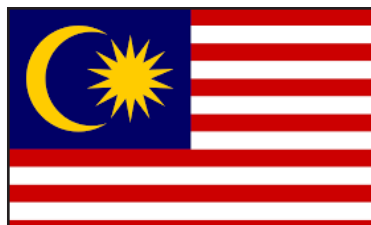


# MALAYSIA AND SINGAPORE - CPA UK DIPLOMATIC VISIT

## REPORT SUMMARY

17 - 20 FEBRUARY 2020



### PROGRAMME OVERVIEW

From 17-20 February 2020, a four-member Commonwealth Parliamentary Association UK (CPA UK) cross-party delegation visited Malaysia and Singapore for a diplomatic visit. Against the backdrop of the Covid-19 outbreak, this visit proved to be unique in so many ways.



The visit focused on four key themes; **trade, economic links, human rights and civil liberties and defence and security**. Although Malaysia and Singapore have a shared history, in the context of the above themes, there are clear differences between the two countries and their respective approaches to them. Both countries still have close links to the UK and the Commonwealth and this was evident during our time in country, with clear similarities including both respective Parliaments following the Westminster committee system.

This report outlines some of the key learnings from the visit.

### IMPACT & OUTCOMES

#### Impact

A stronger relationship between the UK, Malaysian and Singaporean Parliaments by building knowledge and understanding among parliamentarians of the issues facing the UK, Malaysia and Singapore.

#### Outcomes

- UK parliamentarians have a deeper understanding of Malaysia's and Singapore's political systems and parliaments.
- UK, Malaysian and Singaporean parliamentarians have shared challenges and solutions in parliamentary management practice and procedure, security and reform.
- UK parliamentarians have a deeper understanding of the political landscape and current salient issues in Malaysia and Singapore.



The CPA UK delegation in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

### PROGRAMME PARTNERS & SUPPORTERS



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# MALAYSIA AND SINGAPORE - CPA UK DIPLOMATIC VISIT

## FULL REPORT

17 - 20 FEBRUARY 2020

### CPA UK & MALAYSIA

In recent years, parliamentarians from the UK and Malaysia have participated in regular activities facilitated by the CPA UK. Most recently, the second CAPAC Regional Workshop took place in Kuala Lumpur in August 2019, where PAC Chairs, Members and clerks from across the Asian Commonwealth joined together to enhance their scrutiny skills.

### CPA UK & SINGAPORE

This diplomatic visit to Singapore was the first CPA UK activity since 2014. The visit provided an important opportunity to discuss important issues and look at how best the future relationship between CPA UK and Singapore can be strengthened.

Parliamentarians from both countries have attended CPA UK's annual Westminster Seminar on Parliamentary Practice and Procedure in London.



The delegation was welcomed to the UK Department for International Trade in Singapore by Her Majesty's Trade Commissioner Natalie Black

### BACKGROUND

Both Malaysia and Singapore have a unique political landscape. After the elections in Malaysia in 2018, a new Government was elected into power for the first time in over 60 years. Changes and challenges within the existing power structures were going to be prominent with such a dramatic shift. However, work is being done to strengthen the effectiveness of their parliament and key achievements are being met.

Singapore on the other hand, has had one dominant ruling party since becoming an independent republic in 1965. Singapore's economy and population has grown rapidly in the last few decades and with this in mind, our diplomatic visit had a strong focus on trade and the possibilities of furthering our economic ties.

### PARLIAMENTARY REFORM

The new Government of Malaysia has launched a strong reform agenda and CPA UK has been supporting this over the last year. While in Malaysia, our delegation met with Chairs of the newly formed Select Committees and discussed the progress that has been made so far. With strong leadership of these committees, effective scrutiny of Government business can take place. It is important the scrutiny function of Parliament is strong to ensure that

democracy thrives within Malaysia.

While our delegation was in Malaysia, there was a sense of political uncertainty, with calls for a change of leadership. At time of writing, a new Prime Minister, Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin, was appointed in March 2020 and may face early election calls, according to some observers.

