

Westminster Seminar on Effective Parliaments 2019

UK SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

PARLIAMENTARIANS PROGRAMME

MONDAY 25 NOVEMBER

SESSION 1: EFFECTIVE PARLIAMENTS AND OUR ROLES & RESPONSIBILITIES

DAME MARGARET HODGE



Margaret became the Labour Member of Parliament for Barking in June 1994. She has served in government, holding portfolios across education, work and pensions, business and culture. In 2010, Margaret also became the first elected Chair of the Public Accounts Committee and was also its first female Chair. Today, Margaret is the Chair of the APPG on Responsible Tax, as well as the Chair for organisations in the arts and higher education.

PROFESSOR PHILIP NORTON



Philip Norton was elevated to the peerage, as Lord Norton of Louth, in 1998. He was appointed Professor of Government at the University of Hull in 1986. In 1992 he also became Director of the Centre for Legislative Studies. From 2001 to 2004 he was Chairman of the House of Lords Select Committee on the Constitution. He has been described in The House Magazine – the journal of both Houses of Parliament – as ‘our greatest living expert on Parliament’.

MATTHEW HAMLYN



Matthew joined the House of Commons service in 1987. Since then he has worked on several select committees, including over six years as clerk of the Education Committee in the 1990s, and in procedural offices, dealing with legislation in the Public Bill Office and parliamentary questions and motions in the Table Office. He spent 2001-2004 on secondment to the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, heading its parliamentary relations and devolution department. From October 2004 to 2006 he was Clerk of the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs Committee. Since October 2006 he has been head of the Scrutiny Unit in the House of Commons, providing specialist help to select committees in the scrutiny of the Government’s financial and performance reporting and draft bills, and providing support for ad hoc joint committees on draft bills.

SESSION 2: DIVERSITY WITHIN PARLIAMENT

BARONESS LIZ BARKER



Baroness Barker has been a Liberal Democrat Peer since 1999. She has been a spokesperson on pensions and health, charities and social enterprise, and LGBT rights. She is Vice-Chair of the All Party Parliamentary Group on Global LGBTI Rights, HIV/AIDS, APPG on Sexual and Reproductive Health. She is a member of APPGs on Nigeria and India. A supporter of Open for Business, Liz is the CEO of ThirdSectorBusiness, a consultancy which specialises in charities and social enterprise. She advises parliamentarians, companies and NGOs around the world on how to work together to accelerate change. Justice for minorities, equality for women and girls, and respect for older people are the themes which recur through Liz’s work. She is currently leading work in parliament on trans, non-binary and intersex legal recognition and celebrating equality developments in Northern Ireland.

PIPPA PATTERSON



Pippa Patterson is the Clerk of the House of Lords EU Home Affairs Committee, which scrutinises the UK Government’s approach to EU policy on immigration, asylum, police and security cooperation, healthcare, sport and education. Pippa’s other roles at the Lords have included working on two other EU committees, a joint committee on patient safety, and the steering group established to develop a new independent complaints and grievance policy. Pippa is also currently Co-Chair of the workplace equality network, ParliGENDER, which seeks to improve and promote gender equality at every level and in every part of Parliament. Prior to working at Parliament, Pippa worked in major giving for various charities including Saferworld, SSAFA, and Macmillan Cancer Support.

JENNIFER CROOK



Jennifer Crook is Head of Diversity and Inclusion at the House of Commons. Previously, Jennifer was the National Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Adviser for the Methodist Council, an international charity with a membership of 30 million people, Head of Diversity and Community Cohesion for Brent Council, Head of Race and Diversity at the National Police Improvement Agency, Head of Equality and Diversity at the Department for Work and Pensions, Jobcentre Plus and a senior lecturer in Education and the Equality Diversity Adviser at Anglia Ruskin University. Jennifer has worked with a number of organisations, both national and international, on the equality, diversity and inclusion agenda, including working with the United Nations on gender and race equality issues. She has carried out cross-cultural research in Japan and Morocco and worked with the Home Office in Northern Ireland and Iraq. Amongst her many qualifications, Jennifer is a qualified teacher and counsellor and has a Masters in ‘Race’ and Ethnic Relations.

