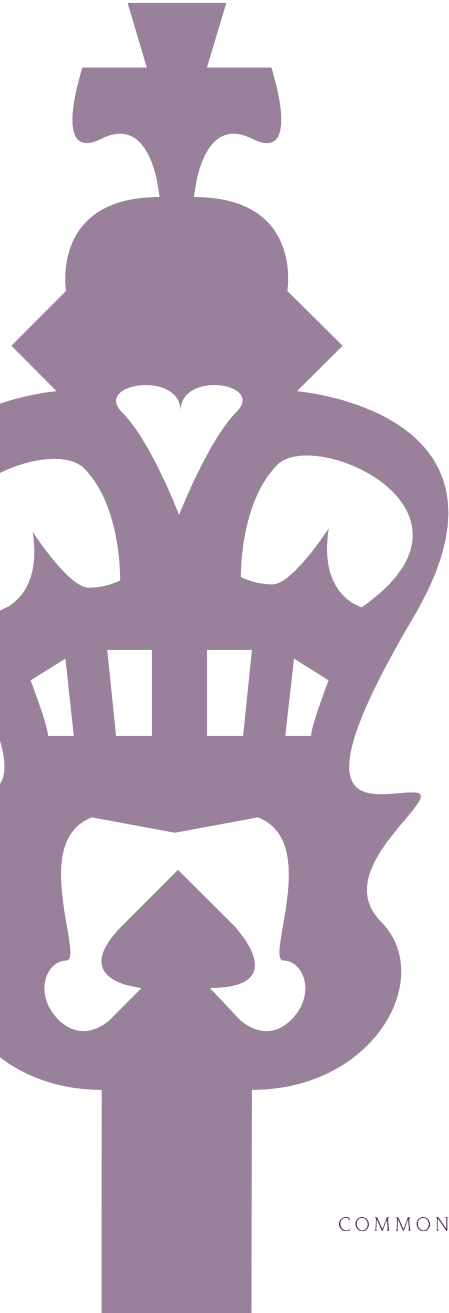




HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT



CPA UK
ANNUAL REVIEW
2014/2015

COMMONWEALTH PARLIAMENTARY ASSOCIATION UK



INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the Annual Review of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association UK (CPA UK) for the Financial Year 2014/15.

In line with its mission to strengthen parliamentary democracy, CPA UK has continued to work with and on behalf of Members of the UK Parliament to support partner Parliaments by delivering innovative and effective capacity-building programmes for parliamentarians. It has also incorporated a focus on sustainable development in these programmes to support democracy, good governance, human rights and environmental sustainability. By harnessing international respect for the Westminster Parliament and its professional expertise, CPA UK continues to meet the ever-increasing demand for programmes to build the capacity of Commonwealth and non-Commonwealth parliamentarians and officials.

In FY 2014/15 CPA UK increased its focus on the vital importance of good governance to democracy and development. This theme will be a major element of the post-2015 global development framework, the Sustainable Development Goals, due to be adopted in 2015. In its recent inquiry into parliamentary strengthening, the International Development Select Committee highlighted the UK Government's commitment to good governance and identified parliamentary strengthening activities as '*essential to...increasing the accountability of Governments, reducing poverty, tackling corruption and preventing conflicts.*' CPA UK is a significant channel through which such work can continue to be delivered by harnessing the commitment, expertise and enthusiasm of its Members.

In June 2014 the CPA UK Secretariat finalised its study to determine how the Executive Committee's mandate to grow CPA UK's international outreach work might be delivered more effectively and efficiently. Following the Executive Committee's endorsement of the recommendations of the study, CPA UK implemented a challenging restructure. Two operational teams have been formed – International Outreach and Conferences & Projects, supported by a central team responsible for strategy, business development, communications and finance and corporate services. The new and streamlined structure will ensure a better, more efficient and flexible delivery of CPA UK's work. It also will give CPA UK the capability to leverage resources to increase its work and enhance its reputation as a trusted partner by collaborating with other actors in the delivery of parliamentary strengthening programmes in international development fora.

During FY 2014/15 CPA UK worked with the United Nations Development Programme, the Foreign & Commonwealth Office, the World Bank, the National Audit Office and Volunteer Services Overseas among others in addition to organisations and parliamentary offices in-country.

Plans are well under way for FY 2015/16 which promises to be just as industrious and productive.

MULTILATERAL PROGRAMMES

60TH COMMONWEALTH PARLIAMENTARY CONFERENCE – CAMEROON

A delegation of five MPs and Peers attended the Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference in Yaoundé, hosted by the National Assembly and Senate of Cameroon 2-10 October 2014. Rt Hon. Sir Alan Haselhurst MP and Dr Roberta Blackman-Woods MP also attended in their respective capacities as Chairperson and Regional Representative on the CPA Executive Committee.



The four-day programme of the main conference explored the theme 'Repositioning the Commonwealth for the Post-2015 Development Agenda,' and included workshops, plenary sessions and business meetings. Annual meetings of the CPA Small Branches and Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians were also held.

