

**COMMONWEALTH PARLIAMENTARY ASSOCIATION
BRITISH ISLANDS AND MEDITERRANEAN REGION**

**POST-ELECTION SEMINAR
ANGUILLA HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY
10-12 AUGUST 2015**



REPORT

CPA BIMR Secretariat

Westminster Hall London United Kingdom SW1A 0AA
T: +44 (0) 20 7219 5373 | F: +44 (0) 20 7233 1202
E: cpa@parliament.uk | W: www.uk-cpa.org

1.	EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	2
2.	AIM & OBJECTIVES	3
3.	FACILITATORS AND DELEGATION	3
4.	PROGRAMME DETAILS	5
5.	PROGRAMME COMMENTS	9
	CONSTITUTIONAL REFORM	9
	EFFECTIVE COMMITTEES	9
	STANDING ORDERS	10
	ROLE OF THE SPEAKER	10
	REGISTER OF INTERESTS	11
	CODE OF CONDUCT	11
	INDEPENDENCE OF PARLIAMENT	12
	TECHNICAL SUPPORT AND PUBLIC OUTREACH	13
6.	FEEDBACK	14
7.	OUTCOMES AND FOLLOW-UP ACTIVITIES	15
8.	ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	16
9.	ABOUT CPA BIMR	16
ANNEX		
	A. SPEAKER/FACILITATOR BIOGRAPHIES	17

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.01 CPA UK, in its capacity as the Secretariat for the CPA British Islands and Mediterranean Region (CPA BIMR), and in coordination with the Governor's Office, organised an Election Observer Mission (EOM) to Anguilla, to observe the General Election that took place on 22 April 2015. The General Election resulted in the election of five new Members of the House of Assembly, and an additional two newly nominated Members.

1.02 Following the success of the EOM, CPA BIMR organised a Post-Election Seminar (PES) to support the induction of newly elected Members, which took place between the 10-12 August 2015 with the support of the House of Assembly, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, the Government of Anguilla and the Governor's Office.

1.03 CPA BIMR also conducted an EOM to the Virgin Islands (UK) in June 2015, an election resulting in the inauguration of two new Members of the Virgin Islands (UK) House of Assembly. CPA BIMR invited these Parliamentarians to take part in the PES in Anguilla in the spirit of regional knowledge sharing and cooperation between the Territories and CPA BIMR.

1.04 The Seminar comprised of a number of roundtable sessions covering various topics related to the role of parliamentarians. The topics were selected to meet the specific needs of legislators in Anguilla. There was also an interactive session on communication skills.

1.05 The Seminar identified a number of outcomes and action points for continued engagement with the Anguilla House of Assembly. These outcomes include capacity-building support for the Speaker and Clerk of the House of Assembly, assistance in the drafting and reform of the Standing Orders and in supporting public outreach work. CPA BIMR will work with the House of Assembly and Foreign and Commonwealth Office in taking forward these and other requested programmes. The Seminar also identified the benefits of discussing challenges and solutions that affect a number of Overseas Territories in a collaborative forum. CPA BIMR will seek to facilitate further engagement across Territories to this end.

2. AIM & OBJECTIVES

2.01 Aim

The aim of the Post-Election Seminar was to strengthen the knowledge, skills, and confidence of the newly elected Members of the Anguilla House of Assembly through sharing best practice with experienced Commonwealth Parliamentarians.

2.03 Objectives

To:

1. Provide an overview of the leadership and administrative functions of Parliaments with the purpose of ensuring good governance, from financial management to timings of parliamentary business.
2. To promote an understanding of parliamentary practices and procedures with reference to legislating and scrutinising the executive, as well as ethics, standards and best practice.
3. Clarifying the role and responsibilities of parliamentarians in balancing their commitments as either a Minister or Backbencher, their work in the constituency/community, political parties, non-parliamentary careers and other commitments.
4. Development of skills and abilities to carry out the work of a parliamentarian with specific reference to engagement with the public, media, and other stakeholders.
5. Provide an opportunity for the newly elected members to network with parliamentarians outside of Anguilla.

3. FACILITATORS AND DELEGATION

3.01 The speakers and facilitator consisted of three Parliamentarians (from BIMR and Americas/Caribbean OT respectively) with one Clerk (House of Lords, UK) to act as facilitator and speaker:

BIMR Speaker/Participant - Dr Matthew Offord MP (Member of the House of Commons, UK Parliament)

BIMR Speaker/Participant - Mr Duncan McNeil MSP (Member of the Scottish Parliament)

Caribbean, Atlantic, and Americas Speaker/Participant - Hon. Sharlene Cartwright Robinson MP (Member of the House of Assembly, Turks and Caicos Islands)

UK Facilitator/Speaker - Mr Duncan Sagar (Clerk, House of Lords, UK).