SESSION 3: UK POLITICS: 2019, A HISTORICALLY DEFINING YEAR

LORD BOATENG



Paul is a Barrister of Gray's Inn, having completed a four year term as British High Commissioner to South Africa (2005 – 2009). He was elevated to the Peerage in June 2010. He has 30 years experience in public life in the law, politics and diplomacy. He was, until he stepped down to take the post of High Commissioner in 2005, a Member of Parliament (1987 – 2005), and he served as a Cabinet Minister and Chief Secretary to the Treasury under Tony Blair. He was appointed to the Joint House of Lords/House of Commons Standing Committee on the National Security Strategy in June 2014.

TONY GREW



Tony Grew has been a parliamentary journalist at Westminster for a decade. He writes for The Sunday Times and is a columnist for The House magazine. He appears regularly on TV and radio providing expert insight into how the Commons works.

SESSION 4: THE POLITICAL SCENE ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE

STEVE WOOLCOCK



Woolcock has taught international political economy, trade and economic diplomacy at the LSE since 1999. Before joining the LSE he worked on trade and EU policy at Chatham House and for the private sector. In 1999 he established the International Trade Policy Unit at the LSE to bridge the gap between academic and policy work. His ongoing research has been on the regulation of integrating markets, especially in the context of preferential and multilateral trade and investment agreements. He has served as a consultant to the European Parliament, European Commission, OECD, Commonwealth Secretariat, the UK and other governments.

TUESDAY 26 NOVEMBER

SESSION 5: PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

DAVID CLARKE



David is the Head of Education and Engagement at the UK Parliament. He has a B.Ed. in Primary Education and Teaching and has worked as a Union Welfare Officer at Plymouth University Students Union and as Regional Education Manager (South East) with the Royal National Lifeboat Institution. From 2006-2015, David worked with The British Youth Council and was Deputy Chief Executive 2011-15 with responsibility for co-ordinating all UK programmes for over 10,000 young people each year. He was also responsible for the development of BYC national events including the live House of Commons UK Youth Parliament Sitting. David has been at the UK Parliament since 2015 firstly as Head of Outreach and Engagement and, since 2016, as Head of Education and Engagement.

SESSION 6: SOCIAL MEDIA & DEMOCRACY: A BALANCED APPROACH

TOMMY SHANE



Tommy works at First Draft, a global non-profit that tackles disinformation, where he oversees CrossCheck, a global network for reporters to collaborate on investigations. Previously, he worked at the UK House of Commons, managing the select committees' central digital engagement team, and at Full Fact, the UK's factchecking charity, during the 2017 UK General Election. He has published research on political authenticity on social media, and he was named a global pioneer in digital democracy by the National Endowment for the Society and the Arts (Nesta).

SESSION 7: PRESSURES ON A PARLIAMENTARIAN

LORD HASELHURST



Lord Haselhurst is a Conservative Life Peer, and has sat under this title in the Lords since June 2018. Prior to being raised to the peerage, Lord Haselhurst served as the Member of Parliament for Saffron Walden, in Essex, from 1977-2017. He has previously served as the Chairman for the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association UK 2010-2015, Chairman of the House of Commons Administration Committee 2010-2015, and Deputy Speaker and Chairman of Ways and Means 1997-2010. In addition to this, Lord Haselhurst served as the Chairman of the CPA International Executive Committee 2011-2014. During his time in the Commons, Lord Haselhurst played an active role in the strengthening of the UK Parliament through his membership of the Liaison, Finance and Services and Works of Arts Committees. Lord Haselhurst has a strong interest in the Commonwealth, having visited Australia, Kenya, Malaysia, Pakistan, South Africa and Tanzania during his time as a Member of the CPA.

SESSION 8: COMMUNICATIONS

KATE FARAGHER



Kate has over 14 years' experience in coaching, consulting and training senior executives in national and international FTSE 100 companies as well as at the House of Commons. Kate has trained with some of the top voice coaches in the country and is a fully qualified Executive and Business coach, NLP practitioner, Emotional Intelligence trainer and Myers Briggs Personality Profiling Coach. She is the founder and CEO of BeSpoke Skills.

LORD DON FOSTER



Lord Don Foster of Bath was the Liberal Democrat Member of Parliament for Bath from 1992 until his retirement in 2015. During his time in the House of Commons he served on numerous committees including the Select Committee on Education. As well as serving as his party's spokesman on a range of issues he was a government Minister and government deputy chief whip. He now sits in the House of Lords where he recently chaired the Select Committee on "The Rural Economy" and is a member of the Select Committee investigating the social and economic impacts of gambling.

