



HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT

0811REPORT/PAK16

The UK Parliament: Practice, Procedure, Administration and Modernisation
Programme for the Senate and National Assembly of Pakistan & Senior Parliamentary
Officials from the National Assembly

11 - 14 July 2016

Houses of Parliament, London



Report



Contents

| | <i>Page</i> |
|---------------------------------|-------------|
| Background | 2 |
| Aim & Objectives | 2 |
| Participants | 2 |
| Summary | 3 |
| Programme Comments | 4 |
| Programme | 9 |
| Outcomes & Follow-up Activities | 16 |
| Funding Breakdown | 16 |
| Acknowledgments | 16 |
| About CPA UK | 17 |

Background

1.01. Following discussions with Hon. Senator Rabbani, Chairman of the Senate of Pakistan, CPA UK hosted a programme in Westminster for a delegation of Members and Officials from the Senate and National Assembly of Pakistan. Senior parliamentary officials, including the newly appointed Secretary of the National Assembly, Mr Abdul Jabbar, also attended the programme.

1.02. The programme explored issues surrounding parliamentary practice, procedure, administration and modernisation, and was devised in collaboration with Improving Parliamentary Performance in Pakistan (IP3) and the House of Commons Overseas Office.

Aim and Objectives

2.01. **Aim:** To provide an exchange of knowledge between the UK Parliament and Members and Officials in the National Assembly and Senate of Pakistan, and to support the modernisation programmes currently being implemented in both Houses.

2.02. **Objectives:** Through meetings and briefings with parliamentary colleagues in the UK, the programme sought to deliver the following objectives:

- a. **Objective 1:** Promote an understanding of parliamentary practice and procedure with reference to legislating and scrutinising the executive, as well as ethics, standards and accountability
- b. **Objective 2:** Provide an overview of the leadership and administrative functions of parliaments with the purpose of ensuring good governance
- c. **Objective 3:** Develop skills and abilities to carry out the work of a parliamentarian/Clerk with specific reference to committee work, parliamentary questions and engagement with the public
- d. **Objective 4:** Provide an understanding of the relationship between the House of Commons and House of Lords, and discuss the relationship between the Senate and National Assembly
- e. **Objective 5:** Support the exchange of knowledge between the Secretary of the National Assembly and Officials in the House of Commons

2.03. This programme fits with CPA UK's strategic goals number one and four.

- a. **Strategic Goal 1.** To strengthen parliamentary democracy by undertaking international parliamentary outreach work on behalf of the Houses of Parliament and the wider CPA
- b. **Strategic Goal 4.** To communicate the work of CPA UK and enhance the profile of the Houses of Parliament, the Commonwealth, the CPA and CPA UK

Participants

3.01. The delegation from the National Assembly and Senate of Pakistan was:

1. Muhammad Tallal Chaudry MNA, *Pakistan Muslim League - N*
2. Syed Muhammad Ashiq Hussain Shah MNA, *Pakistan Muslim League - N*
3. Imran Zafar Laghari MNA, *Pakistan People's Party Parliamentarians*



4. Shehryar Afridi MNA, *Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf*
5. Malik Muhammad Aamir Dogar MNA, *Independent*
6. Mariam Aurangzeeb MNA, *Pakistan Muslim League - N*
7. Senator Muzaffar Hussain Shah, *Pakistan Muslim League - F*
8. Senator Saleem Zia, *Pakistan Muslim League - N*
9. Senator Brig. (R) John Kenneth Williams, *Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf*
10. Secretary Abdul Jabbar, *Secretary of the National Assembly*
11. Wajahat Ahmad, *Superintendent of the National Assembly*
12. Rabeea Anwar, *Joint Secretary, Senate Secretariat*
13. Iffat Mustafa, *Director of Research, Senate Secretariat*
14. Muhammad Asghar, *Section Officer (Legislation), Senate Secretariat*
15. Khaliq Ahmed Obha, *Joint Secretary (Committee), National Assembly*
16. Iftikhar Lughmani, *Deputy Secretary, National Assembly*
17. Saeed Maitla, *Secretary to Speaker, National Assembly*
18. Syed Sajjad Hussain, *Joint Secretary (Committee), National Assembly*
19. Zafarullah Khan, *Executive Director, Pakistan Institute for Parliamentary Services*
20. Nazya Fiaz, *IP3 Accompanying Official*

Summary

4.01. This programme helped cement ties between the UK Parliament and the Parliament of Pakistan and provided an excellent insight into the Westminster system for the delegation from Pakistan. Both Members and Officials were able to increase their understanding of how the Houses of Parliament functions, especially in relation to the administration of both Houses, as well as the relationship between the Houses but also that between Members and Officials.