The UK delegation attended a networking reception with British trade and investment partners at the British High Commission and visited Mefou National Park, a primate sanctuary run in partnership with Bristol Zoo where primates orphaned by poachers or whose habitat has been destroyed as a result of human activities are brought to live.

CPA UK thanks the conference team from the National Assembly of Cameroon, led by Deputy Speaker Hon. Emilia Monjowa Lifaka, HE Brian Olley and the staff of the British High Commission in Yaoundé and all those involved in facilitating the UK delegation's participation.

THE 63RD WESTMINSTER SEMINAR

This year's Westminster Seminar on Parliamentary Practice & Procedure, CPA UK's flagship annual capacity-building programme for Commonwealth MPs and Clerks, was held 16-20 June 2014. With a record 80 delegates participating, the programme was keenly focused and interactive.



As in previous years, the delegates were able to hear from high-profile Westminster parliamentarians, clerks and officials, including the House of Commons Speaker Rt Hon. John Bercow MP, Lord Speaker Rt Hon. Baroness D'Souza CMG, Commonwealth

Minister Rt Hon. Hugo Swire MP, and the Clerks of each House on a broad range of subjects. The final day was spent shadowing MPs in their constituencies which delegates found particularly valuable.

4TH WESTMINSTER WORKSHOP & COMMONWEALTH ASSOCIATION OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEES

CPA UK hosted the 4th Westminster Workshop 23-26 June 2014. The Workshop focussed on parliamentary financial scrutiny and was designed to enhance the capacity and effectiveness of 90 Members and Clerks of Commonwealth PACs and other parliamentary committees. The programme was again created with the support of the National Audit Office (NAO) and the UK Parliament's Scrutiny Unit.



In the final session, delegates agreed milestones for the establishment of a Commonwealth Association of Public Accounts Committees (CAPAC) which had been proposed at the previous year's Westminster Workshop. An Executive Committee has been formed and a constitution for CAPAC drafted. The Constitution was adopted at the 5th Westminster Workshop held in June 2015 in Valetta in partnership with the Parliament of Malta.

INTERNATIONAL PARLIAMENTARY CONFERENCE ON GROWTH FOR DEVELOPMENT



CPA UK, working with UNDP and the World Bank delivered the International Parliamentary Conference on Growth for Development 18-20 November 2014. Highlights of the programme included keynote addresses by Professor Muhammad Yunus OBE, Founder of the Grameen Bank and Nobel Peace Laureate; Professor Jeffrey Sachs, Special Advisor to the UN Secretary General on the Millennium Development Goals and Post-2015 Agenda; Rt Hon. Helen

Clark ONZ, UNDP Administrator and former Prime Minister of New Zealand; and Priti Patel MP, then Exchequer Secretary to HM Treasury.

Over the course of the three-day conference the international parliamentarians explored in detail the criteria for making economic growth inclusive, sustainable, and transparent in discussions guided by leading experts, advocates and politicians. Themes included mobilising resources through trade and tax, combatting corruption and working for transparent government, and partnering with the private sector and civil society to achieve investment for sustainable growth.

At the close of the programme, delegates agreed a robust set of recommendations in a communiqué calling on governments, the private sector and civil society to cooperate in pursuit of the eradication of global poverty

ONE-DAY WORKSHOP ON PARLIAMENTARY ENGAGEMENT WITH THE EXTRACTIVE INDUSTRIES

On Friday 20 November 2014, CPA UK partnered with the Natural Resource Governance Institute to deliver a one-day workshop on the extractive industries for the International Parliamentary Conference delegates with a particular interest in natural resources. The workshop focused on practical and realistic ways in which parliamentarians can exercise their oversight function and engage with extractive industries nationally and internationally, sharing case-studies of best practice and responses to mutual challenges.

HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE MODERN DAY COMMONWEALTH:

MAGNA CARTA TO COMMONWEALTH CHARTER

From 4-6 February 2015, CPA UK hosted a conference for 50 Commonwealth MPs exploring the development of human rights recognition, from Magna Carta sealed 800 years ago to the Commonwealth Charter of 2013. The Conference formed part of Parliament's commemorations of the 800th anniversary and included an opportunity to view the four original copies of the Magna Carta brought together for the first time since 1215.

The thought-provoking programme involved an exploration of the origins of human rights – from Magna Carta to the Universal Declaration to the Commonwealth Charter and national constitutions – as well as discussion of specific rights, such as freedom of expression, the rights of children not to be forced into marriage and those of LGBTI



people. Delegates had the opportunity to engage with experts including the well-known academic Professor Vernon Bogdanor of the University of Oxford, notable lawyer Sir Nigel Rodley KBE, Chair of the UN Human Rights Committee, high-profile civil society activist Jonathan Cooper of the Human Dignity Trust and senior parliamentarian Commonwealth Minister Rt Hon. Hugo Swire MP.

On the final day, 30 Commonwealth Scholars joined delegates to debate the relationship between morality and the law.