SESSION 9: PRIVILEGE: STANDARDS, BEHAVIOUR & ETIQUETTE

EVE SAMSON



Eve Samson has worked in the House of Commons since 1986 and is a former Clerk of the Committee on Standards and the Committee on Privileges. During her time in the House, she has worked for a wide variety of committees, including Science and Technology, Transport, Public Administration, Public Accounts, Business, Enterprise, Treasury and the Joint Committee on Human Rights. Ms Samson has also worked in the Public Bill Office, handling many public bills, including ones on Employment, Broadcasting, Human Fertilisation and Embryology, Children and Football Supporters, as well as in the Journal Office, which keeps the legal record of the House's activities.

SESSION 12: SPOTLIGHT ON THE UK PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE

LAURA-JANE TILEY



Laura-Jane is the Second Clerk for the House of Commons Public Accounts Committee, where she is primarily responsible for planning the Committee's programme of work, managing relations with Government departments and wider stakeholders and coordinating the Committee's international work. This year, Laura-Jane represented the UK PAC at the CPA workshop in Fiji. Laura-Jane joined the Public Accounts Committee in September 2018 after a year as Second Clerk on the Scottish Affairs Committee.

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SESSION 11: THE IMPACT OF COMMITTEES

HANNAH WHITE



Dr Hannah White is Deputy Director of the Institute for Government, a UK based think-tank that provides research and analysis, and topical commentary to explore the key challenges facing government. Here she leads on strategic oversight of the Institute's programme of work on government, parliament and the civil service. Hannah has extensive knowledge of Westminster and Whitehall based on over a decade of experience in Parliament and the civil service. Before running the Committee on Standards in Public Life in the Cabinet Office, she was a clerk in the House of Commons managing select and legislative committees and advising on parliamentary procedure. Hannah is a commentator for radio and television and has appeared on Radio 4's Westminster Hour, World at One, the Today programme, Newsnight, BBC News and Sky News. Hannah also writes for a range of media including The Guardian, The Times, The Telegraph and Civil Service World.

SESSION 13: HOLDING THE PRIME MINISTER TO ACCOUNT

LUCINDA MAER



Lucinda is a Deputy Principal Clerk in the Committee Office of the House of Commons. She has worked for the House of Commons for 15 years in a variety of roles. She has been Clerk of the Joint Committee on Human Rights since September 2019 and was previously Clerk of the Liaison Committee from 2018-2019. From 2013-2018 she was the Head of the Parliament and Constitution Centre in the House of Commons Library.

THURSDAY 28 NOVEMBER

VISIT TO GUILDHALL

PAUL DOUBLE



Paul Double has been Remembrancer of the City of London since 2003. The Office was created in 1571 as the official channel of communication between the City, the Royal Households, Parliament and the London Diplomatic Corps. He studied at the Universities of Bristol and Aston, and at University College, London. He was secretary of the government sponsored (with the CBI and TUC) Printing Industry Advisory Committee during the transition of the newspaper industry from traditional Fleet Street practices to the adoption of 'new technology' and was concurrently a member of the government's legislation review unit tasked with developing modern plain language legislation in the employment field.

TOM HOFFMAN MBE, LLB, FCA



Tom Hoffman was elected as Common Councilman for Vintry Ward in 2002 and has served on the Finance Committee, the Investment Committee and the Markets Committee. Tom studied Law at the University of Exeter, qualified as a chartered accountant, and became an international banker, specialising first in corporate finance at Hill Samuel, and subsequently in the international capital markets at Lloyds Bank International and the Fuji Bank of Japan. He was then appointed to general management positions as Head of Corporate Banking at ABN Bank and, for the last 13 years before retirement, as General Manager for the UK & Ireland of Banco Espirito Santo, a leading Portuguese bank.

TONY ARBOUR AM



Tony Arbour was a senior lecturer and Honorary Visiting Fellow at Kingston University Business School and a former Governor of the University. He is a Member of the Employment Tribunals of England and Wales. Tony was GLC member for Surbiton between 1983 and 1986. He was first elected a Councillor for Hampton Wick in 1971. He is a Councillor in Richmond upon Thames Borough. Tony was Leader of Richmond Council 2002-2006. Tony Arbour is a Justice of the Peace and Assistant Chairman of the Richmond upon Thames Bench.