4.02. Both Members and Officials were highly engaged in the programme sessions.. Discussions touched on a range of themes that were particularly pertinent to the Pakistani context at the time of the visit. The delegation had the opportunity to engage in-depth with Members and Officials responsible for the administration of the House of Commons and Lords, providing an insight into the reforms recently undertaken in the UK, as well as the challenges arising.

4.03. Parliamentary practice and procedure formed a key part of the programme, allowing the delegation to compare and contrast how parliamentary business is conducted in Pakistan and the UK. The relative strength of the Senate compared to the House of Lords, how Government and backbench business is allocated, and the legislative process were highlighted as areas of difference between Pakistan and the UK.

Programme Comments

5.01. Parliamentary Practice and Procedure

a. Much discussion focused on parliamentary procedure, highlighting the similarities and differences between Pakistan and the UK. The functions of the Houses of Commons and Lords provided an interesting comparison with the delegates' experiences in Pakistan. A number of delegates were intrigued by the status of the House of Lords, asking how it was publically perceived considering it is unelected. Similarly, they questioned why the Prime Minister was responsible for suggesting appointments to the Lords as this could potentially be perceived as disadvantageous to opposition parties. Crispin Poyser, Clerk of the Overseas Office explained that opposition nominations are always taken into account. Moreover, the sheer size of the Lords means that it is very difficult for a Prime Minister to achieve a majority in the Lords.

b. The differences between the House of Commons and the National Assembly also became apparent. While Crispin Poyser revealed that the Commons sits, on average, 150 days a year, the delegation explained that the National Assembly recently passed a law stating that the Assembly must sit for at least 150 days. Similarly, the National Assembly has quorum of 86 for debates to take place, while in the Commons a debate can take place with as little as three Members - the Speaker, a government member and an opposition member - and votes require 40 MPs to count. A final contrast is the lack of control Commons Whips have in deciding who speaks in a debate. Crispin Poyser emphasised that this is entirely up to the Speaker.

c. The delegation greatly appreciated a briefing from Rt Hon. Lindsay Hoyle MP, the Chairman of Ways and Means and Principal Deputy Speaker. Following a series of questions on scheduling business in Westminster Hall, the scrutiny of public and private bills, and the Panel of Chairs, Lindsay Hoyle explained his role as Deputy Speaker. He is responsible for supervising the business in Westminster Hall, explaining that it is an opportunity for debate but the motion is not put to a vote. The Deputy Speaker's other main responsibility is Chairing the Panel of Chairs and functioning of general committees, which have responsibility for scrutinising public bills.

d. A separate discussion with Dr Therese Coffey MP, Deputy Leader of the House of Commons, and Kevin Foster MP, Member of the Backbench Committee, provided an opportunity for detailed discussion on how Business is scheduled in the main Commons chamber. The delegation mentioned that in Pakistan the Prime Minister's Office is responsible for scheduling Government business in the chamber so were interested by the role of Leader of the House. Dr Coffey explained that the Leader is a member of the Cabinet and has responsibility for scheduling the government's business. Historically, the role of Leader and Prime Minister was very close.

5.02. Relationship between Commons and Lords

a. The Rt Hon. the Lord Tyler met with the delegation to provide a broad overview of the relationship between the Commons and Lords. He explained that, while both Houses have Standing Orders relating to business in the House, the relationship between the two relies on convention and that there is a lack of clarity in our constitution. Paul Evans, a Commons Clerk, and Ed Ollard, a senior Lords Clerk, emphasised the work that the Lords does in scrutinising the government in greater detail than the



Commons. However, convention dictates that the Lords will not block government legislation entirely and will focus on pushing for concessions.

