

**C. Onwurah:** maybe Olu from KPMG can share his experiences.

**M. Ram:** The small businesses population is massively diverse. In each part of the UK, we need to use a vaguely similar methodology.

**L. Burt:** asks M. Ram to assist with the objective criteria of how we select which businesses to interview. We want a range of different experiences, rather than randomly accepting those businesses that put themselves forward. It is important to identify and engage those business owners that it may be more difficult to reach

**F. Santos:** asks how will we select the relevant sectors.

**M. Ram:** we will use the official data sectors and the official ethnic minority classification framework. We will also aim to recruit people from outside formal business networks to garner the best possible evidence about grassroots BAME business owners.

**C. Onwurah:** the APPG has raised wide interest in Parliament. It also needs to engage widely outside London to the regions and reach across diverse relevant industries.

#### 5. LAUNCH EVENT

**L. Burt:** suggest we hold a reception to raise awareness of the APPG and our Forward Plan in Parliament. We could potentially hold the reception either July or September but we need to source sponsorship for this.

**D. Chrouch:** sponsorship is potentially available, but it depends on the size of what we want to do.

## 6. **STAKEHOLDERS AND COLLABORATORS**

**D. Chrouch:** we have already identified and begun to reach out to the main collaborators and stakeholders for the research and consultation frameworks.

**M. Ram:** important stakeholders are UK Finance and the Office of National Statistics. Lord Hastings could provide a useful link to the corporate sector through his role at KPMG

**F. Santos:** we also need public sector representation. **M. Ram:** agreed.

**L. Burt:** would like the initial outreach to key stakeholders to include a review of procurement issues

**D. Apparicio:** agrees that there is a need to look at procurement models in the public sector because there can be problems for smaller providers getting access to funding. As a training programme 5, engaging with the MOJ it is difficult to get a share of the market because big funders like the MOJ only give contracts to 1 or 2 large organisations and the smaller sub-contractors get squeezed out.

**L. Burt:** talks about her work as part of the coalition which looked at procurement, there was an aspiration that 25% of public tenders would go to small businesses.

**E. Smith:** agreed that bigger providers tend to get the contracts and this has led to problems for small suppliers as was with the case with Carilion.

**D. Apparicio:** instead of focus being on funding coalitions, bids should be broken down into the elements that need to be delivered.

## 7. **APPG SECRETARIAT**

**S. Paxi-Cato:** explained the work that the Secretariat would be doing in terms of the administration and compliance with APPG rules. He suggested that it was important to set up a bank account for financial management and reporting purposes.

**L. Burt:** not keen on having a bank account because the group can manage without one for the moment.

## 8. **AOB**

N/A

## 9. **Next Meeting**

**D. Chrouch:** will discuss with M. Ram and will circulate the dates and next step actions