JENNETTE ARNOLD OBE AM



Jennette Arnold has been a member of the London Assembly since 2000. Initially a London-wide member, since 2004 Jennette has represented the North East London constituency of Hackney, Islington and Waltham Forest. Jennette's work focuses on the key strategic issues that impact directly on the lives of her constituents – improved transport services, crime reduction and affordable housing. She is also a champion in the fight against any form of injustice and discrimination. In 2010 Jennette was awarded the OBE in the Queen's birthday honours list for her services to local government and the community of London.

COMMONWEALTH LOCAL GOVERNMENT FORUM



Founded in 1995, CLGF works to promote and strengthen democratic local government across the Commonwealth and to encourage the exchange of best practice – through conferences and events, technical assistance projects and research. As a Commonwealth organisation, CLGF draws on the influential network of the Commonwealth that provides a solid basis for its programmes and activities. As an associated organisation officially recognised by Commonwealth Heads of Government, CLGF is well-placed to influence policy development and lead on democracy and good governance at local level.

CLERKS PROGRAMME

TUESDAY 26 NOVEMBER

SESSION 5: THE ROLE OF A CLERK

EVE SAMSON



Eve Samson has worked in the House of Commons since 1986 and is a former Clerk of the Committee on Standards and the Committee on Privileges. During her time in the House, she has worked for a wide variety of committees, including Science and Technology, Transport, Public Administration, Public Accounts, Business, Enterprise, Treasury and the Joint Committee on Human Rights. Ms Samson has also worked in the Public Bill Office, handling many public bills, including ones on Employment, Broadcasting, Human Fertilisation and Embryology, Children and Football Supporters, as well as in the Journal Office, which keeps the legal record of the House's activities.

ANWEN REES



Anwen Rees is a Clerk in the Public Bill Office. The Office provides staff and support for public bill committees, European committees, delegated legislation committees and grand committees. It also supports the Committee of the Whole House and the House in relation to committee and report stages of bills. Clerks in the Office advise Members on the work of these committees and tabling of amendments to bills. In the last year Anwen has clerked a number of Bills, including the Agriculture Bill, Wild Animals in Circuses Bill, Courts and Tribunals (Judiciary and Functions of Staff) Bill, and the Courts and Tribunals (Online Procedure) Bill. She was also Clerk of the Children Act 1989 (Amendment) (Female Genital Mutilation) Bill, a Private Members' Bill supported by the Government. Prior to her time in the Public Bill Office, Anwen worked in the Committee Office on a number of select committees scrutinising Government policy. These included the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs Committee, and the Welsh Affairs Committee. She has worked for the House of Commons for over 10 years.

MIKE WINTER



Mike has previously held the posts of Clerk of the European Statutory Instruments Committee and the Joint Committee on Statutory Instruments, as well as Second Clerks posts on the Health and European Scrutiny Committees. Before joining Parliament, Mike spent over 25 years working in the centre of Government within the Cabinet Office. Mike held a variety of roles in the Cabinet Office including Policy Support Manager for the Royal Commission on the Reform of the House of Lords and Private Secretary to the head of the Civil Contingencies Secretariat. Between 2003 and 2016 Mike worked in the Office of the Leader of the House of Commons, including over five years as Head of the Office.

SESSION 6: MEMBER AND CLERK RELATIONSHIPS

COLIN LEE



Colin has been a Clerk in the House of Commons since 1988. Posts held include: Clerk of the Culture, Media and Sport Committee, 1997-2001; Clerk of Supply, Public Bill Office, 2001-04; Clerk of the Treasury Committee, 2005-08; Parliamentary Adviser, Cabinet Office, 2011-12; Clerk, Parliamentary Commission on Banking Standards, 2012-13; Principal Clerk, Committee Office, 2013-15; Clerk of Bills, Public Bill Office, 2016-19.

DAVID WEIR



David has worked in the House of Commons for more than 20 years. David is currently Clerk of the Justice Committee and has clerked other select committees as well as being a Table Office and Public Bill Office Clerk.

SESSION 7: TIME AND RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

DOMINIC STOCKBRIDGE



Dominic is Second Clerk of the Home Affairs Committee, where he works on scrutiny of policing, and of some aspects of EU Exit. He joined the House Service in 2015 and has previously worked for five other select committees, including the Public Accounts Committee and Procedure Committee. He has worked extensively with the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, with a particular focus on Public Accounts Committees, including assisting with regional network workshops in Nairobi and Kuala Lumpur.