b. The delegation enquired about the use of joint committees in the Houses of Parliament. The Clerk Assistant, Ed Ollard, explained that there a small number of joint committees, for instance the Joint Committee on Human Rights, but the vast majority of committees belong to either the Commons or Lords. Pakistan has recently made its Public Accounts Committee a joint committee as seven Senators have joined the committee. Ed Ollard mentioned that this would not be possible in the UK as the House of Lords does not consider finance related matters.

c. **Legislative Process**

The delegation had an extensive discussion with Liam Laurence Smyth and Jake Vaughan, Clerk of Legislation in the Commons and Lords respectively, regarding the legislative process in the UK. The role of legislation committees was a key area of the discussion. In Pakistan, a committee stage is the first stage of the legislative process. Jake Vaughan explained that the committee stage occurs slightly later in the UK as it is an in-depth look at a bill. This is especially true in the Lords, where a bill will be scrutinised line-by-line.

d. This led to a question on amendments and whether Committees had the power to amend bills or make suggestions to the House. As is the case in the Commons and the Lords, committees have the authority to amend a bill and send it back to the House for consideration. Jake Vaughan mentioned that the Lords considered 4,000 amendments in the last session and enacted over 1,000. Liam Laurence Smyth explained that there is a constructive relationship between the Commons and Lords and the government is usually willing to consider amendments. It is rare for a bill to fail because of disagreements between the Commons and Lords. If this does arise, the Parliament Act can be used to force through legislation if the Lords repeatedly blocks the wishes of the Commons.

e. **Finance Bills**

Liam Laurence Smyth and Jake Vaughan covered the important subject of finance bills. In Pakistan, the finance bill is prepared by each ministry submitting a demand for a grant and the National Assembly confirms them one-by-one. Liam Laurence Smyth explained that the process is substantially different in the UK, as HM Treasury controls the process and the Government submits one finance bill to Parliament each year. It was emphasised that the House of Lords does not consider finance bills of any sort.

f. **Private Members Bills**

The House of Commons sets aside 13 days a year for Private Members' Bills. The delegation were interested to see what support the Parliament provides for Members' legislation. Liam Laurence Smyth and Jake Vaughan explained that officials can provide procedural advice and basic support to draft a bill. Private Members' Bills cannot be finance bills and they are screened by officials to ensure they are in order.

5.03. **Parliamentary Administration**

a. **Administration of the House of Lords**

The administration of the National Assembly and Senate of Pakistan is currently being reformed so the delegation were particularly interested in the administration of the House of Lords and House of Commons. The delegation met with Ed Ollard, who has responsibility to the Management Board for parliamentary services. The Senate Secretariat staff inquired about the level of administrative cooperation between the Commons and Lords. Ed Ollard explained that much of the cooperation is informal as the two Houses have responsibility for their own parliamentary and corporate services. However, he mentioned that in the areas of IT and security there is formal cooperation, highlighting that the IT department is a joint department.

b. **Administration of the House of Commons**

Rt Hon. Tom Brake MP, Spokesperson for the House of Commons Commission, discussed the functions of the House of Commons Commission with the delegation. The delegation were keen to understand the relationship between the Commission and the Executive Committee, and their respective functions. Tom Brake explained that the Director General is responsible for the day-to-day running of the Commons but the Commission is responsible for overseeing the big picture.

c. The delegation further explored the party representation of the Commission and its audit procedures. Tom Brake explained that the Commission has a party balance but it always include the Leader and Shadow Leader of the Commons. Mr Brake also mentioned that there is a joint-audit committee that audits both the Commons and Lords, pointing out that this is part of a trend towards more services being run jointly in an effort to save time and resources.

d. **Reforms to House of Commons Administration**

Both the National Assembly and Senate of Pakistan were at the time of the visit undertaking modernisation programmes of their parliamentary services so the whole delegation were particularly interested in discussing the House of Commons Governance Committee Report with Valerie Vaz MP and Mark Hutton, who was Clerk of the Committee. Since 2013 Pakistan has had Member-led committees to modernise the delivery of parliamentary services, the scrutiny work of Parliament, and the outreach work of Parliament.

e. Valerie Vaz explained that the Governance Committee was established to explore the administration of the House of Commons and Mr Speaker swiftly implemented its recommendations. The major recommendation was for the appointment of a Director General to be responsible for the corporate services provided by Parliament. This role works alongside the Clerk of the House, who previously had responsibility for both corporate and parliamentary services.