3.02 The newly appointed Speaker and Clerk of the House of Assembly, Hon. Leroy Rogers, and Mr Lenox Proctor supported the programme.

3.03 The following in-country experts and stakeholders acted as Speakers during the Seminar:

- Hon. Stanley Reid, Deputy Governor
- Justice Don Mitchell CBE QC

- Hon. Evans M. Rogers MP

- Hon. Cora Richardson Hodge MP
- Hon. David Carty, Former Speaker of House of Assembly
- Mr Keithstone Greaves, Programme Director Radio Anguilla
- Mr Kasseem Forde, Member of the National Youth Ambassador Corps
- Ms Dawn Richardson, Senior Parliamentary Counsel, Attorney General's Chambers

3.04 Participants included newly elected Members, the newly appointed Speaker, the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly as well as a number of re-elected and nominated Members and invited observers.



Speakers and Participants of the Post-Election Seminar in a roundtable session.

4. PROGRAMME DETAILS

MONDAY 10 AUGUST 2015 - DAY 1		
0830-0900	<i>Arrival of speakers and participants</i>	
0900-0930	<p>Opening Session: Welcome & Introductions</p> <p>Opening ceremony of the Seminar. Introduction to the speakers in attendance and official photograph. Opportunity to run through the aim and objectives of the seminar.</p> <p>Chaired by: Hon. Leroy Rogers MP, Speaker of the House of Assembly Hon. Victor Banks MP, Chief Minister of Anguilla</p>	La Vue
0930-1030	<p>Session 1: Political & Constitutional Overview of Anguilla</p> <p>Putting the politics of Anguilla in its current context. A brief overview of the constitutional make-up of Anguilla. Looking at the role of the executive, legislature and judiciary. Recent and potential reforms. International role of the Governor, Government and Parliament</p> <p>Chair and Contributor: Hon. Leroy Rogers, Speaker of the House of Assembly Hon. Stanley Reid, Deputy Governor Justice Don Mitchell CBE QC</p>	La Vue
1030-1045	<i>Coffee</i>	La Vue
1045-1145	<p>Session 2: Parliamentary Practice & Procedures</p> <p>This session will give a brief overview of the rules and procedures of the Assembly and offering case-studies of alternatives. Analysis of how to change the standing orders and how to include modern processes into traditional methods.</p> <p>Chair and Contributor: Hon. Leroy Rogers Hon. Sharlene Cartwright Robinson MP, Turks and Caicos Duncan Sagar, Clerk of Select Committees, House of Lords</p>	La Vue
1145:1245	<p>Session 3: Administration & Parliamentary Business</p> <p>Brief overview on how the House of Assembly is financed and administered. Examination into how other legislatures are governed and what is considered best practice. Review of the parliamentary calendar from Queen's Speech/Throne Speech to dissolution - managing urgent and topical issues whilst maintaining a legislative timetable. Who decides legislative business and what role backbenchers can play?</p> <p>Chair and Contributor: Mr Lenox Proctor, Clerk of the House of</p>	La Vue



	<p>Assembly, Anguilla Duncan McNeil MSP, Scottish Parliament Duncan Sagar, Clerk of Committees, House of Lords</p>	
1245-1400	<i>Lunch</i>	La Vue
1400-1500	<p>Session 4: The Role of Ministers, Parliamentary Secretaries and Backbenchers</p> <p>In the Westminster System, Ministers are also parliamentarians. How is this role balanced and managed in an effective manner. What is the role of a backbencher without a portfolio, and how can they influence and impact upon politics in their jurisdiction. What role can Parliamentary Secretaries play and how can small legislatures work effectively.</p> <p>Chair and Contributor: Hon. Evans M. Rogers MP Hon. Keesha Webster Carty, Former Deputy Speaker and Second Nominated Member Dr Matthew Offord MP, UK Parliament</p>	La Vue
1500-1600	<p>Session 5: The Legislative Process - A Comparative Study</p> <p>This session will look at the legislative process from a unicameral and bicameral perspective. It will highlight process from drafting, amending and passing legislation to ensure the best outcome is achievable. There will also be a chance to look at the role of legislation introduced by backbenchers.</p> <p>Chaired by: Hon. Leroy Rogers Duncan McNeil MSP Duncan Sagar</p>	La Vue
1600-1615	<i>Tea</i>	La Vue
1615-1715	<p>Session 6: Political Parties and Parliaments</p> <p>What is the purpose and role of political parties beyond an election? How can they strengthen democracy and support the parliamentarian in their duties. How do legislatures work when there are no political parties, or political parties where there are no applicable elections?</p> <p>Chair and Contributor: Hon. Victor Banks MP, Chief Minister of Anguilla Hon. Sharlene Cartwright-Robinson MP Duncan McNeil MSP Dr Matthew Offord MP</p>	La Vue
1715	<i>End of Day One</i>	
TUESDAY 11 AUGUST 2015 - DAY 2		
0900-1000	<i>Arrival of speakers and participants</i>	
1000-1045	<p>Session 7: Holding the Executive to Account - From Committees to Ministerial Questions</p> <p>One of the key roles of legislatures is holding governments to account. Tools to ensure accountability are parliamentary questions (written, oral</p>	La Vue