### TRADE AND ECONOMIC LINKS

Singapore is the heart of trade within southeast Asia. With a strong financial district and technology driving their economic growth, they are a leading figure around the globe for key areas of trade. Singapore accounts for 11.6% of the UK's trade with the Commonwealth<sup>1</sup>. The UK Government has recognised this and have positioned Her Majesty's Trade Commissioner for the Asia and Pacific Region, Natalie Black, in Singapore. The delegation met with the Department for International Trade while in country and learnt about the approach that needs to be taken by the UK in order to grow the trading relationship with this region. It is apparent that the UK will need to further develop economic relationships with countries in Asia and ensure that existing connections between the UK and Commonwealth countries in the region remain strong.

Meetings with organisations such as Enterprise Singapore, a Government organisation that focuses on supporting Singapore entrepreneurs break into the global market, led



Meeting with Select Committee Chairs in the Parliament of Malaysia



to interesting conversations on how best the UK could support British businesses post-Brexit. As a global leader, our delegation was able to learn a lot from the steps that the country has taken over the last few decades when it comes to trade. It was evident that the focused approach that Singapore takes when implementing a new initiative, in that every strand of government gets behind new processes, is very effective.

After deciding to leave the European Union, there is a general realisation of the importance of looking at how the rest of the world handles business and trade. Trading relationships that were previously covered by EU agreements will have to be revisited. Asia is seeing a vast increase in trade, from China being a dominant global player to Indonesia rapidly expanding. The southeast Asia region itself has great opportunities for UK business and both Singapore and Malaysia could become ever important trading partners for the UK. A week prior to our diplomatic visit, the Foreign Secretary conducted his first foreign engagement in Malaysia and Singapore. This arguably shows the importance of the relationship between the UK and the two countries. It is also key to note the effect that Covid-19 will have on the economy of both countries and the fallout from this outbreak could have a disastrous effect. At the time of writing, countries across the globe have initiated travel bans and state-wide lockdowns. With such a high proportion of national income coming from the tourism sector, both Malaysia and Singapore are likely to see a downward turn in their economic growth this year. The impact of Covid-19 is yet to be fully understood, but it is clear that it will have a significant impact on the economies of countries around the world, like Malaysia, that rely heavily on the tourism industry.

## HUMAN RIGHTS AND CIVIL LIBERTIES

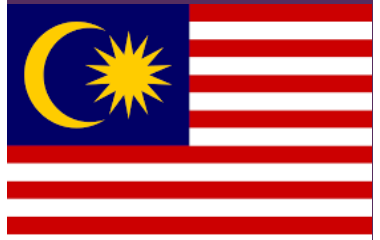
Discussions on human rights and civil liberties are always interesting and impassioned, and discussions in Malaysia proved no different. Traditional conservatism seems to be on the rise in Malaysia and civil society groups shared

their concerns with the delegation about the effects that this will have on minority groups in the country. Globally, younger generations are becoming more liberal, however this is not the case in Malaysia. Civil society groups report that the rise in conservatism seems to be coming from the youth. With this, rights for LGBT groups and women seem to be becoming marginalised and there is a real call from civil society to increase the protections for these and other minority groups.

In Malaysia, our delegation heard from representatives from three key organisations that are actively working to combat violations against vulnerable groups. They were passionate and willing to share their knowledge and experience with the delegation. Although many agree that with the change of Government, freedom of speech had dramatically increased, this does not seem to be the case for other human rights. Civil society groups are now coming together and working as a unit to tackle certain issues, such as women's and transgender rights. It was reported by the stakeholders that the delegation met with, that despite women outnumbering men two to one in universities, this level of education among women does not seem to be translating to the workforce. It is a common tale in Malaysia, that once married, women leave employment. This means there is a lack of female representation within the workforce which leads to reduced economic empowerment. This way of life is seemingly embedded into society, and civil society groups are trying to change this. With the joined-up approach that these groups are taking, there is hope that in time, real change can be achieved and that more women will join and stay in paid employment. The Government also seem to be recognising the need for change. While the delegation was in country, the Foreign Minister announced radical steps to recognise the marginalisation of women in Malaysia. He committed to 50% female representation in all Government meetings and boards. This seems to be a step in the right direction.

