



**All-Party Parliamentary Group on Beauty,  
Aesthetics and Wellbeing**

**Minutes of Meeting**

**Panel session: *Beauty Battling Skin Cancer: Prevention through raising awareness***

**Date: Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> July 2020**

**Time: 4pm – 5pm**

**Location: Zoom**

**Chair: Judith Cummins MP**

**Minutes taken by: Allaster Gair, Interel UK (Secretariat)**

**Members present**

- Carolyn Harris MP, APPG Co-Chair
- Judith Cummins MP, APPG Co-Chair

**Speakers**

- Geoff Holmes, Chair of the Dermatology Council for England
- Karis Betts, Health Information Manager, Cancer Research UK
- Marie Tudor, CEO of Skcin
- Victor Ktorakis, Senior Environmental Health Officer, Enfield Council
- Gill Morris, Chair of National Advisory Committee for Beauty at City & Guild
- Dr Bav Shergill, British Association of Dermatologist representative and Chair of the Skin Cancer Prevention Committee

**Audience**

- Katherine Morgan, APPG Secretariat
- Victoria McNish, APPG Secretariat
- Louise Abraham, APPG Secretariat
- Jo Lloyd, Office of Carolyn Harris MP
- Eleanor Lynch, Office of Lord Taylor of Warwick

**Minutes of the Meeting**

**Judith Cummins MP** opened the meeting and welcomed the attendees.

**Judith Cummins MP** then asked **Dr Bav Shergill** to introduce himself.

**Dr Bav Shergill** stated that year-on-year, incidences of skin cancer increase by around 5%. He explained that there is not much that can be done apart from spotting skin cancer early and preventing people from indulging in behaviours that will give them skin cancer – such as sunbathing etc. He stated that more people are needed in the industry who can identify skin cancer early on. He also noted that by upskilling beauty therapists, we can reduce the overall mortality rate.

**Judith Cummins MP** thanked **Dr Bav Shergill** for his introduction and asked him what advice he would give to people.

**Dr Bav Shergill** replied that while fewer people are sunbathing, more outdoor hobbies are leading to people getting sunburnt. He also noted that the beauty industry has become more responsible, especially surrounding underage people using sunbeds.



**Carolyn Harris MP** then asked **Dr Bav Shergill** what policies he would like to see put in place to prevent skin cancer in relation to sunbeds.

**Dr Bav Shergill** replied that the beauty industry has a responsibility to protect consumers. He noted that the safest tan is out of a bottle and while you cannot legislate everything, you can inform the public as to the risks of using sunbeds excessively.

**Judith Cummins MP** inquired as to whether the sun was the only risk factor for getting skin cancer. **Dr Bav Shergill** replied that while the sun is the biggest risk factor for skin cancer, sunburn for people under the age of 20 should be seen as an important risk as well.

**Judith Cummins MP** then asked **Geoff Holmes** to introduce himself.

**Geoff Holmes** introduced himself as the Chair of the Dermatology Council for England and stressed the importance of the beauty industry's role in spotting skin cancer. **Geoff Holmes** also stated that people have a responsibility to speak up if they see something that does not look right. He said that beauty therapists and hairdressers should speak up if they see something that needs addressing.

**Judith Cummins MP** then asked **Karis Betts** to introduce herself.

**Karis Betts** introduced herself and noted first that the role of her team is to evaluate the research on skin cancer and communicate it to the public. She added that melanoma skin cancer is the fifth most common cancer in the UK, with 9/10 cases developing from unsafe exposure to the sun.

**Karis Betts** further added that Cancer Research UK also tries to break down the social norms of tanning. She noted that her team have run an 'Own Your Tone' campaign, aimed at informing young people that their own skin is beautiful and breaking down myths around 'safe tanning'. Cancer Research UK also has a corporate partnership with Nivea to make sure people are enjoying the sun safely.

**Karis Betts** concluded by noting that catching cancer early has upsides but there is an issue with 'over-diagnosis' so whilst you may find a cancer and treat it, further cancers may then not be spotted. She stressed the importance of ensuring that beauty therapists are trained to avoid over-diagnosis.

**Judith Cummins MP** then asked **Marie Tudor** to introduce herself.

**Marie Tudor** introduced her charity, Skcin, and explained how the charity is dedicated solely to skin cancer. She noted that 86% of skin cancers are preventable and so her charity focused solely on intervention and education. They run 5 accredited programmes around being safe in the sun.

**Marie Tudor** then stated that beauty therapists have a unique relationship with their clients so Skcin focus on targeting training professionals. She noted that online training has been developed to provide training to beauty therapists. One beauty therapist with training referred 8 of her clients to their GPs which helped to save lives.

**Marie Tudor** described how their training has now gone global. Their training has been endorsed by BABTAC, HABIA and the NHBF amongst others.

**Marie Tudor** also noted that that one of their next asks is to get training on skin cancer into the national curriculum. She did say, however, that Skcin were turned down by DHSC for a national skin cancer campaign.

**Judith Cummins MP** then asked **Victor Ktorakis** to introduce himself.

**Victor Ktorakis** opened by introducing himself and gave a brief overview on the current lack of regulation of UV tanning in the UK. He noted that licensing varies from borough to borough in London.



**Victor Ktorakis** stressed that he believes that a good level of training is imperative in ensuring UV tanning sessions are run safely. He said that if practitioners are given relevant training, including looking at medical history, skin type etc, a safer experience can be achieved.

**Victor Ktorakis** said that legislation in the rest of England and the UK does not have effective UV tanning regulations in place. He also said that there are far fewer enforcement officers than there were a few years ago.

**Judith Cummins MP** then passed over to **Carolyn Harris MP**.

**Carolyn Harris MP** responded to the speakers' points and thanked them for appearing.

**Carolyn Harris MP** said that it is important that the profile of the issue is raised, potentially through celebrity endorsements. She also noted that MPs should utilise their position in the House of Commons to raise awareness.

**Carolyn Harris MP** also raised the idea of creating a national campaign, working with other APPGs to raise the profile of skin cancer detection. She also stressed that working with the Teenage Cancer Trust was vital.

**Carolyn Harris MP** said that it is important that skin cancer detection becomes part of the mandatory training for beauticians working towards their qualifications.

**Judith Cummins MP** then passed over to **Gill Morris**.

**Gill Morris** introduced herself and thanked **Marie Tudor** for her fantastic work. She then told the APPG that years ago, it was attempted to get skin cancer training on qualifications but she was rejected because awarding organisations were worried about beauty therapists self-diagnosing skin cancer.

**Gill Morris** also questioned whether it was possible to work with the fashion industry to promote being pale and stressing that a tanned skin is a damaged skin. **Karen Morris** urged caution on not promoting paleness. She stated that instead, it was better to 'own your tone'.

**Gill Morris** also inquired as to whether Skcin could work with awarding organisations. **Marie Tudor** noted that she is still keen to do a national awareness campaign. She also noted that the Sunbed Association threatened Skcin because they do not believe that there is a link between skin cancer and tanning. The Sunbed Association would not sue Cancer Research UK or the World Health Organisation but would sue a smaller charity such as Skcin.

**Judith Cummins MP** thanked the attendees for their contributions and concluded the meeting.