f. Given the process that the Parliament of Pakistan is undergoing, Senator Shah was particularly interested in how the Committee ensured its recommendations were heeded and whether tradition was an impediment to the reforms. Valerie Vaz felt that the Committee hadn't been held back by tradition, especially as the Committee was appointed to explore a certain issue and there was consensus across the

COMMONWEALTH PARLIAMENTARY ASSOCIATION UK



House that a reform was needed in this instance. Indeed, Valerie Vaz emphasised the importance of relationship building and this process was positive in two respects. The first is that it improved relationships and understanding between parliamentarians and officials. The second is that the recommendations were implemented precisely because of this relationship building.

g. Training of parliamentary staff was also of interest to the delegation and Mark Hutton explained that the Report concluded that parts of the staff training provided by the House was good but improvements were required in certain areas. The delegation revealed that while the Pakistan Parliament does not have an Education Service it has recently introduced a Young Parliamentary Associates Programme aimed at recent graduates.

5.04. Role of an MP

a. Much discussion centred on the resources that MPs have to support their daily work. A number of delegates explained the difficulty that opposition members have in holding the government to account due to a lack of support, particularly in the area of research services. The House of Commons has over 2,000 staff supporting 650 MPs. Many of these staff work for the House of Commons Library, who provide unbiased information and statistics to MPs. The House of Lords has closer to 500 staff. In addition to the resources that are provided by the House of Commons, MPs have an allowance for four members of staff to support their work in Westminster and their constituency.

b. The delegation had a positive discussion with Rt Hon. David Hanson MP regarding the day-to-day work of a Member of Parliament. A couple of key issues arose from discussions. The delegation asked David Hanson how an opposition MP can influence Parliament and make a positive impact. Similarly, the delegation explained that MNAs can represent over 500,000 constituents, emphasising the difficulty representing them effectively in Parliament. David Hanson felt that both issues could be approached in a similar way. He emphasised the importance of working with parliamentary colleagues to raise issues. David Hanson has worked with neighbouring MPs who share similar challenges to raise an issue in Parliament. Moreover, he explained the importance of cross-party cooperation when issues at stake affect constituents from different constituencies. He argued that, cross-party work can greatly increase a MP's impact in Parliament.

5.05. Oversight and Accountability

a. Andrew Stephenson MP and Mike Hennessey, a Table Office Clerk, discussed the mechanisms that MPs can use to hold the Government to account in the House of Commons. The delegation asked how individual Members question the Government and if they have any recourse if they are not satisfied with the answer. Mike Hennessey explains that Members can table urgent questions that Ministers are obliged to answer. The current Speaker has been much more receptive to urgent questions than in the past and they have proved a useful mechanism for the Opposition and individual MPs. Senator Shah explained that MNAs can ask Ministers to make statements on certain issues, a mechanism that seems to have the same aim as urgent questions in the UK.

b. Andrew Stephenson MP explained that MPs can table written or oral questions for answer and if their oral question is selected in the ballot there is an opportunity for a supplementary question. After questioning from the delegation, Andrew Stephenson explained that if a Minister has provided inaccurate information to the House they are expected to rectify that as soon as possible. He mentioned that this usually happens due to a mistake rather than wilful misrepresentation.

c. Yasmin Qureshi MP and Kenneth Fox, Member and Clerk of the Foreign Affairs Committee respectively, discussed the role of select committees with the delegation. The Foreign Affairs Committee in the Pakistan Senate is extremely powerful and has a substantial impact on Ministers so the delegation were keen to hear about the work of the UK Committee. Yasmin Qureshi outlined how the influence of select committees has increased by recent reforms, especially since the election of Chairs is done by the whole House. The delegation was also interested in the allocation of committees between parties. Kenneth Fox explained how the committees are apportioned relative to the parties' seats in Parliament.