	<p>and urgent) and departmental/select committees. This session will look at how these processes and bodies can succeed or fail and how accountability is possible in small legislatures. As well as examining the role of committees to ensure legislation is implemented effectively.</p> <p>Chair and Contributor: Hon. Leroy Rogers Duncan McNeil MSP Duncan Sagar, Clerk of Committees, House of Lords Hon. Sharlene Cartwright Robinson MP</p>	
1045-1100	<i>Coffee</i>	La Vue
1100-1230	<p>Session 8: Standards, Privileges, Ethics and Interests</p> <p>What standards should parliamentarians uphold and abide by in their roles as elected representatives? How can their activities be monitored to guarantee fairness and policed? Should this be done internally or by independent bodies/commissions? This session will look at the approaches of different jurisdictions and what works best.</p> <p>Chair: Hon. Leroy Rogers, Speaker of the House of Assembly Justice Don Mitchell CBE QC Dr Matthew Offord MP Hon. Sharlene Cartwright Robinson MP</p>	La Vue
1230-1400	<i>Lunch</i>	La Vue
1400-1530	<p>Session 9: Brainstorming Session: Engaging with the Public, Media and other stakeholders</p> <p>It is essential for parliamentary democracy to engage people with politics and parliament. How can politicians reach out to people and organisations that would not normally take an interest? How can you address their lack of political engagement? What are the most effective strategies to engage young people? This will be a brainstorming session for all participants to propose suggestions on how legislatures and individual legislators can engage. Participants divide into tables with one or two Speakers on each table before a group feedback session.</p> <p>Chair and Facilitator: Hon. Cora Richardson Hodge MP Mr Kasseem Forde, President ANYC Keithstone Greaves, Programme Director Radio Anguilla Hon. Sharlene Cartwright-Robinson MP Duncan McNeil MSP Dr Matthew Offord MP</p>	La Vue
1530-1600	<p><i>Tea</i></p> <p>Preparations for next session</p>	La Vue
1600-1700	<p>Youth Parliamentarians: Introduction to Parliamentary Practice and Procedure</p> <p>Comparative introduction to the Standing Orders of the House of Assembly. Overview of similarities and differences within Westminster system. Focusing on holding the Executive to Account and the procedures which can be utilised for this.</p>	La Vue

	<p>Chair and Contributor: Lenox Proctor, Clerk of the House of Assembly Hon. Sharlene Cartwright-Robinson MP Duncan McNeil MSP Dr Matthew Offord MP Duncan Sagar</p>	
1830-2000	<p>Evening Reception with Members and Youth Parliamentarians</p>	Governor's Residence
WEDNESDAY 12 AUGUST - DAY 3		
0830-0900	<p><i>Arrival of speakers and participants</i></p>	
0900-1000	<p>Session 10: Public Accounts Committee Workshop</p> <p>This session will look in-depth at what makes for a productive, effective, influential PAC in terms of the role of the Chair and Members. The success of the PAC in small legislatures and techniques for strengthening bipartisanship and increased regular membership.</p> <p>Hon. Sharlene Cartwright Robinson MP, Chair of Public Accounts Committee, House of Assembly of Turks and Caicos Islands Dr Matthew Offord MP</p>	La Vue
1000-1005	<p><i>Coffee served before next session</i></p>	
1005-1130	<p>Session 11: Role of the Speaker and Clerk</p> <p>A discussion on what makes for an effective working relationship between Members and Clerks. Clerks and officials are the oil in the parliamentary engine. For Parliaments to function effectively and efficiently there should be relationships of mutual respect and esteem between parliamentarians and Clerks. How can the relationship be enhanced?</p> <p>The Speaker/Presiding Officer of a Parliament is a very important appointment. What is the role of the Speaker? Should the Speaker have a role outside Parliament? How is the Speaker elected - should he/she renounce party affiliation? Should the Speaker be a serving parliamentarian?</p> <p>Chair and Contributor: Hon. David Carty, Former Speaker of the House of Assembly Duncan McNeil MSP Duncan Sagar</p>	
1130-1215	<p>Session 12: Wash-up and Feedback</p> <p>Chair: Lenox Proctor Hon. Sharlene Cartwright-Robinson MP Duncan McNeil MSP Dr Matthew Offord MP Duncan Sagar, Clerk of Select Committees, House of Lords</p>	HoA
1215	<p><i>CPA BIMR Delegation depart</i></p>	