The proactive approach that the civil society groups and Government are taking is

## COUNTRY PROFILE: MALAYSIA



**Population:** 31.6million

**Area:**  
329,847 sq km

**Major languages:** English, Malay, Mandarin Chinese

**Major religions:** Islam, Christianity and Buddhism

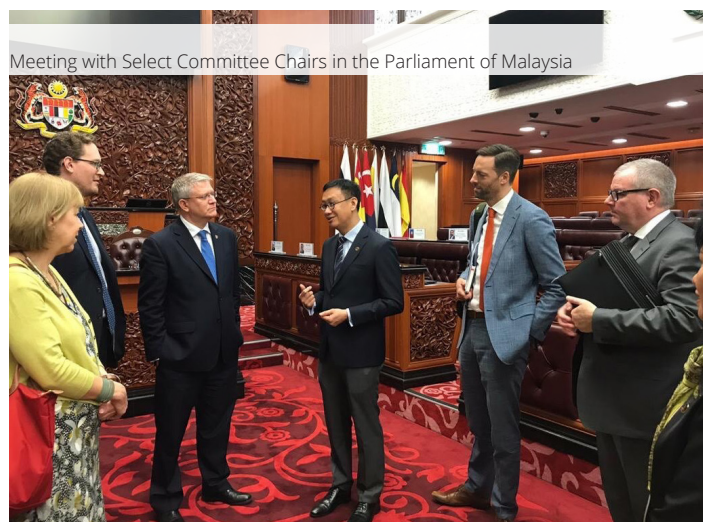
**Life expectancy:** 75 years

**Currency:** Malaysian Ringgit

**Joined Commonwealth:**  
Joined as the Federation of Malaya in 1957; reformed as Malaysia on 16 September 1963 with its federation with Singapore (which became a separate state on 9 August 1965), North Borneo, and Sarawak.

**Bicameral:**  
Dewan Rakyat (lower house) and Dewan Negara (upper house)

Multi Party system elected by first-past-the-post system



## COUNTRY PROFILE: SINGAPORE



**Population:** 5.6 million

**Area:** 721.5 sq km

**Major languages:** English, Malay, Mandarin Chinese and Tamil

**Major religions:** Buddhism, Christianity and Islam

**Life expectancy:** 83 years

**Currency:** Singapore dollar

**President:** Halimah Yacob (since 2017)

**Prime Minister:** Lee Hsien Loong (since 2004)

**Unicameral:** Legislative Assembly of Singapore

**Political Parties:** PAP (70%), WP (12%), SDP (4%)



The delegation listened to a Q&A session with the Prime Minister's Economic and Communications Advisers.

extremely positive, however the concerns remain that with liberalisation decreasing, some groups will suffer. This means the charities will have to work even harder to achieve equality in the future.

Unlike Malaysia, critics argue that Singapore has limited freedom of speech and this is explored further in the next section, which considers the controversial 'fake news' legislation. According to Human Rights Watch, Singapore's political environment is stifling. Citizens face severe restrictions on their basic rights to freedom of expression, association, and peaceful assembly through overly broad criminal laws and regulations.<sup>2</sup> Capital punishment is another salient human rights issue in Singapore; after a moratorium on executions was lifted in July 2014 the number of executions has steadily risen, despite an overall decline in the region. Singapore carried out a total of 13 executions in 2018, up from 8 in 2017 and 4 in 2016<sup>3</sup>.