Programme

| Monday 11 July - Introduction to the Houses of Parliament | | |
|--|--|----------|
| 13.20 | <i>Arrive Houses of Parliament, Portcullis House Entrance. Met by Robert Harper, Asia-Pacific Programme Manager, CPA UK</i> | |
| 13.45 - 14.30 | Introduction to the Houses of Parliament and Current Challenges <i>Andrew Tuggey CBE DL, Chief Executive of CPA UK</i> <i>Crispin Poyser, Clerk of the Overseas Office</i> This Symposium used the UK Parliament as a template for discussion on parliamentary practice and procedure. This session introduced delegates to the Westminster Parliament - exploring its evolution, key features, and current challenges. | CPA Room |
| 14.30 - 15.15 | The Role of Parliament - Legislation <i>Liam Laurence Smyth, Clerk of Legislation, House of Commons</i> <i>Jake Vaughan, Clerk of Legislation, House of Lords</i> Legislation is a core function of Parliament. This session highlighted the legislative process in the UK Parliament, from the introduction of a bill to Royal Assent. Delegates explored the scrutiny process in the House of Commons and the House of Lords, discussed the opportunities for public consultation, and the purpose of secondary legislation. | CPA Room |
| 15.15 - 15.30 | <i>Break</i> | |
| 15.30 - 16.30 | Relationship between the House of Commons and House of Lords | CPA Room |

| | | |
|---|--|------------------|
| | <p>Rt Hon. Lord Tyler CBE (Liberal Democrat), <i>Liberal Democrat Spokesperson for Constitutional and Political Reform</i></p> <p>Ed Ollard, <i>Clerk Assistant, House of Lords (from 16.00)</i></p> <p>Paul Evans, <i>Clerk of the Journals, House of Commons</i></p> <p>There are a number of conventions and statutes which together, enshrine the primacy of the elected chamber, the House of Commons, over the House of Lords. The nature of conventions, however, is that they are not necessarily closely defined and they change over time. The force of convention also relies on a common understanding of the nature of the conventions and for those involved to observe them. This session explored the relationship between the Commons and Lords and how it has evolved in recent years.</p> | |
| 16.30 - 17.00 | <p>Administration of the House of Lords</p> <p>Ed Ollard, <i>Clerk Assistant, House of Lords</i></p> <p>A modern-day parliament is a complex institution that requires an appropriate management structure to ensure its effective functioning. Many parliaments are governed or administered by a form of parliamentary Commission comprising of its Members, alternatively many are overseen by the executive. This session examined how the House of Lords at Westminster is administered and managed. It addressed the following questions: What are the roles of the House Committee and the Management Board? How do these bodies interact with each other and differ from administration in the House of Commons? How is tradition balanced with modern practicalities?</p> | CPA Room |
| 17.00 | <i>Close</i> | |
| Tuesday 12 July - Administration and Modernisation | | |
| 09.20 | <i>Arrive Houses of Parliament, Portcullis House Entrance. Met by Robert Harper, CPA UK</i> | |
| 09.40 - 11.00 | Tour of Houses of Parliament | Westminster Hall |
| 11.15 - 12.00 | <p>House of Commons Administration</p> <p>Rt Hon. Tom Brake MP (Liberal Democrat), <i>Spokesperson for the House of Commons Commission</i></p> <p>The House of Commons Commission is responsible for the administration and services of the House of Commons, including the maintenance of the Palace of Westminster and the rest of the Parliamentary Estate. The Commission provides the non-executive governance of the House by Members, but it does not manage day-to-day operations. These responsibilities fall to the newly</p> | CPA Room |

| | | |
|------------------|---|----------|
| | appointed Executive Committee. This session explored the role of the Commission and its relationship with the Executive Committee. | |
| 12.00 - 13.00 | <p>House of Commons Governance Committee Report Valerie Vaz MP (Labour), <i>Member of the House of Commons Governance Committee (2014)</i> Mark Hutton, <i>Clerk of the House of Commons Governance Committee (2014)</i></p> <p>The House of Commons Governance Committee was a committee of eight Members of Parliament to consider the governance of the House of Commons, including the future allocation of the responsibilities for House services currently exercised by the Clerk of the House and Chief Executive. The Committee's Report, published in December 2014, contained a number of recommendations relating to the responsibilities of the Clerk and the Chief Executive. This session addressed the following questions: What impact have these changes had? Did the role of the Commission change following this report?</p> | CPA Room |
| 13.00 - 13.50 | <i>Lunch</i> | CPA Room |
| 13.50 - 14.00 | <i>Transfer to Room W1</i> | |
| 14.00 - 15.00 | <p>Role of an MP and PMQs Briefing Rt Hon. David Hanson MP (Labour), <i>former Parliamentary Private Secretary to Prime Minister Rt Hon. Tony Blair MP</i></p> <p>MPs do not have a formal job description. This session addressed the following questions: what is the role of an MP in the UK Parliament? How can MPs balance various commitments and prioritise their time between their constituencies, Westminster, special interests and many other political and personal pressures? What is the relationship between the political party and the MP?</p> | Room W1 |
| 15.00 - 15.30 | <i>Break</i> | |
| 15.30 - 16.30 | <p>Administration Select Committee Sir Paul Beresford MP (Conservative), <i>Chair of the Administration Select Committee</i> Sarah Heath, <i>Clerk of the Administration Select Committee</i></p> <p>The Administration Select Committee is an advisory committee to the House of Commons Commission. The committee makes recommendations on improvements to services provided by the House of Commons for both</p> | Room W1 |