PARLIAMENTARY STRENGTHENING AND PARLIAMENTARY DIPLOMACY

This year, a large proportion of CPA UK work has continued to be international parliamentary outreach through parliamentary strengthening and diplomacy programmes. Emphasis is placed on long-term parliamentary partnership programmes (PPP), prioritising these over ad hoc projects for better continuity, value for money and measurement of outcomes.

AMERICAS, CARIBBEAN & EUROPE

Canada. Continuing CPA UK's strong bilateral relationship with Canada, a delegation of six UK MPs and Peers visited Canada's Federal Parliament and two provincial legislatures in Newfoundland and the Northwest Territories 6-12 April 2014. A delegation of Canadian MPs was later hosted in Westminster 19-21 January 2015 for a programme focused on post-referendum devolution arrangements considered for Scotland.



At provincial level, CPA UK arranged a short programme for Hon. Jacques Chagnon MNA, President of the Québec National Assembly, on 9 March 2015 and contributed to a programme for the Speaker and Deputy Speaker of the Ontario Legislative Assembly arranged by the House of Commons Overseas Office.

In his capacity as Chairperson of the International CPA Executive Committee, Rt Hon. Sir Alan Haselhurst MP attended the Canada Regional Conference 20-25 July 2014, held in New Brunswick.

Guernsey. A delegation of Deputies from the States of Guernsey visited Westminster 26-27 January 2015. Their programme was designed to increase delegates' understanding of the UK Parliament and the Westminster System.

Jamaica. A delegation of three MPs from Jamaica, including Deputy Speaker Hon. Lloyd B. Smith MP, visited Westminster 14-17 October 2014. The delegation met UK parliamentarians and officials and undertook a constituency visit to foster a greater understanding of the Westminster System with particular reference to the administration and procedure of the House of Commons and the role of a backbench MP.



Montserrat. In its capacity as the Secretariat for the CPA British Islands & Mediterranean Region, CPA UK organised an Election Observer Mission (EOM) to Montserrat for its General Election which took place on 11 September 2014. Six new Members of the Legislative Assembly were elected (of a total of nine). CPA BIMR subsequently organised a Post-Election Seminar in Montserrat 13-16 January 2015 to strengthen knowledge, skills and capacity of these newly elected parliamentarians



Trinidad & Tobago. CPA UK arranged a visit of a cross-party delegation of six UK Parliamentarians to Trinidad & Tobago in February 2015. The visit consisted of six days in Port of Spain, Trinidad, followed by the final day in Tobago. Based primarily in



Parliament and a number of Ministries, the programme comprised of bilateral sessions with key stakeholders from across the political and civil society spectrum.

On 25 November 2014, CPA UK also hosted a group of 15 young people from the Ministry of Tobago Development as part of a study tour of the UK. The programme looked at devolution in the UK.

AFRICA

Cameroon. In addition to the UK delegation's attendance at the Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference in Yaoundé, on 8 May CPA UK hosted a well-attended round-table with the Prime Minister of Cameroon, H.E. Philémon Yang, who visited the UK to participate in a UK-Cameroon Trade & Investment Forum.

Ghana. Five Members of the House Committee of the Parliament of Ghana, including the Majority Leader and Majority and Minority Chief Whips, and three clerks visited Westminster 9-11 February 2015 for a programme on the governance, administration and management of the House of Commons.

CPA UK also ran two programmes for staff of the Ghanaian Parliament. The first, for its international relations staff, explored the work of the Overseas Offices of the Houses of Commons and Lords, country APPGs and CPA UK, 28-30 April 2014. A Ghanaian parliamentary staff delegation visited Parliament 29 April-2 May 2014 to explore the work of the Scrutiny Unit and Parliament's internal financial management systems, with a view to setting up

equivalent offices and processes in the Ghanaian Parliament.

Kenya. CPA UK continued its longstanding capacity-building programme with the Kenya Women's Parliamentary Association (KEWOPA) with a programme for eleven MPs who visited the UK 9-12 June for a programme of exchanges with parliamentary colleagues, comparing parliamentary practices and the experiences of women parliamentarians in Kenya and the UK. Their programme included discussions on a range of thematic issues, including tackling violence against women and FGM, the portrayal of women parliamentarians in the media and the role of parliamentarians in fighting corruption. In partnership with VSO, CPA UK sent Meg Munn MP to Kenya in April 2014 to undertake a short-term political volunteering project to support KEWOPA's work on improving women's representation in the Kenyan Parliament. Baroness Hodgson of Abinger CBE also contributed to a seminar run by the Kenyan National Assembly and the State University of New York for Kenya's new cadre of Women County Representatives.



Lesotho. The Prime Minister of Lesotho visited the UK 7-8 April 2014, during which CPA UK coordinated a roundtable meeting in Parliament chaired by Ian Lucas MP, who had participated in a CPA post-election seminar in Lesotho in 2013.



Mauritius. Following the Mauritian elections of 2014, from 14-15 January 2015 CPA UK hosted a programme for the new Deputy Speaker of the Mauritius National Assembly, Hon. Adrien Charles Duval MP, designed to strengthen UK-Mauritius links, discuss shared experience of post-election induction processes for new MPs and provide an overview of recent reforms to the UK Parliament.

