

2019 Westminster Seminar on Effective Parliaments

25-29 November 2019

Westminster, London

68 Years of Capability Development

BACKGROUND

ABOUT CPA UK

CPA UK supports and strengthens parliamentary democracy throughout the Commonwealth. It focuses on key issues including women in parliament, modern slavery, financial oversight, security and trade.

Peer to peer learning is central to the way CPA UK works. CPA UK brings together UK and Commonwealth parliamentarians and officials, to share knowledge and learn from each other. We aim to improve parliamentary oversight, scrutiny and representation. CPA UK is located in the Palace of Westminster and funded by the UK Parliament.

THE WESTMINSTER SEMINAR

The annual Westminster Seminar is CPA UK's flagship capacity-building programme for parliamentarians and appointed procedural/committee clerks from across the Commonwealth.

Each year the five-day programme provides a unique platform for participants from across the Commonwealth to network and engage with counterparts, exploring approaches to parliamentary democracy, practice and procedure in the context of the Westminster System and drawing comparisons between Commonwealth legislatures.

Why do we run this initiative?

Whilst many legislatures have their own training programmes, CPA UK's Westminster seminar provides a unique platform for participants to meet their counterparts from across the commonwealth, build lasting relationships and explore the role and functions of parliamentarians/clerks in depth. Attended by over 60 parliamentarians and clerks each year, participants have an unrivalled opportunity to share their knowledge and experiences with others and consider the challenges they face in their own work. CPA UK hopes that this programme will have a lasting impact on all those that attend.

OBJECTIVE AND OUTPUTS

Our OBJECTIVE is for delegates to learn collaboratively in an interactive environment, enhancing their ability to effectively scrutinize, represent and deliver oversight in their respective parliaments.

The outputs for the Westminster Seminar are as follows:

Output 1:

Delegates will have an opportunity widen their networks, creating open communication lines to work collaboratively with their peers.

Output 2:

Delegates will adopt effective tools to enhance their leadership and administrative role in their respective legislatures.

Output 3:

Delegates will gain a deeper understanding of the components that make up an effective parliament within the Westminster context, using examples from the UK and across the Commonwealth.



MEMBER'S PROGRAMME

	MONDAY 25TH 09:30 – 17:00	TUESDAY 26TH 08:45 – 17:30	WEDNESDAY 27TH 09:15 – 17:00	THURSDAY 28TH 09:00 – 17:00	FRIDAY 29TH 09:00 – 16:00
AM	Effective Parliaments and our Responsibilities	Public engagement ----- Social media & Democracy: A balanced approach ----- Pressures on a parliamentarian ----- Communication workshop part 1	Impact of Committees ----- Spotlight on: UK PAC ----- Holding the PM to Account/ PMQs live stream	Supporting Local Authority and Local Democracy: Visit to Guildhall- City of London Corp	Parliamentary Education Centre Visit ----- Archives; Tour of Victoria Tower
PM	Diversity within Parliament ----- UK Politics: 2019, a historical year ----- The political scene around International Trade	Communication Workshop part 2 ----- Privilege: Standards, Behaviour & Etiquette ----- Role of the Speaker	Committees across the Commonwealth ----- Committee Enquiry Exercise		Closing Ceremony Lunch

CLERK'S PROGRAMME

	MONDAY 25TH 09:30 – 17:00	TUESDAY 26TH 08:45 – 17:30	WEDNESDAY 27TH 09:15 – 17:00	THURSDAY 28TH 09:00 – 17:00	FRIDAY 29TH 09:30 – 16:00
AM	Effective Parliaments and our Responsibilities	Role of a Clerk ————— Member and Clerk Relations	How to Communicate as a Clerk ————— How to be Assertive and Communicate Clearly with Members and Stakeholders	Recommendations and Report Writing ————— Public Engagement ————— Legislation	Research and Data Collection
PM	Diversity within Parliament ————— UK Politics: 2019, a historical year ————— The political scene around International Trade	Select Committees & Clerk Question Time ————— Conducting an Inquiry ————— Role of the Clerk of the House	Committee Enquiry Exercise Briefing preparations ————— Committee Enquiry Exercise	Neutrality ————— Visit to IPSA	Closing Ceremony Lunch