| | | |
|---|--|-----------------------------|
| | Members of Parliament and the public. This session explored the remit of the committee. | |
| 16.30 - 16.45 | <i>Transfer to Room A, 1 Parliament Street</i> | |
| 16.45 - 17.30 | <p>Restoration and Renewal Richard Ware, <i>Programme Director, Palace of Westminster Restoration and Renewal Programme</i></p> <p>The Palace of Westminster Restoration and Renewal Programme was established to tackle the significant work that needs to be done to protect and preserve the heritage of the Palace of Westminster and ensure it can continue to serve as home to the UK Parliament in the 21st century and beyond. This session explored why the Palace requires a Restoration and Renewal Programme, what the benefits of the Programme are expected to, and what the Programme will involve.</p> | Room A, 1 Parliament Street |
| 17.30 | <i>Close</i> | |
| Wednesday 13 July - Parliament at Work | | |
| 08.30 | <i>Arrive Houses of Parliament, Portcullis House Entrance. Met by Robert Harper, CPA UK</i> | |
| 09.00 - 10.00 | <p>Meeting with Rt Hon. Lindsay Hoyle MP (Labour), Principal Deputy Speaker & Chairman of Ways and Means</p> <p>The positions of Deputy Speaker and Chairman of Ways and Means developed separately until they were combined in the mid-19th century. The terms are now used interchangeably. The Chairman of Ways and Means has three distinct roles from the Speaker: 1. Supervision of arrangements for sittings in Westminster Hall. 2. General oversight of matters connected with private bills 3. Chair of the Panel of Chairs with responsibility for the work of general committees. ‘General committees’ is the umbrella term for several different types of committee, the most common being those that examine public bills, but also delegated legislation committees. This session explored the role of the Chairman of Ways and Means.</p> | CPA Room |
| 10.00 - 11.00 | <p>The Role of Parliament - Holding Government to Account, Debates and Questions Andrew Stephenson MP (Conservative) (until 10.45) Mike Hennessy, <i>Table Office Clerk</i></p> <p>Within the Westminster parliamentary system what tools are at the disposal of individual Members to raise issues of importance? The session discussed the procedure, practice and effectiveness of parliamentary debates parliamentary</p> | CPA Room |

| | | |
|------------------|---|----------|
| | questions. It addressed the following questions: What rules govern parliamentary questions? How do questions enable MPs to hold the Government to account - and how effective is the summoning of Ministers to Parliament to answer an urgent question? | |
| 11.00 | <i>Break</i> | CPA Room |
| 11.15 - 11.45 | <p>Members of the House of Lords - Roles and Responsibilities Baroness Berridge of the Vale of Catmose (Conservative) Baroness Hodgson of Abinger (Conservative)</p> <p>The House of Lords is responsible for making laws, in-depth consideration of public policy and holding the government to account. How does the Chamber go about its work? What responsibilities do individual Members of the House of Lords have?</p> | CPA Room |
| 11.45 - 12.45 | <p>Observe Prime Minister's Questions</p> <p>At Westminster the Prime Minister, like his/her Ministers appears in parliament once a week to answer questions. Many Parliaments have a similar process. What is the purpose and procedure of Prime Minister's Questions (PMQs)? How effective are PMQs in holding the Prime Minister to account? In what other ways is the Prime Minister held to account?</p> | |
| 12.45 - 14.00 | <p>Lunch with Pakistan All-Party Parliamentary Group Hosted by Rehman Chishti MP (Conservative), <i>Chair of the Pakistan All-Party Parliamentary Group</i></p> <p>With: Charlotte Leslie MP (Conservative), Lord Ahmed (Non-affiliated), Baroness Sheehan (Liberal Democrat)</p> <p>All-Party Parliamentary Groups (APPGs) are informal cross-party groups run by and for Members of the Commons and Lords. APPGs cover a diverse range of countries and subjects and provide a valuable opportunity for parliamentarians to engage with individuals and organisations outside Parliament who share an interest in the subject matter of the group. APPGs are open to all Members of both Houses.</p> | CPA Room |
| 14.00 - 14.50 | <p>Scheduling Business: Government and Backbench Dr Therese Coffey MP (Conservative), <i>Deputy Leader of the House of Commons</i> Kevin Foster MP (Conservative), <i>Member of the Backbench Business Committee</i></p> <p>This session looked at the process of organising the UK Parliament's business. How is Government business organised? What is the Leader of the House of Commons' role in enhancing Parliament/Government relations? How is</p> | CPA Room |