Mozambique. Four MPs from the Parliament of Mozambique visited the UK for a programme in Westminster 15-17 July 2014 designed to provide an insight into the role and functions of committees at Westminster. From 9-11 March 2015 CPA UK then hosted a programme for a delegation of MPs from the Parliament's Administration Board, led by the First Deputy Speaker, Hon. Antonio Amelia MP. As the Administration Board prepares to reform its role and functions in

Mozambique, the delegation's Westminster programme provided an overview of the changing governance and management structure in the House of Commons. From 8-11 September 2014 CPA UK ran a Westminster familiarisation programme for ten officials of the Parliament of Mozambique whose responsibilities ranged from procedural work, committee support, human resources and policy advice.

Rwanda. In the year that the country commemorated the 20th anniversary of the genocide, from 2-5 December 2014 CPA UK hosted a delegation of Rwandan Parliamentarians in Westminster, led by Senator Tito Rutaremara. During its four-day programme the group met a large number of UK parliamentarians with an interest in Rwanda. The delegation also visited Meg Hillier MP's constituency of Hackney South and Shoreditch to learn about the work of UK MPs in their constituency, and to meet with members of the Rwandan diaspora community in East London.



Sierra Leone. CPA UK hosted a visit of the Speaker of Sierra Leone who visited the UK 1-2 July 2014 to examine the role of the Speaker and Clerk of the House in the administration and procedure of the UK Parliament. A two week training programme for the final cohort of Sierra Leone Clerks to be trained by CPA UK was programmed for September 2014. Sadly the Ebola crisis caused that programme to be postponed. In February 2015 CPA UK facilitated a one-day visit to the Parliament of Sierra Leone for Rt Hon. Baroness Hayman GBE, including a meeting with the Health Committee, as part of a wider visit investigating the ongoing impact of Ebola on the country.

Swaziland. The President and Clerk of the Senate of Swaziland visited the UK 23-24 June 2014; CPA UK facilitated a programme designed to enhance their understanding of the role and responsibilities of parliamentary presiding officers and practice and procedure at Westminster.

Tanzania. CPA UK hosted five MPs and two officials from the Tanzanian Parliament's recently formed Budget Committee in Westminster 20-23 October 2014. Their programme focused on budget processes and parliamentary scrutiny of the budget in the UK and included meetings at the Bank of England, the Treasury and the Debt Management Office. This was followed on 10 November 2014 by a visit of Tanzania's Minister for Good Governance and Members of the Parliamentary Committee on Constitution, Legal Affairs and Administration, who



wished to gain a better understanding of anti-corruption efforts in the UK. Working with the Zanzibar House of Representatives, from 27-30 October 2014 CPA UK hosted a delegation of nine parliamentary officials, for a programme focused on enhancing the relationship between Members and officials, exploring ways to improve research skills for staff and strengthening parliamentary outreach.

ASIA-PACIFIC

South Asia. From 7-9 July 2014 CPA UK hosted a workshop on promoting the rights of women for South Asian and UK women parliamentarians. Female MPs from Afghanistan, Bangladesh, the Maldives, Burma, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and the UK participated in the programme,



which explored themes such as women's treatment in the legal system and representation in the judiciary; women's economic empowerment and access to finance; women's participation in politics; and women's rights issues such as early and forced marriage and violence against women. This was the fourth South Asian programme and ran in partnership with the Women's Parliamentary Caucus from the Parliament of Pakistan. The partnership aims to improve women's representation in public life.

Australia. On Monday 17 November 2014, Senator Gavin Marshall, Deputy President of the Australian Senate, visited Westminster for an afternoon of meetings with UK parliamentarians.



Fiji. CPA UK facilitated the participation of Meg Munn MP, Chair of the Pacific Islands All-Party Parliamentary Group, to the Multinational Observer Group, co-led by Australia, Indonesia and India at the invitation of the Fijian Government, to observe the 2014 Elections on 17 September; Fiji's first multiparty democratic election since a military coup in 2006. In the wake of the landmark election and in

partnership with UNDP, CPA UK welcomed a senior delegation from the Parliament of Fiji to Westminster and Scotland 23-30 January 2015. The delegation was led by Dr Jiko Luveni, the Speaker of the Parliament of Fiji, and included the Leader of Government in Parliament, the Leader of the Opposition and the Secretary-General of Parliament. Their programme addressed a range of themes, including effective parliamentary scrutiny, the role of the Opposition, and administration. It is expected that the visit will lead to further engagement with the Parliament of Fiji, in partnership with the UNDP Pacific Centre.

India. CPA UK continued its strong bilateral engagement with India both at Union and State level. For the past three years this engagement has been supported by the British High Commission Delhi and DfID India. This year's delegation, which visited from 15-21 February 2015, was led by the Lord Speaker, Rt Hon. Baroness D'Souza CMG, and the schedule included programmes in New Delhi as well as the State legislatures of West Bengal and Assam. From 4-7 November 2014 CPA UK also hosted a delegation of seven Legislative Assembly Members from Andhra



Pradesh, Karnataka and Kerala supported by the BHC Bangalore. This visit followed visits by UK Members to Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka in 2012 and 2014 as part of CPA UK's annual engagement with the Union and State Legislatures. The visit explored the political arrangements in the UK and India and the challenges inherent to devolution of powers. It is expected that this programme will lead to further engagement between CPA UK and Indian State Legislatures.