5. PROGRAMME COMMENTS

5.0 Constitutional Reform

5.01 The participants discussed the merits of recommendations to create a larger Assembly that would include a greater number of Backbench Members, further separating the Legislature from the Executive, and greater Committee membership. In the session “Holding the Government to Account,” the group acknowledged that these recommendations could be revisited in order to increase the effectiveness of the Legislative Assembly.

5.02 In 2006, a Constitutional and Electoral Reform Commission made recommendations regarding the electoral system¹. The recommendations included amending the makeup of the Legislative Assembly to include two additional seats, bringing the Assembly up to nine Constituency Members, and an additional four At-Large Members. Similarly, The Virgin Islands (UK) introduced four seats for At-Large Members in 1995. As of yet, these recommendations have not been taken forward in Anguilla. The participants acknowledged the importance of implementing these.

5.1 Effective Committees

5.11 The challenges faced by smaller legislatures in sustaining active Public Accounts Committees (PAC) was deliberated. In some contexts, PAC’s analyse the accounts of the previous financial year retrospectively. Frequent changes to the Governing party result in the Chair of the PAC, typically the Leader of the Opposition, examining accounts from their own period in Government. Some participants suggested that the independence of the Public Accounts Committee from the government would be greater if it was not constituted by Parliamentarians. The participants agreed that to sustain the Public Accounts Committee in the Anguilla House of Assembly in its current format might be challenging unless the suggested reform of enlarging the Assembly occurs.

5.12 Participants noted that there might be untapped potential in the involvement of those outside the Assembly taking part in Committee work, such as an independent Auditor General or lay members. This could increase the scope for detailed scrutiny, foster knowledge sharing, and relieve pressure on the limited number of Backbenchers. Introducing lay members into the Committee system would mitigate the restrictions on Committee function currently faced due to smaller membership size. However, the rules state membership of the Public Accounts Committee must consist of ‘five members of the House’; creating a potential need to amend the Standing Orders to allow non-Members to attend. The delegates acknowledged this as a topic of potential reform.

¹ The Anguilla Constitution and Electoral Reform Commission Report 2006 can be found at <http://www.gov.ai/documents/constitutional%20reform/Constitutional%20Reform.pdf>

5.13 Participants raised the issue that members of the civil service and public officers do not have full awareness and understanding of the potential power of the PAC. In the past, attempts at inquiries fell

short because letters to government departments received no reply, the power to summon was not used or adhered to, and enthusiasm fizzled out as Members were ‘lost’ to Ministerial positions. Participants from the Virgin Islands (UK) noted that although they have a Public Accounts Committee, its work is hampered because audited reports are not submitted on time. These reports have on occasion, been received years after certain projects have concluded, which brings their relevance and impact into question.

5.2 Standing Orders

5.21 The evolution and reconstruction of the Standing Orders of the Legislative Assembly was a theme mentioned throughout the Seminar. The governing party, Anguilla United Front, featured the reform of the Standing Orders, which are over 40 years old, in their Election Manifesto; “review and revise the Rules of Procedures for the House of Assembly to limit abuse of its privileges and improve its operations”. The Speaker and Leader of the Opposition are keen to make the revision of the Standing Orders a priority in their tenure, and the next step will now be agreeing a consensus between them and the Chief Minister on next steps and a timeline for progress on this.

5.22 CPA BIMR understands that the UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) would need to be involved in the drafting process, with certain costs associated with technical assistance connected to this. There is support from the FCO for the redrafting of the Standing Orders in consultation with Assembly Members, but concern in the Legislative Assembly about making sure that the cost is viable.