### 'FAKE NEWS' LAW

Singapore is one of the first countries in the world to legislate against 'fake news'. Arguably, they have become a leading example of how states can take action against misinformation online. However, critics of the legislation have stated that the law is merely another tool for the Government to control the citizens of Singapore and limit freedom of speech. The delegation met with the government department that created and now implements this law, the 'Protection from Online Falsehoods and Manipulation Act' (POFMA). At the time of our diplomatic visit, the law had been in effect for four months and had been used eight times, with no appeals. The department explained that no legal representation is needed for an appeal, but critics say this would not be possible due to the complicated legal process. They then explained that when misinformation is found on a social media platform, the department can request a correction to be put alongside the original post. With social media platforms on board, corrections can be put at the top of newsfeeds. The department point out

that with a highly advanced communications department already functioning in Singapore, they are able to take on this level of work without added resources or support. This would not be the case in many other countries, including the UK.

Civil society groups across the world have pointed out the serious constraints on freedom of speech within Singapore and that the creation of this legislation only inhibits it further. While Malaysia has seen a marked increase in freedom of speech within their media and across social media platforms it seems that for Singapore, this may be in decline. Despite this criticism, POFMA has been used effectively during the Covid-19 outbreak in stopping misinformation getting through to the public. This is an example of how a law such as this could really make a difference to how the public receive correct information during times of crisis.

While countries around the globe look to create legislation to tackle the spread of misinformation and bullying online, some may seek to emulate what Singapore has done and the UK may be one of these countries. An 'Online Harms' Bill is currently being discussed within Parliament and legislators are exploring ways to protect those who use the internet without limiting their human rights. There is a fine line between the two and a particularly difficult balancing act.

### CONSERVATION

Due to their geographical location, both Malaysia and Singapore face similar conservation issues. Yet due to their respective sizes, both are trialling different ways to protect the natural environment. The impact of palm oil production is widely felt in both states, with smog appearing for a number of months each year due to forest burning in Indonesia. The production of palm oil threatens wildlife habitats through mass deforestation and also creates higher carbon emissions. Malaysia has committed to maintaining its natural rainforests, as they are some of the most



fertile in the world, and the delegation saw first-hand how some of this work is taking place. In the middle of the vast city of Kuala Lumpur, there is a protected area of rainforest that has been cleared of debris from years of dumping. This area is now open to the public for talks on conservation and nature walks. Malaysia committed to retain 50% forest cover at COP 21<sup>4</sup>. Ensuring that key areas of natural beauty remain protected in Malaysia will be key to ensuring that they reach this commitment and others set under the Paris Agreement. In November 2020, the UK will host the 26th UN Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP 26) and commitments made by countries will come under scrutiny at this event. With the lure of high profits from the production of palm oil, there are questions over Malaysia's ability to limit deforestation and ensure that nature conservation remains a high priority going forward. This is a question that the whole region now faces and one that will take centre stage at COP 26.

Malaysia is vast, but Singapore is half the size of London and being this small has its own difficulties. Singapore is constantly growing and in order to keep up with the demand for space for residents, Singapore has been reclaiming land from the sea. The Singapore Strait is one of the busiest shipping lanes in the world as it provides the shortest sea route between the Indian Ocean and Pacific Ocean. Because of this, Singapore is the second busiest port in the world and although this has incredible economic benefits, it also means illegal items can sometimes slip the net at port immigration. One key example of this is the illegal wildlife trade. Legislation is now being designed to tackle this, with a focus on financial tracing, as merely searching the cargo of every ship is not feasible. The delegation witnessed first-hand the work that is being done in Singapore to focus on this important area when they visited the wildlife charity ACRES. ACRES is working with the Government to help stop the wildlife trade and is using Singapore's unique shipping position to do this. The importance of maintaining this shipping route will be explored more in the next section.

With both Malaysia and Singapore making commitments to tackle climate change and

with COP 26 fast approaching, it seems that conservation is on the forefront of policy and decision making. How the production of palm oil will impact these commitments is yet to be fully understood, but what is clear, is that profits and economic growth are key deciding factors when countries are making policy decisions.

## DEFENCE AND SECURITY

While in Singapore, the delegation visited the Kranji Commonwealth War Cemetery, an important place that commemorates those who lost their lives in the region during the Second World War. While laying wreaths, the delegation learnt the history of those who fought and died and was able to delve into individual stories of soldiers. This is a key reminder of the strong relationship that the Commonwealth retains over many years.