CHRIS SHAW



Chris Shaw has been a Clerk in the House of Commons for 29 years. He has worked on a number of select committees during this time, including Home Affairs, Defence, Science and Technology, Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy and is currently Clerk of the Foreign Affairs Committee. He worked in the Table Office from 2000-02, editing parliamentary questions and motions and writing the Order Paper. From 2006-09 Chris worked in the Public Bill Office as Clerk in charge of Private Members' Bills. Chris has been heavily involved with international parliamentary assemblies in his capacity as UK Delegation Secretary to the Council of Europe, Western European Union, OSCE and NATO parliamentary assemblies and subsequently, from 2005-10, as Presidential Adviser to the NATO PA. From 2009-12 Chris served as Head of the Scrutiny Unit in the House of Commons, which provides financial, legal and economic expertise to the House's select committees. From 2012 to September 2015 he went on secondment to the Cabinet Office as the Parliamentary Adviser, working closely with the Leader of the House, the Whips and No. 10 on a whole range of parliamentary issues. In addition to these roles Chris has been involved in the development of senior management development programmes within the House. He is currently the lead official in the House for the Climate Change Citizens' Assembly.

SESSION 8: SELECT COMMITTEES/CLERK QUESTION TIME

BEN SNEDDON



Ben has been Clerk of the House of Commons Petitions Committee since May 2019. He was previously Second Clerk to the Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy Committee and Clerk of the Regulatory Reform Committee. Prior to joining the House service, Ben was a career civil servant, advising Ministers in the Department of Health and Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland Offices on Parliamentary business and procedure. Between 2010 and 2013, Ben was a Private Secretary to the Leader of the House of Commons where he was responsible for Government proposals for Parliamentary reform including, in 2011, responsibility for the establishment and operation of the Government's e-petition site.

LYNN GARDNER



Lynn joined the House of Commons Service in 1987 and has worked in a variety of roles within the procedural and committee offices. As a Principal Clerk in the Committee Office, she led on the Office cultural transformation plan in 2018/19 and she represented Commons staff on the Panel which undertook the IPU Gender-Sensitive Parliament Audit in Westminster in Autumn 2018. As Head of the Overseas Office, Lynn advises and supports the Speaker, his Deputies and senior staff in their official international activities.

NICK BEECH



Nick is the Clerk of the Northern Ireland Affairs Committee. He has previously served as Clerk in the Table Office during some of the spicier parliamentary elements of Brexit and on the Foreign Affairs, National Security Strategy, Transport and Environmental Audit Committees.

SESSION 9: CONDUCTING AN INQUIRY

LAURA-JANE TILEY



Laura-Jane is the Second Clerk for the House of Commons Public Accounts Committee, where she is primarily responsible for planning the Committee's programme of work, managing relations with Government departments and wider stakeholders and coordinating the Committee's international work. This year, Laura-Jane represented the UK PAC at the CPA workshop in Fiji. Laura-Jane joined the Public Accounts Committee in September 2018 after a year as Second Clerk on the Scottish Affairs Committee.

KEVIN MADDISON



Kevin Maddison is Secretary of Speaker's Committees and a Clerk in the Chamber Business Team at the House of Commons. Prior to that, he was Clerk of the Welsh Affairs Committee for two years. He has also worked for the Communities and Local Government, Education and Exiting the EU Committees, as well as co-ordinating the House of Commons capacity building programme in Myanmar.

SESSION 10: ROLE OF THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

DR JOHN BENGER



John Benger joined the then Clerk's Department in 1986, where he served as second clerk on the then Trade and Industry Committee. He then spent time in the Private Bill Office before, in 1990, clerking his first Committee, the Committee of Public Accounts. John worked for four years in the Table Office, then from 1998 clerked the Health Committee for six years (his longest spell in any role). John then worked as clerk of supply in the Public Bill Office (2004-08) dealing with all supply and appropriation bills and clerking numerous public bill committees. He was briefly clerk of the Treasury Committee during the financial crisis, but was promoted to Principal Clerk of Delegated Legislation in 2009, overseeing a range of select committees. He moved for three years to the House of Commons Library in 2012, first as Director of Service Delivery, then as Acting Director. He was appointed Clerk Assistant and Managing Director of the Chamber and Committees Team in 2015, before being made the 51st Clerk of the House in March 2019.