Malaysia. On Monday 16 June 2014 the President of the Malaysian Senate accompanied by five Senators and several officials visited Parliament for a half-day programme arranged by CPA UK. Whilst here, he met with the Lord Speaker, Rt Hon. Baroness D'Souza CMG.

New Zealand. A delegation of six UK MPs and Peers visited New Zealand 25 May-1 June 2014 for a programme designed to strengthen links with New Zealand colleagues and explore the political landscape in advance of the general election later in 2014. A reciprocal visit to the UK will be taking place during 2015/2016. Following a meeting with the UK delegation whilst it was in New Zealand, the team representing New Zealand at the Invictus Games in London visited Parliament on Monday 8 September 2014 for a tour and short programme with Rt Hon. Lord McNally and arranged by CPA UK.

Pacific Islands. The first part of the UK delegation's visit to New Zealand was spent in multilateral discussions with parliamentary colleagues from the Pacific

countries of the **Cook Islands, Kiribati, Samoa, Tonga and Tuvalu**, which focused on seeking solutions to the developmental challenges faced by these small island nations.



Pakistan. CPA UK worked in partnership with the Pakistan Institute of Legislative Development and Transparency (PILDAT) to host a delegation of senior Members from the Parliament of Pakistan 2-5 December 2015 in Westminster to discuss parliamentary oversight of the national security strategy, defence spending and intelligence-related activities. This was the second programme CPA UK has run in partnership with PILDAT exploring the formulation and oversight of national security as well as the changing regional and international security landscapes. CPA UK also hosted a one-day programme for a delegation consisting of two Members of the National Assembly and five members of the Youth Parliament of Pakistan on Monday 23 February 2015 as part of their European Study tour. Additionally, on 24 February 2015, as part of a week-long programme organised by the International Republican Institute, CPA UK hosted

a delegation including Members from the National Assembly and Provincial Assemblies in Pakistan for a series of meetings with colleagues and viewing of proceedings in the Chambers and relevant committees.

UNDP

From 2-6 March 2015, CPA UK ran a programme for UNDP country programme officers designed to familiarise them with the Westminster Parliament and to consider opportunities for CPA UK and UNDP to collaborate on future programmes.

UK PARLIAMENTARY ACTIVITIES

CPA UK DISCUSSION SERIES

CPA UK's discussion series, now in its fourth year, is a forum in which CPA UK highlights important issues affecting the Commonwealth and wider international community to MPs, Peers, parliamentary staff, and civil society to facilitate dialogue. Tackling ever-more provocative and thought-provoking topics, the panels feature parliamentarians, academics, activists and other experts from across the Commonwealth.

During 2014/2015, the lecture series took in the following topics:

- 'Mandela's "ideal of a democratic and free society": where does it stand 20 years on?' – 2 April 2014
- "'Implacably opposed to all forms of discrimination": The Commonwealth and LGBT rights' – 7 May 2014
- 'An audience with Rt Hon. Margaret Hodge MBE MP' – 10 June 2014
- 'The human cost of illicit financial flows' – 22 October 2014
- 'The Good Country Index' – 10 November 2014
- 'The Commonwealth and the Great War' – 10 December 2014
- 'Freedom of the press in Commonwealth countries: How far should regulation go?' – 14 January 2015
- 'The 2015 Nigerian elections' – 24 February 2015
- 'Creating Gender-Sensitive Parliaments: A breakfast to mark International Women's Day,' hosted jointly by CPA UK, the BGIPU, VSO and Parliagender – 10 March 2015

SUPPORTING THE WIDER COMMONWEALTH PARLIAMENTARY ASSOCIATION

CHAIRPERSON OF THE CPA INTERNATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Along with the CPA HQ Secretariat, CPA UK continued to provide support for Rt Hon. Sir Alan Haselhurst MP until the conclusion of his three-year term as Chairperson of the CPA International Executive Committee in October 2014. From his election in 2011 until August 2014, CPA UK employed an International Relations Officer to support Sir Alan's and the CPA HQ's work during his term as Chairperson.

Sir Alan's successor as Chairperson, Hon. Dr Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury MP, Speaker of the Parliament of Bangladesh, was elected at the 60th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference in Cameroon in October 2014. CPA UK's Executive Committee and Members wish her all the best for her term as Chairperson and look forward to the implementation of her plans to modernise and reinvigorate the CPA.

CPA Secretary-General. The CPA this year experienced the loss of its long-serving Secretary-General, Dr William F Shija, who died in London on 4 October 2014, the eve of the 60th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference. Dr Shija was a dedicated public servant with a lifelong commitment to democracy, demonstrated throughout his career as a civil servant, Member of the Parliament of Tanzania and CPA Secretary-General. CPA UK, its Executive Committee and its Members once again express their condolences to his family and colleagues.