The group visited the Sembawang Naval Facility, which is the port that services the many ships coming through the region. It is a key facility that the UK is heavily engaged with alongside other global partners, including the USA and Russia. The facility offers a rare insight into the strong naval relationships that exist around the world, with politics seemingly not playing a large part in its running. This facility showcases the global importance of Singapore and the reach that it has. It also highlights the need for international cooperation when it comes to inhibiting the transportation of illegal goods, like those discussed in the previous section.

## NEXT STEPS

At a time when Covid-19 is gripping the world, maintaining strong relationships between countries is now more important than ever. When an issue can travel across borders, ethnicities and wealth groups, it calls for global communication and cooperation. Covid-19 has already had a large impact on both Malaysia and Singapore and the impact will undoubtedly continue to be felt over the coming weeks and months. An economic downturn is expected for both countries and the approach now is to mitigate as much as possible against this, with the aid of strong parliaments and proactive policy decisions. There are



With Commander Michael Moore and his team at the Kranji Commonwealth War Cemetery

## ABOUT CPA UK

The international Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) is the professional association of all Commonwealth parliamentarians, an active network of over 17,000 parliamentarians from 185 national, state, provincial and territorial Parliaments and Legislatures.

The Commonwealth Parliamentary Association UK Branch (CPA UK) is one of the largest and most active branches in the CPA community and delivers a unique annual programme both in Westminster and overseas. Overseen by the Houses of Parliament and governed by an Executive Committee of cross-party bicameral parliamentarians, CPA UK undertakes international parliamentary outreach on behalf of the UK Parliament and the wider CPA.

With a specific focus on parliamentary diplomacy and parliamentary strengthening activities, CPA UK seeks to foster co-operation and understanding between parliaments, promote good parliamentary practice and advance parliamentary democracy through a variety of international outreach activities and multilateral programmes. Its work is divided into three regions, which include national, regional and provincial legislatures and the legislatures of Overseas Territories:

- Americas, Caribbean, and Europe
- Africa
- Asia-Pacific

Working closely with parliamentarians and parliamentary officials, CPA UK focuses its bilateral and multilateral outreach activities on a number of areas, including parliamentary practice and procedure, and themes including human rights, public financial scrutiny, sustainable development, equal access to political and economic empowerment and democratic strengthening through election observation.



## ABOUT CPA UK (CONT.)

CPA UK is also the secretariat for the CPA British Islands and Mediterranean Region, organising activities in support of the Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians network. CPA UK also works to strengthen the Commonwealth Association of Public Accounts Committees in its core objectives.

CPA UK continues to work in partnership with a multitude of national and international organisations for mutual benefit; including the Commonwealth Secretariat, World Bank, UNDP, UNEP, OAS and many others. CPA UK has, and continues to work alongside the UK Government. Over the last five years, CPA UK has leveraged close to £3 million of government funds to achieve its strategic aims in strengthening parliamentary democracy across the Commonwealth.

## CPA UK'S STRATEGIC GOALS

1. To strengthen parliamentary democracy by undertaking international parliamentary outreach work on behalf of the Houses of Parliament and the wider CPA

2. To contribute to sustainable development, poverty reduction, trade, investment and business development opportunities through parliamentary strengthening work that supports democracy, good governance, human rights, environmental protection and the rule of law

3. To further co-operation between Commonwealth and non-Commonwealth Parliaments and legislatures, and other democratically elected institutions

4. To communicate the work of CPA UK and the Commonwealth within Westminster, across UK and internationally to enhance the profile of the Houses of Parliament, the Commonwealth, the CPA and CPA UK.



concerns that the economic impact of Covid-19 could cause countries to turn to palm oil to support economic growth, with the associated environmental impact of this. Economic growth may trump environmental protections in the near future, as it so often has.

### Malaysia

CPA UK has committed to working with the Parliament of Malaysia to strengthen their select committee system. Over the past year work has been undertaken between the UK and Malaysia, through CPA UK, to enhance their parliamentary procedures. With the Malaysian system so closely linked to the UK system, clear progress in this area can be made by sharing ideas and practices.