WEDNESDAY 27 NOVEMBER

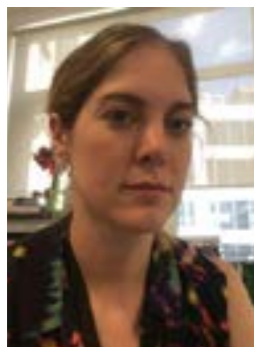
SESSION 12: HOW TO COMMUNICATE AND BRIEF AS A CLERK

CHLOE CHALLENGER



Chloe Challenger is Clerk of the Digital, Culture, Media & Sport Committee, and Head of the Committee Secretariat. Chloe is also a Senior Clerk within the House, working on rotas in the Chamber, Westminster Hall and surrounding offices to advise on rules of procedure. Chloe has worked in Whitehall and Westminster for 20 years, including at HM Treasury and as a policy adviser to several select committees.

GOSIA MCBRIDE



Gosia McBride is the Clerk of the Treasury Committee in the House of Commons. In 2016-19 she was the Director of Customer and Team Services, sitting on the Management Board of the Chamber and Committees Team, the department supporting the work of select committees and proceedings in the Chamber. Gosia joined the House of Commons as a Clerk in 2004, where she has had a varied and exciting career, with a wide range of parliamentary and scrutiny roles, including in the Public Bill Office, Scrutiny Unit, Work and Pensions and Foreign Affairs Committees. In 2015 Gosia set up and lead the Women and Equalities Committee, the UK Parliament's first Committee on equalities issues.

SESSION 13: HOW TO BE ASSERTIVE IN COMMUNICATING WITH MEMBERS AND STAKEHOLDERS

KATE FARAGHER



Kate has over 14 years' experience in coaching, consulting and training senior executives in national and international FTSE 100 companies as well as at the House of Commons. Kate has trained with some of the top voice coaches in the country and is a fully qualified Executive and Business coach, NLP practitioner, Emotional Intelligence trainer and Myers Briggs Personality Profiling Coach. She is the founder and CEO of BeSpoke Skills.

SESSION 14: COMMITTEE HEARING BRIEFING & EXERCISE

HUW YARDLEY



Huw has worked for the House of Commons since 1996. He has worked for five select committees, including the Communities and Local Government Committee (2007-2011), the then Committee on the Lord Chancellor's Department / Constitutional Affairs Committee, now Justice Committee (2003), the Regulatory Reform Committee (2001-2003) and the Environment Sub-committee of the then Environment, Transport and Regional Affairs Committee (1998-2001). He has also worked in the Journal Office (1996-1998 and 2011-2015) and the Table Office (2003-2007). He became Clerk of the then Health (now Health and Social Care) Committee at the 2015 election, having spent the previous three and a half years in the Journal Office as Senior Votewriter and Clerk of the Procedure Committee.

THURSDAY 28 NOVEMBER

SESSION 16: RECOMMENDATIONS AND REPORT WRITING

STEPHEN MCGINNESS



Stephen is a Votewriter in the Journal Office where he writes the vote at least once a week, compiles and indexes the Journal and undertakes procedural research. Stephen has been a Votewriter in the Journal Office of the House of Commons since August 2017. He came to Parliament as an environmental specialist in the House of Commons Library, providing briefing to MPs on issues as diverse as science policy, countryside and air pollution. He moved on to be head of the Commons Information Office, spending several years there moving processes from Word to database stored content. After an interesting year as part of the Legg Review team, he moved to the Committee Office, clerking first the Science and Technology Committee when the Chair was Andrew Miller MP and then the Public Accounts Committee whose Chair was Meg Hillier MP.

SESSION 17: PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

TARA JANE KERPENS-LEE



Tara Jane has worked for the Select Committee Engagement Team for the past three years. She works with committees across the House of Commons and House of Lords to connect them with the public. Within this role she delivers engagement consultation events where committees hear directly from those experiencing the issues at the heart of a select committee inquiry.

ROBERT BALDRY



As a Senior Engagement Officer, Robert works specifically with the Home Affairs and the Parliament and Constitution Committee cluster groups. The Select Committee Engagement team works with people and communities across the United Kingdom to increase public understanding of, and engagement with, the House of Commons and House of Lords select committees. They support select committees to engage with the public through informal, deliberative events and gather views and experiences of audiences that committees want to hear from but can't reach through other channels.

NICHOLAS CALEY



Nick joined the Select Committee Engagement Team in August 2019, having worked in the UK Parliament Catering Team for two years previously. He supports engagement activities and events for a range of committees, helping to connect a wider and more diverse audience to inquiries.