BRITISH ISLANDS & MEDITERRANEAN REGION

CPA UK continues to provide the secretariat for the British Islands and Mediterranean Region (BIMR) and the BIMR Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians. The 2014 BIMR Conference was held in Cardiff, at the Welsh Assembly Branch, 27-29 May 2014. The highly innovative programme explored 'equality of access to democracy.' Meetings included a simultaneously-translated session in Welsh and English discussing bilingualism and official languages in parliaments, and a session on engaging young people in politics with members of the Welsh World Schools debating team.

The BIMR CWP group held steering committee meetings, chaired by Patricia Ferguson MSP, in Westminster in June and December 2014. Its second annual conference was hosted by the CPA Gibraltar Branch 6-8 February 2015, exploring violence against women. The programme included addresses from Rt Hon. Baroness Scotland of Asthal QC, Hon. Dr Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury, Speaker of the Parliament of Bangladesh and CPA Chairperson, and Hon. Rebecca Kadaga MP, Speaker of the Parliament of Uganda and Chair of CWP.

CPA BIMR has also supported programmes during and following up the elections in Montserrat, more details of which are included above.

FORTHCOMING ACTIVITIES – FINANCIAL YEAR 2015/16

ELECTION ASSESSMENT MISSION TO THE UK GENERAL ELECTION

CPA UK will bring Observers from Commonwealth Parliaments and electoral commissions to the UK to conduct an Election Assessment Mission to the UK General Election in May 2015. The Mission will observe electoral conduct and processes in a sample of six constituencies and will publish its findings in a preliminary statement immediately after the election and a final report to be published at the end of May.

The project follows a small-scale Election Assessment Mission to the 2010 General Election, which highlighted several areas for improvement and made a series of recommendations.

5TH WESTMINSTER WORKSHOP: THE PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE

CPA UK, in partnership with CPA Malta, will host the 5th Westminster Workshop: Effective, Independent and Transparent Public Accounts Committees for Robust Public Financial Oversight, 1–4 June 2015, which will take place in Malta.

Continuing the momentum created by the November 2013 Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM), which expressed support for strengthening Public Accounts Committees across Commonwealth, the 5th Westminster Workshop will provide a platform for the official launch of the Commonwealth Association of Public Accounts Committees (CAPAC).

WORKSHOP ON PARLIAMENTARY ACTION ON TAX TRANSPARENCY, TAX AVOIDANCE AND TAX EVASION

CPA UK and OECD will deliver a workshop in Westminster on 8 and 9 June on Parliamentary Action on Tax Transparency, Tax Evasion and Tax Avoidance. The workshop will aim to increase the knowledge and capacity, and address the responsibilities of parliamentarians in the areas of tax transparency and tax avoidance considered crucial for the delivery of transformative, inclusive and sustainable development outcomes within the post-2015 Sustainable Development Goals. The Workshop will be attended by around 40 parliamentarians from Commonwealth and non-Commonwealth African legislatures, along with academics, specialists and civil society and will be an opportunity to discuss tax transparency issues in an interactive and participatory forum.

The event will highlight the challenges facing countries wishing to address revenue lost through illicit financial flows and the ways in which tax evasion and tax avoidance contribute to this problem. The latest developments regarding Base Erosion and Profit-Shifting and current issues of information exchange will also be addressed. It is planned that the workshop will culminate in the development of an action plan for parliamentarians.

64TH WESTMINSTER SEMINAR ON PARLIAMENTARY PRACTICE & PROCEDURE

Now entering its 64th year, CPA UK's flagship capacity building programme will this year take place in late 2015 due to the UK General Election. In light of the large number of new Members in the new Parliament, this year's programme will focus on first-term MPs and will see the establishment of an informal network of new MPs.

REGIONAL WORKSHOPS & INTERNATIONAL PARLIAMENTARY CONFERENCE 2016

In autumn 2015, CPA UK will deliver a series of regional workshops designed to create local and regional momentum for our annual International Parliamentary Conference which will take place in March 2016. The workshops will be delivered in partnership with UNDP. Each programme will focus on aspects of sustainable development of particular relevance to parliamentarians in each region and the outcomes will influence the content of the International Parliamentary Conference which will pull together the themes from the 4th Financing for Development Meeting in Addis Ababa (July), the UN Sustainable Development Post-2015 meeting (September) and the UNFCCC COP21 in Paris (December).

The International Parliamentary Conference will be focused on Sustainability, Energy and Development and will bring together parliamentarians, academics and leaders in the field to consider practical and innovative approaches for parliamentary engagement on sustainability, resource management, energy security, climate change, economic management and development issues in this "once in a generation opportunity" for the International Development community.