### Singapore

The key themes outlined in this report will continue to develop over the coming years and as the UK leaves the European Union, the relationship between the UK and Singapore will most likely deepen. As such, forming new trading agreements will take a prominent position in UK Government business going forward and we should see a concerted effort to improve existing relationships with Commonwealth countries, like Malaysia and Singapore, in the region. CPA UK will continue to delve into the vast topic of trade, as one of our thematic areas, and will seek to further exchange knowledge and share experiences with Singapore.

The Parliaments of Malaysia and Singapore have expressed a desire for continued cooperation in the future. CPA UK looks forward to working closely with both Parliaments in assisting in strengthening their parliamentary democracy, via bilateral and multilateral cooperation and sharing best practice. The impact of the diplomatic visit is felt, by creating a stronger relationship between the UK, Malaysian and Singaporean Parliaments by building knowledge and understanding among parliamentarians of the issues facing the UK, Malaysia and

Singapore. CPA UK and our delegation are committed to further improving this relationship with clear commitments for future work.

### Endnotes

1 "Statistics on UK trade with the Commonwealth", Briefing Paper Number CBC 8282 July 2019, House of Commons

2 [www.hrw.org/asia/singapore](http://www.hrw.org/asia/singapore)

3 "New wave of executions condemned", International Federation for Human Rights (published online on 25 October 2018, available at <https://www.fidh.org/en/region/asia/singapore/new-wave-of-executions-condemned>)

4 <https://www.thestar.com.my/news/nation/2015/12/15/msia-commits-to-retain-50-of-forest-cover-after-cop-21-deal/>



## FULL PROGRAMME

Monday 17 February 2020

Kuala Lumpur

TIME	SESSION
0900 - 1000	<b>Welcome Briefing by the British High Commissioner and team</b> <i>InterContinental Hotel, Executive Lounge</i>  Political Overview & BHC Objectives, inc: - Economy and trade - Human rights and reform - Environment and COP26
1000	<i>Depart for Malaysian Parliament</i>
1030 - 1300	<b>Half day of engagement with the Malaysian Parliament</b>  Meetings with -Defence and Home Affairs PSC -International Affairs and Trade PSC
1300- 1345	<b>Lunch with CPA Malaysia</b>
1345	<i>Depart for Intercontinental Hotel and change into casual, lightweight clothing.</i>
1440 - 1600	<b>Travel to Taman Tugu</b>  Following the completion of a short forest trail the delegation will have a briefing on the conservation project currently taking place in Malaysia.
1600- 1630	Return to Hotel With some time to freshen up and attend to emails
1830- 1900	<i>Depart Hotel for dinner venue</i>
1900 - 2100	<b>Dinner with Cross-Party Members of Parliament</b> <i>Tamarind Springs</i>  A chance to discuss the progress being made by the Parliament on reform and the regional dynamics.  Attending: - Nik Nazmi (PKR) - Vivian Wong (DAP) - Wong Tak (DAP) - Syed Ibrahim (PKR) - Shahar Abdullah (UMNO)
2100	<i>End of day 1</i>