SESSION 18: LEGISLATION

LIAM LAURENCE SMYTH



Liam Laurence Smyth joined the House of Commons Clerk's Department in 1977. Since then, Liam has worked for several committees and has held roles in the Journal Office, Private Bill Office, Table Office and Public Bill Office. Since 2003, Liam has been a Principle Clerk in the House of Commons as Clerk of Delegated Legislation (2003 - 2005), Clerk of the Overseas Office (2005 - Oct 2008), Clerk of Bills (2008 - Oct 2009), Clerk of the Journals (2009 - Oct 2014), Clerk of Legislation (2014 - Present). As Clerk of Legislation, Liam oversees the work of the Public and Private Bill Offices in advising the Chair, Members, Government officials and the wider public on the passage of Bills through Parliament.

As a former Clerk of the Overseas Office, Liam has visited several Commonwealth Parliaments to take part in seminars, training conferences or official visits: Australia, Botswana, Canada, Ghana, India, Kenya, Malaysia, New Zealand, Nigeria, Samoa, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Tanzania and Uganda.

SESSION 19: NEUTRALITY

ROBERT HARPER



As Deputy Head of International Partnerships Team at CPA UK, Robert supports the design and delivery of bilateral parliamentary strengthening programmes across the Commonwealth. Robert was previously Asia Pacific Regional Programme Manager, responsible for the planning and delivery of CPA UK's engagement with the Asia Pacific region. Robert has worked closely with Pakistan, Malaysia, Fiji and Sri Lanka on parliamentary strengthening programmes. Prior to joining CPA UK, Robert worked for Raitt Orr & Associates, a public affairs and communications agency working with charities and NGOs in the field of international development. Robert supported charitable organisations working in the fields of health policy, agriculture, conservation and humanitarian relief.

JAMES RHYS



James Rhys is one of the Principal Clerks of Select Committees in the UK House of Commons. He has been a clerk in the House of Commons since 1994 and most recently served as Clerk of the Exiting the EU Committee. His Committee experience has included time as Clerk to the Treasury Committee and the Defence Committee. He has also worked as a clerk in the Public Bill Office, Table Office and Journal Office. James also spent a year on secondment at the Bank of England from 2012-13.

IAN BRADSHAW



Ian is Clerk of the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs Committee. He joined the House of Commons as a Senior Clerk in 2017. Prior to that he was policy manager at the mental health research charity the McPin Foundation. Between 2003 and 2014 Ian was a civil servant. He joined the then Office of the Deputy Prime Minister on the Civil Service Fast Stream having completed his BA and MA in History at the University of Warwick. From 2007 to 2010 he was part of the Economic and Domestic Secretariat in the Cabinet Office, including being a team leader in the secretariat for the Prime Ministers National Economic Council and helping facilitate coalition negotiations following the 2010 general election. His final civil service job was leading policy on hate crime, religious extremism, and faith communities in the then Department for Communities and Local Government until 2014.

HEATHER WOOD



Heather is Registrar of Members' Financial Interests for the House of Commons. This means that she is responsible for keeping the four registers of interests which the House requires, and also for advising MPs on disclosures. Before working in Parliament Heather worked for the Home Office and the Department of Employment, and for a Sector Skills Council (now abolished). Heather is a Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Personnel and Development.

SESSION 20: INDEPENDENT PARLIAMENTARY STANDARDS AUTHORITY (IPSA)

MARIAM EL-AZM



Mariam is an international relations professional and senior project manager with over nine years' experience managing projects including international conferences, overseas delegations and parliamentary strengthening programmes. In her current role, Mariam heads the International Partnerships Team at CPA UK. Mariam is responsible for fostering CPA UK's bilateral engagement with Commonwealth parliaments across Africa, Americas and Caribbean and Asia-Pacific. She oversees the development of tailored programme of activities to strengthen the role parliaments and parliamentarians play in good governance. Mariam holds a Master's degree in Global Governance and Ethics from University College London and a trilingual BSc in Business Administration from HEC Montreal.

MARCIAL BOO



Marcial is responsible for paying the salaries, pensions, office costs and expenses of the UK's 650 MPs and all their staff. Marcial joined IPSA in June 2014. He has held senior positions across the public sector including as a director for eight years at the National Audit Office and the Audit Commission. He has also worked as a senior civil servant at both the Home Office, and the Department for Education and Employment. He was an advisor to the Prime Minister's Delivery Unit.