PRESIDENTS

Rt Hon. Baroness D'Souza CMG, Lord Speaker

Rt Hon. John Bercow MP, Speaker of the House of Commons

CHAIR OF THE BRANCH

Rt Hon. David Cameron MP, Prime Minister

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Rt Hon. Sir Kevin Barron MP (Hon. Treasurer)

Sir Hugh Bayley MP

Dr Roberta Blackman-Woods MP (Regional Representative)

Rt Hon. Sir Malcolm Bruce MP

Rt Hon. Baroness Corston (Co-opted Member)

Mr Thomas Docherty MP

Rt Hon. Lord Dholakia OBE DL

Rt Hon. Lord Foulkes of Cumnock

Rt Hon. David Hanson MP

Rt Hon. Sir Alan Haselhurst MP (Chair)

Rt Hon. Baroness Hayman GBE

Rt Hon. Baroness Hooper CMG

Rt Hon. Baroness Hughes of Stretford

Mrs Pauline Latham OBE MP

Mr Ian Liddell-Grainger MP

Rt Hon. Professor Lord McColl of Dulwich CBE

Miss Anne McIntosh MP

Mr John Robertson MP

Mr Andrew Rosindell MP

Mr Craig Whittaker MP

Mr Pete Wishart MP (Co-opted Member)

CPA UK STAFF

Chief Executive & Secretary: Andrew Tuggey DL

Deputy Chief Executive & Head of Strategy: Helen Haywood

Head of Finance, Administration & Human Resources: Edith David

Communications Manager: Julia Beck

Executive Assistant: Emily Pignon

HR Advisor: Alison Macdonald (until September 2014); Sharon Moses (from September 2014)

Finance & Administration Assistant: Rita Patel

International Relations Officer: Charlotte Restorick (until August 2014)

Head of International Outreach: Hatty Cooper

Deputy Head of International Outreach: Morna Richards (until September 2014); Mariam El-Azm (from February 2015)

Americas, Caribbean and Europe Programme Manager: Matthew Salik

Africa Programme Manager: Rachael Cox

Asia Pacific Programme Manager: Mariam El-Azm (until January 2015) Robert Harper (from February 2015)

Programme Officers: Elisa Cattaneo (until January 2015); Robert Harper (from October 2014)

Team Leader, Americas, Atlantic & Caribbean: Kirsty Jackson (until September 2014)

Head of Conferences & Projects: Ann Hodkinson

Deputy Head of Conferences & Projects: Victoria Bower

Projects & Programmes Manager: Ieva Indriunaite

Conference Officer: Christopher O'Donnell (September-December 2014)

Conference Assistants: Frances Haycock (until June 2014); Rachael Atkins (from October 2014); Helen Gardner (from October 2014)

FINANCIAL REVIEW

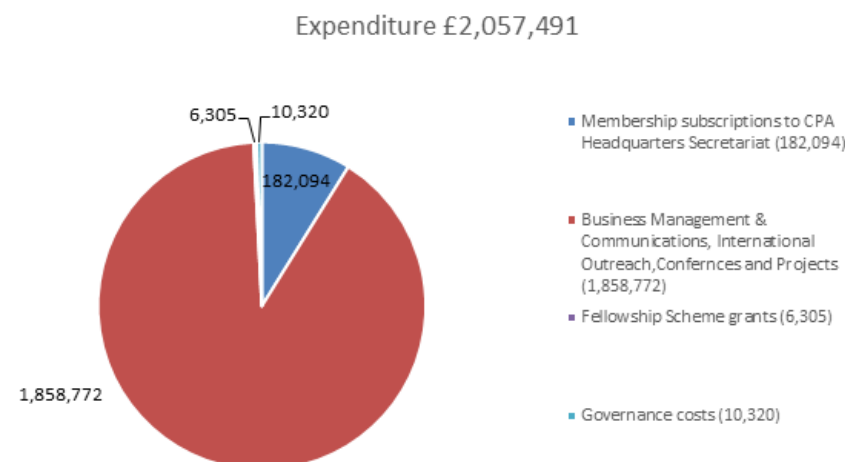
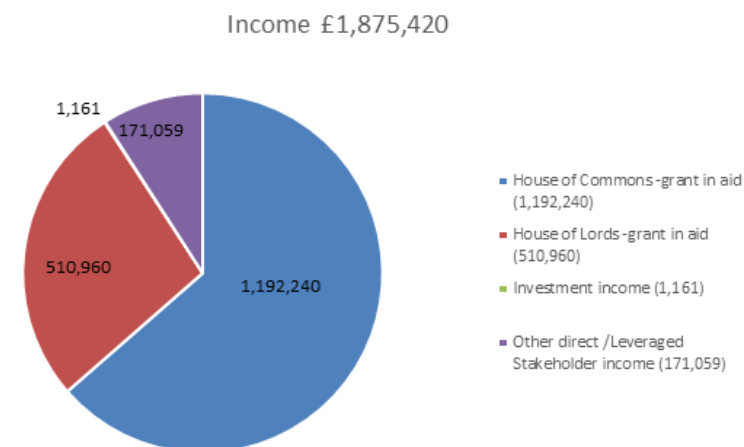
For the FY 2014/2015, CPA UK was allocated an annual grant-in-aid payment of **£1,753,200** from the Houses of Parliament (70% Commons and 30% Lords), but in the quarter 4 did not draw down £50,000. Therefore actual payment received from Parliament over the FY were **£1,703,200**.