5.3 The role of the Speaker

5.31 The subject of the Speaker relates to that of the Standing Orders. Participants noted that it might be useful to impose time limits for Members of the Legislative Assembly in the length of their contributions in the House. This would ensure that contributions are clear and succinct. Delegates pointed out that it is within the right of the Speaker to impose time limits before certain debates, but it might be useful to explore the possibility of revisiting mandatory time limits in the House.

5.32 Participants discussed the impartiality of the Speaker as a factor in the maintenance of order and timeliness in the Assembly. If Members do not believe the Speaker is impartial then they may not respect the Speaker’s decisions. Participants acknowledged that it is a challenge in small Territories to find a Speaker with no ties to a political party, and it is sometimes not in the political interest of the Governing Party to source an impartial Speaker.

5.33 Members from the Virgin Islands (UK) were keen to explore further the idea of set speaking times in the Chamber. Although the Speaker in the House of Assembly has the power to ask Members to shorten their contributions, this rarely happens. Concerning the administration of Legislatures, in the Virgin Islands (UK), the Speaker is a political appointment; the Clerk is a Civil Service appointment, and conflict

can occur, in the absence of a clear line of accountability. The Clerk is not paid through the House of Assembly and therefore may not consider themselves answerable to the Speaker.

5.4 Register of Interests

5.41 There was consensus that a publically accessible Register of Interests for public servants, including MPs, could increase the public perception of the Legislative Assembly as a transparent body. The Anguillan Constitution provides for such a Register, established through legislation. However, no legislation has been passed yet to introduce such an instrument. It was discussed whether the basis for such a Register would be incorporated into the new Standing Orders or whether it would be a freestanding document. Members of the Assembly mentioned that a debate on the introduction of a Register would occur at a date to be determined.

5.42 Representatives from the Overseas Territories present at the meeting acknowledged that a private Register collated in the post-election period and kept by the Speaker does not go far enough to instil public trust in Parliaments. In small Legislatures, many Members have external financial interests. The presentations supported the view that it is only through the existence of a Public Register, the work of Committees that focus on standards and the Public Accounts Committee that the electorate can be satisfied that there is no reason for suspicion.

5.43 The Members from the Virgin Islands (UK) agreed the need for a public Register of Interests. All Members in the Virgin Island (UK), bar two, have external financial interests and there is a need to be more transparent.

5.44 The Speaker from the Turks and Caicos Islands spoke in detail about the creation of an independent Integrity Commission to oversee standards in public life. The Members from the Virgin Islands (UK) encouraged Anguilla to create these oversight offices in line with best practice, independent from the advice of the Governor's Office. The Members gave the example of the introduction of the role of Public Complaints Ombudsman in the Virgin Islands (UK) - initially the public did not take the role seriously but through learning from the role of similar offices in other Territories, the Office of the Complaints Commissioner is now respected and functioning successfully.

5.5 Code of Conduct

5.51 Participants discussed the need for a Code of Conduct to bring the Legislative Assembly into line with international best practice. There is a Code of Conduct for Public Servants with a section on Parliamentarians, but participants noted that a Code specific to the behaviour of Parliamentarians both within and outside the Chamber could be beneficial. There is a need to have a reference point to prevent mistakes and promote understanding between Members and the public.

5.52 In the session, ‘The Role of Ministers, Parliamentary Secretaries and Backbenchers’, the participants noted that an adoption of an inflexible position on Constituency Development Funds, or CDFs (funding given to Members of Parliament to be used for the needs of their constituents) should be considered over the course of time. MPs often feel tied into giving continuing aid in order to ensure their re-election, and such contracts mean that they enter a vicious circle and risk losing their seat if they do not comply with the funding arrangements of their predecessors. The participants from the Virgin Islands (UK) stated their commitment to reducing the reliance on CDF’s attributed to their predecessors in order to ensure financial gain is not associated with the electoral process. However, in Territories where healthcare is not nationalised and few are entitled to social security, Members find themselves in a conflicted situation when faced with a genuine need for assistance.

5.53 Participants discussed Constituency Development Funds in the context of ethics, and mentioned that ‘treating’ is interpreted in a more flexible way in Anguilla. Providing funding for constituents would only be considered unethical if it occurred in the three months before an election or during an election period. However, the participants agreed that the reliance on funding from Members of Parliament does affect the voting preferences of constituents and their vote can be touted in order to access funds. A willingness to progress to a different system was evident among all participants, but there was much deliberation on how best to move forward. Many constituents still view the system as integral to the role of their MP and in some cases, the removal of support would negatively affect constituents with a genuine need. There was discussion of a Territory-wide fund, portions of which constituents could bid for, with the support of their MP, but not directly linked to a particular Member. The CPA BIMR delegation expressed concern about the risk of CDF’s being used to influence voters’ choices at all stages of the parliamentary process, despite the ban on treating in the pre-election period.