# Tuesday 18 February 2020

Kuala Lumpur

TIME	SESSION
0830	<i>Depart Hotel for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs</i>
0930 - 1200	<b>Briefing by the Foreign Minister</b> <i>Ministry of Foreign Affairs</i>  The Foreign Minister, Saifuddin Abdullah, will deliver a briefing on diplomatic cooperation alongside the Prime Minister's Economic and Communications Advisers. Following the briefing, there should be time for the delegation to ask questions.
1215	<i>Depart Ministry of Foreign Affairs for lunch venue</i>
1300-1430	<b>Lunch with the Media</b>  An opportunity to discuss politics and media freedom in Malaysia off the record.  Attending: Shannon Teo - Chair of Foreign Correspondents Club Malaysia Rizal Zulkapli - News Anchor and producer, Astro Awani Tehmina Kashooji - News Anchor, Bernama and member of Media Council ProTem Committee Aidila Razak - MalaysiaKini Long Feature Editor and Chevening 2017
1430	<i>Photo opportunity at KLCC</i>
1500 - 1600	<b>Roundtable Discussion with Civil Society</b>  An opportunity for an in-depth discussion on organisation, structure and the work of organisations tackling human rights issues in Malaysia, including the death penalty, freedom of religion and gender equality.  Attending: Thomas Fann, Bersih Sherry Sheriff, JAG Dobby Chew, SUARAM Andrew Khoo, Bar Council
1600-1630	<b>Debrief with the British High Commission Team</b> <i>InterContinental Hotel</i>
1700	Depart hotel for Airport Singapore Airlines SQ 119 Departing at 2030
2130	<i>Arrive at Singapore Changi Airport</i> <i>Transfer to hotel</i>



# Wednesday 19 February 2020

Singapore

TIME	SESSION
0800-0900	Meeting with the British High Commissioner <i>British High Commission</i>
0900-0930	<b>Defence Briefing</b> <i>British High Commission</i>  A briefing by Defence Advisor, Commander Martin Moore and British Defence Staff Southeast Asia, Acting Chief of Staff Group Captain Tim Monk.
0930	<i>Travel to Commonwealth War Cemetery at Kranji</i>
1000-1045	<b>Wreath Laying Ceremony</b>  A wreath laying ceremony followed by a tour of the Commonwealth War Cemetery
1045	<i>Travel to Sembawang Naval Base</i>
1115-1215	Visit to the UK naval refuelling station in Sembawang  This will be an opportunity to look at the naval defence systems and have an in-depth discussion on defence.
1215	<i>Travel to lunch venue</i>
1245-1430	<b>Lunch with MPs from the Committee for Defence</b>
1430	<i>Travel to the British High Commission</i>
1445-1545	<b>Meeting with the Department for International Trade (DIT) Singapore</b>  A briefing by Justinian Habner, Director of DIT Singapore on the approach Singapore is taking to trade.
1600	<i>Travel to Enterprise Singapore</i>
1630-1730	<b>Enterprise Singapore</b>  A chance to discuss the approach that Enterprise Singapore is taking to business within Singapore and abroad.
1730	<i>Travel to British Chamber of Commerce</i>
1800	<b>British Chamber of Commerce</b>  A chance for the delegation to meet with the British Chamber of Commerce Singapore.
1930	<b>Private Dinner for the delegation</b>
2030	<i>End of Day 3</i>

# Thursday 20 February 2020

Singapore

TIME	SESSION
0830-0930	<b>Breakfast with the Royal Commonwealth Society of Singapore</b>  A chance for the delegation to look at how Singapore is engaging with the Commonwealth
0930	<i>Travel to Parliament of Singapore</i>
1000-1200	<b>Parliament of Singapore</b>  This will be an opportunity to meet with Members of the Parliament of Singapore to discuss the current political climate.
1200	<i>Travel to lunch venue</i>
1230-1345	<b>Lunch with NGOs of Singapore</b>  This lunch will be a chance for in-depth discussions on human rights within Singapore and across the region.
1345	<i>Travel to POFMA</i>
1400-1500	<b>Visit to the Protection from Online Falsehoods and Manipulation Act (POFMA)</b>  A chance to delve into the new 'fake news' law and it's implications for the citizens of Singapore.
1500	<i>Travel to the Economic Development Board (EDB)</i>
1515-1615	<b>Meeting with the Economic Development Board</b>  This meeting will be an opportunity to discuss how Singapore attracts inward investment.
1630	<i>Travel to ACRES</i>
1700-1800	ACRES, Wild Animal Rescue and Conservation Centre  An opportunity for members of our delegation to learn all about animal conservation in Singapore. Animal conservation is a large issue in the region due to the production of Palm Oil.
1800	<i>Travel to the Singapore Night Safari</i>
1830-2130	<b>Singapore Night Safari</b>  This section of the programme will begin with a dinner in the Singapore Night Safari. Following this, a tour of the Night Safari will be provided. There will then be an opportunity to further discuss animal welfare and conservation in Singapore, against the backdrop of COP26.
2145	<b>Depart for Singapore Changi Airport</b>  Flight EK 353 departing at 0030 (for those on the original itinerary)