In addition to the contributions of **£28,227** received from CPA HQ Secretariat for CPA UK travel to annual Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference, CPA UK leveraged **£142,832** from government departments and parliamentary partners in order to deliver more programmes. Of that leveraged amount, **£92,344** comprised reimbursements for travel and accommodation for CPA UK programmes and **£50,488** was received for programmes such as election observing missions. CPA UK also drew down funds from its reserves; not only to ensure that the level of reserves met CPA UK’s reserve policy, but also to meet the demand for CPA UK programmes. The overall impact was a year-end overspend of £175,766 of unrestricted funds.

Reserves Policy. CPA UK’s reserves policy is that no more than one quarter of the annual agreed funding (£1,753,200) will be retained as reserves at any one time. Thus CPA UK reserves should stand at **£438,300**. As at 31 March 2015, CPA UK’s reserve stood at **£414,829** (compared with £590,595 as at 1 April 2014); **£23,741** below the reserve policy level. The Incoming Executive Committee will monitor the level of reserves carefully during the coming period.

CPA UK Fellowship Scheme. On 19 April 2000 the Executive Committee designated a stand-alone fund of non-public money, raised by sponsorship for the 1986 CPC in London, as the CPA UK Fellowship Scheme. The Scheme assists CPA UK Members to study specific topics in Commonwealth countries, which add value to CPA UK’s work. In the year to 31 March 2015, two All Party Parliamentary Groups applied successfully to the scheme for study visits to Commonwealth countries with grants totalling **£6,305**, leaving a year-end balance of **£63,339** in the scheme. The new Executive Committee will encourage Members to apply for grants from the scheme.

CPA UK ANALYSIS OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE IN THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2015



CPA UK receives an annual grant-in-aid payment from the Houses of Parliament and also leverages funds from government departments and parliamentary partners, these funds and the interest from investment funds accounts for its unrestricted funds spent on the core activities. The Houses of Parliament requires grants received to be applied to need and spent in the year it relates as no more than one quarter of the annual funding will be retained as reserve at any one time. In the year, CPA UK had incoming resources of £1,875,420 and a total spend of £ 2,057,491 the overspend of £182,071 were set-off by the deficit of £175,766 from the Unrestricted funds reserve and the deficit of £6,305 being Fellowship Scheme grants awarded met from the Designated funds. The total funds to be carried forward at the end of the year is £478,168 made up of £414,829 from the Unrestricted funds and £63,339 being Fellowship Scheme grants balance.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE'S STATEMENT TO THE SUMMARISED FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

These summarised financial activities contain information from the Income and Expenditure Account for the year ended 31 March 2015. They are not the full statutory report and accounts.

The full financial statements were approved by the CPA UK Branch Executive Committee on Tuesday 23 June 2015; also the Directors of the Company and Trustees of the Charity. The accounts will be submitted to the Charity Commission and to Companies' House. Copies of the full accounts with notes may be obtained from www.uk-cpa.org.

The full CPA UK Branch accounts received an unqualified audit report by H W Fisher & Company.

Rt Hon. Sir Alan Haselhurst MP
Chair

Rt Hon. Sir Kevin Barron MP
Honorary Treasurer

Plans for the future

With the adoption of the new global development framework later this year, and the near-universal emphasis on the role strong institutions play in sustainable development, CPA UK sees an ever-growing need for parliamentary strengthening work. Over the next parliament, CPA UK will seek to enhance its role in the field, working to become the first choice partner for the UK Government and UK parliamentarians. In the wake of the International Development Committee's report on parliamentary strengthening CPA UK will work in partnership with other organisations, and in particular the Westminster Foundation for Democracy, with the aim of bidding successfully for parliamentary governance development work for DfID and others.

In recent years, soft power has held growing importance in international relations, and Westminster and the Westminster System of parliamentary democracy are acknowledged to be one of the UK's primary tools for influence. The convening power of the UK Parliament is evidenced by the fast-increasing demand for programmes involving UK Members both in the UK and in-country. CPA UK, in all its programmes, seeks to promote Westminster and reinforce the esteem in which it is held by other Commonwealth countries.

Of special note is the work planned to expose Commonwealth Parliaments to the UK's legislation on Modern Day Slavery which will involve close cooperation with the Home Office and the Independent Anti-Trafficking Commissioner.

At the General Election, a number of prominent and active members of CPA UK will have retired and over a hundred new MPs will have been elected to Parliament. A number of new Peers will be appointed in the Dissolution Honours. Whilst the excellent contributions of those standing down will be a loss to CPA UK's programmes, the new intake of MPs presents an opportunity to enhance CPA UK's international outreach activities by incorporating the variety of experience and knowledge they will bring. As such all MPs and serving Members of the House of Lords now are automatically members of CPA UK.

We extend our thanks and best wishes for the future to retiring Members and a very warm welcome to those joining – and those returning to – Parliament.