5.6 The independence of Parliament

5.61 The Administration team at the Legislative Assembly consists of the Clerk, Clerical Officer, and Serjeant at Arms who collectively cover a large range of responsibilities. The Legislative Assembly is

currently considering the scope to increase the responsibility of the Serjeant at Arms in order to balance workload between administrative team. There is a strategic plan already instigated to modernise and

streamline the administration of the Legislative Assembly, reform the Standing Orders and any subsequent constitutional reform this may trigger, prompted by the appointment of the new Clerk.

5.62 The Clerk and Members of the Assembly also mentioned the improvement of the ICT infrastructure as vital path in modernising and increasing the efficiency of the communications within the Assembly Secretariat.

5.63 Participants cited the role of Permanent Secretaries as an area where greater separation of powers could be introduced; currently the Clerk is employed as a civil servant and reports to the

Permanent Secretary who in turn reports to the Deputy Governor, rather than the Speaker. This line of authority highlights the debate on separation of powers and that more could be done to clarify the structure of management to avoid any perception of partisanship within the Assembly. This hierarchy is also relevant in terms of funding for the Legislative Assembly; the Speaker or Clerk must seek funding for parliamentary activities from the Deputy Governor on an ad hoc basis rather than from an allocated budget through the Speaker. The current Permanent Secretary is aware of these tensions and is open to the need to change the procedure while still ensuring that the administration of the Assembly remains accountable to the Deputy Governor for its expenditure.

5.7 Technical Support and Public Outreach

5.71 Through the session entitled “Brainstorming Session: Engaging with the Public, Media and other stakeholders” the importance of public involvement and access to the Legislative Assembly was agreed to be of paramount importance. The Government of Anguilla currently produces The Gazette, a magazine which publishes Government business, including Bills, Acts and Statutory documents on a monthly basis, for paying subscribers either online or in print. However, there was an agreed need to publish House business and Hansard for free and in a consistent and accessible way, for example, online.

5.72 The Legislative Assembly has eight years’ worth of House business recorded on cassette tapes yet to be transcribed into Hansard. Assistance to clear the backlog by providing technical assistance would be well received. Similarly, there is a demand for cooperation in developing an effective transcribing process. Although keen to resolve the issue, the participants noted that ‘wholesale’ solutions brought in may not be proportionate and relevant to their Parliament, and that the emphasis should be placed in finding cost-effective innovative solutions; there was positive discussion about cost-sharing new technology with similar small Legislatures, or outsourcing the process. In Legislatures that do not sit regularly, the latter may offer better value for money and would be more appropriate for the size of the

Assembly. The CPA BIMR delegation showed a willingness to support the Assembly in their endeavours, and offered to facilitate discussions between the UK Hansard, and the Legislative Assembly. These will be followed up.

6. FEEDBACK

6.01 It was noted by the participants that there had been some overlap between sessions, and that it could be useful in the future to have fewer sessions but with a broader remit in order to avoid this. Reducing the size of the panel for each session could also prevent overrunning and increase the time reserved for discussion and Q&A.

6.02 Due to last-minute changes in the venue, time pressure and the number of participants, breakout and split sessions in the programme were rearranged. In the future, fewer plenary style sessions and split sessions for small working groups would increase the dynamism of the programme and allow participants to discuss issues in a more informal way.

6.03 Panellists were provided with Speaker briefings in advance, but in a number of cases the ensuing discussion overlapped in to the territory of another scheduled session. Broader session remits would avoid this occurring. Participants also suggested that a small ‘wash-up’ session occurred at the end of each day. This would enable participants to take stock of the main issues and formulate action points, to create a tangible outcome from the Seminar to be referenced in the future. The sessions with the Youth Parliamentarians and Media representatives created some demand for the involvement of NGOs, civil society and businesses in order to explore their relationship with the Legislative Assembly.

6.04 In smaller Legislatures, often all Members of a Legislature are often involved in the Post-Election Seminar. The dedication of more experienced Members is welcomed and their contributions and experiences always useful. However, there could be some use in dividing the audience for certain sessions between experienced and new Members, in order to make sure the session is the most relevant for each category and to encourage individual participation and contribution, especially from the newer Members.