| | | |
|---|--|--------------------------------|
| | backbench business allocated? What are the 'Usual Channels'? What recent changes have been made to ensure the parliamentary calendar is more family-friendly and flexible? | |
| 14.50 - 15.00 | <i>Transfer to Room U, Portcullis House</i> | |
| 15.00 - 16.00 | <p>Public Engagement with Parliament Gavin Shuker MP (Labour), <i>Member of the Women and Equalities Select Committee</i> David Clark, <i>Head of Outreach and Engagement, House of Commons</i></p> <p>A modern-day Parliament has numerous mechanisms to directly connect with the public. This session addressed the following questions: how can modern technology and innovation ensure parliaments are more accessible, engaging and representative? Can technology provide innovative solutions to closing the communication gap between parliaments and the younger generation? Can it lead to more representative democracies?</p> | Room U, Portcullis House |
| 16.00 - 16.30 | <i>Break</i> | |
| 16.30 - 17.30 | <p>Select Committees Yasmin Qureshi MP (Labour), <i>Member of the Foreign Affairs Select Committee</i> Kenneth Fox, <i>Clerk of the Foreign Affairs Select Committee</i></p> <p>The session provided an overview of the Westminster select committee system. What role do committees play in holding the government to account? How are committees formed? How is their independence and effectiveness ensured?</p> | Room U, Portcullis House |
| 17.30 | <i>Close</i> | |
| Thursday 14 July - The Work of an MP | | |
| 08.45 | <i>Arrive Houses of Parliament, Portcullis House Entrance. Met by Robert Harper, CPA UK</i> | |
| 09.00 - 10.00 | <p>Standards and Conduct in the UK Parliament Lynn Gardner, <i>Clerk of the Standards Committee (House of Commons)</i> Brendan Keith, <i>Registrar of Members' Interests (House of Lords)</i></p> <p>This session provided an overview of how parliamentary ethics and standards evolved and discussed the practice of upholding the parliamentary Code of Conduct. It addressed the following questions: How are the rules on parliamentary privilege affected by the modern-day environment in which they operate? What is the role of the Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards and how does it differ from the work of IPSA? Why are there separate committees</p> | CPA Room |

| | | |
|------------------|---|--------------------------|
| | on Standards and on Privileges? What effect does the parliament's approach have on public confidence? | |
| 10.00 - 10.15 | Transfer to Commonwealth Gallery, House of Commons | |
| 10.15 - 10.45 | View the House of Commons in session Business <i>Oral questions</i> <i>Energy and Climate Change, including Topical Questions</i> Business Statement <i>Leader of the House</i> | House of Commons Gallery |
| 10.45 - 11.00 | Transfer to Commonwealth Gallery, House of Lords | |
| 11.00 - 11.30 | View House of Lords in session Business <i>Oral questions</i> <i>Impact of creative subjects in the school curriculum on pupils' creativity and stress - Baroness Massey of Darwen</i> | House of Lords Gallery |
| 11.30 - 12.00 | <i>Break</i> | CPA Room |
| 12.00 - 12.45 | Office of Speaker's Counsel <i>Michael Carpenter, Speaker's Counsel</i> What is the role of the Office of Speaker's Counsel? Where can Clerks turn to for specialised legal advice? What is the role of the Office of Speaker's Counsel in scrutinising domestic legislation? | CPA Room |
| 12.45 - 14.00 | Working Lunch on Devolution and relationship between Westminster and Devolved Legislatures <i>With Lord Purvis of Tweed (Liberal Democrat), Co-Chair, All-Party Parliamentary Group on Reform, Decentralisation and Devolution in the UK</i> Across the world there has been an increasing move towards devolution. This session explored the process of devolution in the UK and how the powers of devolved legislatures have evolved since they were established in 1998. How does the UK ensure effective collaboration and scrutiny between the national parliament and devolved legislatures? What is the West Lothian Question and EVEL? | CPA Room |
| 14.00 - 15.00 | Parliamentary Digital Service <i>Emma Allen, Director of Digital Development</i> <i>Rob Sanders, Director of Live Services</i> | CPA Room |

