



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA
All Party Parliamentary Engineering Group

2024 Annual Report

Introduction

The All-Party Parliamentary Engineering Group (APPEG) has enjoyed another positive year of considerable growth of both profile and numbers, holding three meetings throughout 2023, and early 2024. These events took place in the House of Lords in February, May and November and were held over lunch. Each focused on a specific subject relating to engineering: 'Skyscrapers', 'Offshore Wind' and 'Engineering for Clean Water'. Further details on each event can be found below.

Guests to these events include industry sponsors, young engineers, and school students from around the UK studying STEM subjects. The events have great success in encouraging young people to pursue careers within the engineering industry and to promote best out of the British engineering industry. A key focal point of these events is to bring young engineers into direct contact with Parliamentarians and other policy makers. Our parliamentarians greatly value the opportunity that the APPEG meetings provide for them to meet such outstanding young people. APPEG Officers often invite a local school from their constituency, or a school they have a link to.

APPEG fundamentally aims to create a platform to inspire the next generation of engineers, making the subject exciting for those attending the meetings.

Events Held

'Skyscrapers', Discussion over lunch in the House of Lords – Wednesday 22nd February 2023, 12:00-14:30.

[Skyscrapers - Meeting Minutes](#)

Speakers included:

- Professor Hanif Kara OBE, Founder AKT II
- Marta Galiñanes-Garcia, Design Director AKT II
- Natasha Bellamy, Senior Design Manager, Laing O'Rourke

'Offshore Wind', Discussion over lunch in the House of Lords – Tuesday 9th May 2023, 12:00-14:30. [Offshore Wind - Meeting Minutes](#)

Speakers included:

- Professor Hanif Kara OBE, Founder AKT II Bridgit Hartland-Johnson, Systems Integration Innovation Manager, Ørsted
- Ulas Cilingir, Lead Geotechnical Engineer, Ørsted
- Simone Schmieder. Lead Engineer, Wood Thilsted



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'Engineering for Clean Water', Discussion over lunch in the House of Lords, Tuesday 21st November, 12:00-14:30.

[Clean Water - Meeting Minutes](#)

Speakers included:

- Professor David Balmforth, Independent Consultant
- Ayo Sokale, Project Team Manager for the Environment Agency in Eastern England
- Dr. Alalea Kia, UKRI Future Leaders Fellow in the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, Imperial College London
- Sophie McPhillips CEng MICE, Practice Manager, Design & Advanced Technology

Parliamentarians in Attendance

Events were attended by an array of Parliamentarians. These included:

- Professor Lord Mair (February 2023, May 2023)
- Laurence Robertson MP (February 2023, November 2023)
- Chi Onwurah MP (February 2023, May 2023, November 2023)
- Dave Doogan MP (February 2023, May 2023)
- Stephen Metcalfe MP (February 2023, May 2023, November 2023)
- Stephen Timms MP (May 2023)
- Viscount Hanworth (February 2023)
- Lord Mackenzie of Framwellgate (February 2023)
- Lord Whitty (May 2023)
- Lord Baker (May 2023, November 2023)
- Sarah Dines MP (November 2023)
- Lord Lucas (November 2023)
- Siobhan Baillie MP (November 2023)
- Lord Cameron of Dillington (November 2023)
- Sir Peter Bottomley MP (November 2023)

Diversity of Attendees

Throughout the year, APPEG welcomed over 200 teachers, students, and young professionals to the House of Lords. 70% (142/202) of these represented secondary schools, both state and public, whilst the remainder represented post-secondary institutions such as universities, colleges, and academies.

- This reflects the group's mission to encourage young people to pursue careers within the engineering industry.



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Furthermore, over 37% (75/202) of APPEG attendees in 2023 were female, a vast increase on the 16.5% of women who are currently engineers in the UK.

- This statistic outlines APPEG's mission to support prospective female engineers to fulfil their potential and support the engineering industry more generally to be more inclusive.

Student Feedback

This past year, we have received extensive positive feedback from teachers and students alike, who noted just how valuable these sessions are for students looking to enter the engineering industry. Teachers outlined just how unique a chance these events are for pupils to exchange ideas with business leaders and experts in the field about the current landscape in engineering and those areas in need of further development and innovation. Some examples of feedback include:

- *'These are really good occasions and very useful for providing valuable insights into how Westminster operates so I thank you again for inviting me'* – Matt Gow, Headington Girls School
- *'The three sixth formers, from Tewkesbury Academy were buzzing about the day and thought the speakers were wonderful and very informative'* – Jerry Brown, Tewkesbury Academy
- *'The students are loving these opportunities and are so excited when they are asked to be involved in these sessions. Most importantly it develops and deepens their knowledge of the world of engineering and science that inspires them to progress in this area'* – Neil Wilkinson, The Bemrose School