6.04 FEEDBACK COMMENTS

Feedback comments collated from participants in the ‘Wash-up and Feedback’ session are as follows:

‘All sessions very engaging but perhaps some overlap’

‘Presence of TCI/BVI and perspective from smaller islands much appreciated and needed’

‘Opportunity should not just happen after elections but at some time during the period, when parliamentarians have a feel for what is going on in more than theory - maybe two years in to build on work’



‘Being first time parliamentarians it was a great learning experience and I commend speakers for sharing experiences with us. The presence of a delegate from the Turks and Caicos Islands was exceptional - need knowledge sharing between OT’s.’

‘A lot of opportunity for meaningful change and to know what our current challenges are and to better understand them is important as well’

‘Excellent relationships and very encouraging’

‘I would like to see it continue. In the same way that CPA reached out to us after the elections, I would like to see that being done in the region every time there are new elections and new representatives in the House’

‘Sets us at a great place to now go back...with the understanding of the rules and procedures from this training to work our own plan for our districts and our government.’

‘Frankness is important in discussing cross-OT issues - so important for new politicians to hear experiences of others’



The CPA BIMR delegation with Chief Minister Hon. Victor Banks MP, Leader of the Opposition Hon. Pam Webster MP and Members of the Anguilla House of Assembly and Virgin Islands House of Assembly.

7. OUTCOMES & FOLLOW-UP ACTIVITIES

7.01 As part of this initial work, CPA UK will discuss with the Legislative Assembly and Governor’s Office a proposal for developing a three year Parliamentary Partnership Programme (PPP) with the relevant funding support in order to provide ongoing structured capacity building assistance relating to one or more of the following:

- Capacity building assistance for the Speaker and Clerk
- Facilitating technical assistance with consolidating and publishing Hansard debates
- Support for Parliamentary Outreach programmes including the foundation for a Parliamentary website

- Possibility of providing assistance drafting new Standing Orders in conjunction with the UK Parliament and FCO
- Programmes for Committee Chairs, Members and staff including a Workshop specifically on strengthening the role and capacity of the PAC.
- Other programmes as requested

8. ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

8.01 CPA BIMR would like to express its thanks to the Her Excellency the Governor of Anguilla and Office; The FCO Overseas Territories Directorate for their funding and logistical support in running this programme. CPA BIMR would also like to thank the Clerk and Speaker of the Anguilla Legislative Assembly and his team for managing the programme on the ground as well as the Government of Anguilla. CPA BIMR is also grateful to the House of Lords for their cooperation in sourcing a facilitator. Finally, CPA BIMR wishes to thank CPA Scotland and CPA Turks and Caicos for their respective speakers.

9. ABOUT CPA BIMR

9.01 The Commonwealth Parliamentary Association British Islands and Mediterranean Region is one of nine regional groupings. The central aim of the BIMR strategy is to promote knowledge and understanding of constitutional, legislative, economic, social, and cultural aspects of parliamentary democracy within the Commonwealth. By promoting close relations and cooperation between its branches and other CPA Regions, the BIMR works to build informed parliamentary communities within the Region and across the

Commonwealth. Its two key outputs are in promoting gender equality through its Commonwealth Women Parliamentary (BIMR CWP) activities and strengthening democracy through EOMs.

9.02 The Commonwealth Parliamentary Association UK Branch remains the secretariat for all regional activities.

9.03.1 **Contact:** Rachael Atkins, Americas, Caribbean and Europe Regional Programme Manager, International Outreach Team, CPA UK
[atkinsr@parliament.uk/](mailto:atkinsr@parliament.uk) +44 (0)207 219 1804

ANNEX A

CPA BIMR SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES



Hon. Sharlene Cartwright Robinson MP

Member of the House of Assembly, Turks & Caicos Islands

Hon. Sharlene Cartwright Robinson LLB JP hails from the Island of South Caicos and though she is a lawyer by profession, Sharlene spends a great deal of her time in service to her Country.

Sharlene has held membership on many influential bodies including the Legislative Council as an appointed and elected member. She has also served as a member of the Governor's appointed Consultative Forum from 2009 - 2012. In 2014, she again served on TCI's 3rd Constitutional Review Committee which is charged with the responsibility to review and make recommendations on the 2011 Constitution.