| | | |
|---------------|--|----------|
| | The Parliamentary Digital Service, a joint department of both Houses of Parliament, provides technology and intranet services to Members and their staff. It is also responsible for the strategic direction of Parliament's digital offering and the delivery and management of parliamentary digital platforms, including the website. This session explored the services the Digital Service provides and how it has modernised Parliament's Digital Services. | |
| 15.00 - 15.45 | <p>Research services Tim Jarrett, <i>Library Clerk, House of Commons Library</i> Aaron Goater, <i>Parliamentary Office of Science and Technology</i> Matthew Purvis, <i>Head of House of Lords Library Research Services</i></p> <p>To function better, parliamentarians should have access to up-to-date, reliable and independent information services, but the investment is large. How are information services structured in parliament? Taking Westminster as an example, what services are offered through the House of Commons Library, research departments and the Parliamentary Office of Science & Technology (POST)? What other information services are available to Members? How can parliamentary staff use the information available to offer targeted advice to their Members?</p> | CPA Room |
| 15.45 - 16.00 | <i>Break</i> | |
| 16.00 - 16.45 | <p>Human Resources, Diversity and Change in the House of Commons Elaine Mason, <i>HR and Change Business Partner</i> Anne Foster, <i>Head of Diversity and Inclusion</i></p> <p>This session explored the role of parliament as an employer; asking whether the institutional structures and culture is keeping up with the speed of social change. What is required to ensure that parliament is an equal opportunity employer, ensuring an accessible and enabling working environment for all?</p> | CPA Room |
| 17.00 | <i>Close</i> | |

Outcomes & Follow-up Activities

7.01. The delegation were particularly interested in the work of the Backbench Business Committee and a number of the MNAs on the delegation have sent a request to the Speaker of the National Assembly for the formation of a similar committee in the National Assembly. CPA UK will monitor this development.

7.02. IP3 came to an end in September 2016 so there is no scope for direct follow-up with IP3. However, discussions are currently underway for another EU-funded parliamentary strengthening programme in

Pakistan. CPA UK has been kept updated on the progress of this project and will explore opportunities for engagement with IP4, the mooted successor organisation.

7.03. CPA UK will continue to be available for similar requests for visits from Pakistan - be it the national Parliament of Provincial Assemblies - to support the sharing of knowledge and good practice relating to parliamentary practice and procedure.

7.04. CPA UK's Chief Executive mentioned the success of the programme to the Speaker of the National Assembly when they met in London. The Speaker is supportive of follow-up activities that CPA UK will explore.

Acknowledgements

8.01. CPA UK would like to thank the National Assembly of Pakistan and the Senate of Pakistan for participating in the programme and especially IP3 for organising the delegation's visit to the UK.

8.02. CPA UK would also like to thank the UK parliamentarians and parliamentary officials who supported the programme.

About CPA UK

9.1. CPA UK is one of the largest and most active branches in the CPA community and delivers a unique annual international outreach programme in Westminster and overseas. CPA UK works to encourage parliamentary diplomacy and build parliamentary capacity on behalf of the UK Parliament and the wider CPA. Through activities such as conferences, seminars, delegations and parliamentary strengthening teams, CPA UK provides Members with a practical, current and first-hand perspective on international issues facing fellow parliamentarians across the Commonwealth. Working with CPA UK's international outreach programmes also enhances Members' understanding of issues facing diaspora communities in their own constituencies.