## CPA UK DELEGATION

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### **ANDREW ROSINDELL MP** **DELEGATION LEADER** **Conservative MP for Romford**

Andrew Rosindell was first elected to represent Romford in 2001. He has served as a Vice-Chairman of the Conservative Party from 2004-2005, Opposition Whip from 2005-2007, and Shadow Home Affairs Minister and Spokesman on Animal Welfare from 2007-2010. He is the longest-standing member of the Foreign Affairs Select Committee in the House of Commons. Some of his other duties and responsibilities in Parliament include being a member of the NATO Parliamentary Assembly; a member of the Speaker's Panel of Chairs; a member of the Executive Committees of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) and the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), Co-Chair of the British-Irish Parliamentary Assembly, as well as being the longest serving Governor of the Westminster Foundation for Democracy (WFD) from until last year.



### **RUTH CADBURY MP** **Labour MP for Brentwood and Isleworth**

Ruth Cadbury was first elected to represent Brentford and Isleworth in May 2015. Since then she has been a member of the Women and Equalities, Justice, and Transport Select Committees in the House of Commons. She also served as Shadow Minister for Housing from 2016 to 2017. Before entering Parliament she served as a councillor in the London Borough of Hounslow for more than 20 years. During her local government career she held two cabinet portfolios, Regeneration and Economic Development and Financial Inclusion, and also served as Deputy Leader of the authority between 2010 and 2012.



### **DARREN JONES MP** **Labour MP for Bristol North West**

Darren Jones was elected to represent Bristol North West for Labour at the 2017 general election. From 2017 to 2019 he was a member of the Select Committees on Science and Technology and European Scrutiny in the House of Commons. A technology and telecommunications lawyer by training, Darren leads a number of technology and climate change groups in Westminster in addition to international roles on the topic of AI regulation at the OECD and Institute of AI.





## **LORD GILBERT OF PANTEG**

### **Conservative Life Peer**



Stephen Gilbert was raised to the peerage as Baron Gilbert of Panteg in 2015. After serving as member of the Lords Select Committee on Communications from 2016 he became chair of the Committee in 2017. In 2018 he was appointed as one of three new Electoral Commissioners. From 2015 to 2016 he held the role of Deputy Chair (Campaigning) on the Party Board of the Conservative Party. He was the Political Secretary to David Cameron as Prime Minister from 2010 to 2015. Outside of politics he also acts as Director at Stephen Gilbert Consulting.

## **CPA UK STAFF**

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### **LYDIA BUCHANAN**

#### **Programme Officer, CPA UK**



Lydia Buchanan is a Programme Officer in the International Partnerships Team at the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association UK (CPA UK) based in the UK Parliament. Before this, she supported the UK Overseas Territories (UKOT) Project on public financial scrutiny, one of CPA UK's special projects funded by the UK Government. Before joining CPA UK she worked as the Clerk of Council for the Legislative Council of St Helena. Lydia has a degree in Politics from the University of Greenwich and a Masters in Public Policy and Practice.



The delegation in the Parliament of Malaysia meeting Select Committee Chairs and clerks



The delegation meeting with the Royal Commonwealth Society in Singapore



The delegation meeting with the British Chamber of Commerce Singapore

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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CPA UK would like to thank the Parliament of Malaysia for welcoming the UK delegation. In particular, we would like to thank the British High Commission in Malaysia for their organisational support, in particular Mr Tom Soper and his team.

CPA UK would also like to thank the Parliament of Singapore for their warm welcome. The British High Commission in Singapore was very supportive, we would like to extend a special thanks to Mr Paul Broom for all his help.

This report has been written by Lydia Buchanan.



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