A Kiwanian, first Grand Turk Chapter President of the TCI Cancer Foundation, serving Justice of the Peace with special responsibility for HM Prison, Sharlene has also held regional roles in her Church and is the immediate Past President of the Caribbean Baptist Fellowship Youth Department. Sharlene holds dear her selection from a pool of applicants in the Caribbean and Canada to be among 120 participants in a Pioneer Leadership Program. As a result she became a privileged member of a small Alumni of 5000 people around the World having completed the Canada Caribbean Emerging Leaders Dialogue in 2011.

A candidate in the General Elections of 2003 and 2012, Sharlene was the first female to serve her Party as Vice Chairman, Secretary General, National Chairman, Deputy Leader, and Leader, the latter position held since December 2012.

In Elections 2012, she amassed the most votes of all the All Island Candidates and was appointed as the first female Leader of the Opposition. She now serves as the first female Chair of the Public Accounts Committee and Chair of the Administration Committee. In 2012, she served as the first Chairman of the Appropriations Committee. Her leadership has seen the defeat of major Government Bills including the Payroll Tax, the successful halt of VAT which she led on and the Immigration Bill, the successful passage of many Private Member's Motions and the skilful negotiation of changes to many Bills.



Duncan McNeil MSP

Member of Scottish Parliament for Greenock and Inverclyde

Born in Greenock in September 1950, Duncan McNeil entered his first shipyard as an apprentice boilermaker in 1965. He left the industry in 1979 to act as a co-ordinator for the Unemployed Workers Centres in Glasgow. In 1981, he became a full time official with the GMB union. It was through the union that he was given the opportunity to take advantage of second chance learning, which ultimately led to him becoming a Regional Organiser. It was in this role that he acted as lead negotiator in the whisky industry - brokering the landmark partnership agreements.

Following six years on the Labour Party's Scottish Executive Committee, in May 1999 he was elected as Member of the Scottish Parliament for the Greenock & Inverclyde constituency. He is one of the longest serving MSPs and is currently Convenor of the Scottish Parliament's influential Health Committee, which has presided over the scrutiny of major pieces of legislation including the recent Assisted Suicide (Scotland) Bill.

Presently, Duncan is also Deputy Convenor of the Parliament's Devolution (and further powers) committee which is dealing with the major constitutional issues of the day, including the Smith Commission proposals which were formulated following the Independence Referendum.

Prior to this, Duncan held the position of Convenor of the Parliament's Local Government Committee and the Chair of the Scottish Parliamentary Labour Party (SPLP).



Duncan Sagar

Clerk of Select Committees, House of Lords, UK Parliament

Mr Sagar has worked for the House of Lords since 2005 in a number of roles. He was clerk to an EU scrutiny sub-committee from 2005-2007. From 2007-2009 he was seconded to the UK Government to assist in the delivery of the Government's legislative programme through the House of Lords and to advise Government departments on House of Lords procedure. From 2009-2011, he was private secretary to the Clerk of the Parliaments, which included acting as secretary to a Review which replaced the members' allowance system in the Lords.

From 2011-2013 he was posted to Brussels to act as the House's Liaison Officer with the EU Institutions and other EU national parliaments, a role which involved a lot of comparative work



with other parliaments on different scrutiny systems; providing training for Lords officials on how

the EU operated; and providing training for other parliaments on how the Lords worked. In 2013, he entered his current role, which is to oversee a number of Lords Select Committees and Joint Committees with the House of Commons.

Mr Sagar has recently taken part in a parliamentary strengthening programme funded by the European Commission aimed at supporting the development of systems and processes in the Parliaments of Bosnia-Herzegovina.



Dr Matthew Offord MP

Member of UK Parliament for Hendon

Matthew was first elected as Member of Parliament for the Hendon constituency in 2010. Previous to his election, he was a Councillor in the London Borough of Barnet, and served as Deputy Leader, between 2002 and 2010. In 2011, he was awarded a PhD from King's College London after researching rural governance in peripheral areas in the United Kingdom.

As a Member of the Environmental Audit Select Committee, he took a close interest in the governance arrangements in the UK Overseas Territories - focusing on biodiversity and sustainability - and the role of the UK Government in the promotion of international agreements such as the UN Convention on Biological Diversity and the Rio Convention in the UKOT's.

Matthew has been an active member of a range of All Party Parliamentary Groups, including those on Biodiversity and Overseas Territories. He has travelled extensively in both a personal and Parliamentary capacity and has interest in Bangladesh, Cyprus, India, Israel and Sri Lanka as well as the Overseas Territories. Matthew always seeks opportunities to raise environmental issues and concerns.

In 2015, Matthew was appointed a Parliamentary Private Secretary in the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs.