

CPA UK

Annual Review

2022 - 2023



Table of Contents

Message from the Chair	1
Message from the Chief Executive	2
Highlights of the Year	3
Statistics	5
Programme Feedback	6
Her Late Majesty	7
Strengthening Parliamentary Democracy	9
UKOTP	13
Trade	15
Public Accounts Committees	17
Women in Parliament	19
Modern Slavery	21
Security	23
Finance	24

Message from the Chair

It has been a privilege to be the Chair of CPA UK this year. Having been an active member since 2015, I have a strong understanding of the complexities of our organisation and the different challenges facing the Commonwealth. It has been an honour to bring what I have learned over the years to the position of Chair.



I would like to thank the Members from both Houses, more than 130 in all, who have continued to demonstrate their commitment to CPA UK and our Commonwealth colleagues. It is great that so many contribute to the CPA's excellent work and benefit from the learning afforded by meeting and talking with our counterparts from across the Commonwealth, who can often offer different perspectives on shared challenges.

This year we also remembered the lifetime of service that Her Late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II gave to the Commonwealth. We are proud of the association that Her Late Majesty had with CPA UK.

As parliamentarians we are in the unique position to help support and strengthen parliamentary democracy across the Commonwealth. I am proud of the continued work to achieve this and I look forward to the future of the CPA.

Best wishes,

Dame Maria Miller
Chair, CPA UK

Message from the Chief Executive

I hope you will agree that this Annual Review paints a compelling and positive picture of our work this last year. It felt like a return to a more “normal” rhythm. Members and officials have finally been able to travel largely free of Covid-19 restrictions. This has allowed that richer interaction, spontaneous connections and fuller learning that comes from in-person contact and travel.



We have sought to preserve the benefits of virtual work too. One driver for that has been soaring inflation and the effect on flight and accommodation costs. We will continue to navigate these pressures as best we can, but with core funding falling in real terms that inevitably bites on our programme activity.

This comes at a time when the appetite to work with us is stronger than ever, from near and far: from the rest of the British Islands and Mediterranean Region to right around the Commonwealth. We continue our efforts to ensure that a diverse range of members and officials are involved in our work. I'm particularly grateful to the members of my team who have created and driven the work of our Racial Disparity Group.

Finally a big thank you to the whole team, who continue to deliver a great variety of high-quality work, receiving deserved plaudits from so many, while remaining committed to the values that underpin what we do and how we do it.

I invite you to enjoy this review – and to get involved with our work in the months and years ahead.

Best wishes,

Jon Davies

Chief Executive, CPA UK

Highlights of the Year

2023

MARCH

Westminster Seminar

Grenada: Post-Election Seminar

South Africa: Visit of UK Parliamentarians to South Africa to strengthen relations

FEBRUARY

Trade Workshop for Overseas Territories, Crown Dependencies, and Devolved Legislatures

JANUARY

Canada: Visit of Canadian delegation to discuss the constitution and devolution

Sri Lanka: Study Visit of Sri Lankan Clerks to the UK Parliament and Welsh Parliament

The Gambia: Visit of National Assembly Members to the UK Parliament, focusing on committees and gender-sensitive scrutiny

Barbados: Caribbean Clerks Programme

St Helena: Public Accounts Committee Visit to the UK Parliament

2022

DECEMBER

Public Accounts Committee Clerks & Officials Workshop in Westminster

Asia-Pacific: Virtual Roundtable on Women in Parliament

NOVEMBER

UK Overseas Territories Forum on Good Governance

Scrutiny of National Security Legislation Conference

Africa: Virtual Roundtable on the Death Penalty in Africa

Isle of Man: Visit of House of Keys and Legislative Council

Montserrat: Standing Orders Clerk Secondment

OCTOBER

Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians Conference in Gibraltar

Canada: Visit of Canadian delegation to the UK Parliament, focused on trade, shared security interests, and the cost-of-living crisis

Highlights of the Year

2022

SEPTEMBER

- **Clerk Leadership Group for UK Overseas Territories Project**

AUGUST

- **Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference in Halifax, Canada**
- **Commonwealth Association of Public Accounts Committees General Meeting and Conference in Maldives**

JULY

- **Trade in Africa Webinar**
- **Uganda:** Workshop for Women Parliamentarians
- **Uganda:** Virtual Legislation Benchmarking on Legal Aid
- **Virtual Election Observation Mission Training**
- **Pakistan:** Public Accounts Committee Study Visit to the UK Parliament

JUNE

- **Montserrat:** Public Accounts Committee Benchmarking
- **Anguilla:** Public Accounts Committee Benchmarking
- **Anguilla:** Clerk Attachment to Public Accounts Committee
- **Jersey:** Election Observation Mission
- **The Gambia:** Post-Election Seminar
- **Ghana:** Visit by the Constitutional, Legal, and Parliamentary Affairs Committee of Ghana to the UK Parliament
- **Roundtable Discussion on Sports Trafficking with UK Members and Business**
- **Gender Champions Meeting**

MAY

- **St Helena:** Visit of St Helena Speaker to the UK Parliament
- **UK – New Zealand Forum:** Multi-series virtual meetings
- **Malaysia:** Visit of Special Select Committee on Social, Women and Children Affairs from Malaysia to the UK Parliament to discuss gender-sensitive budgeting

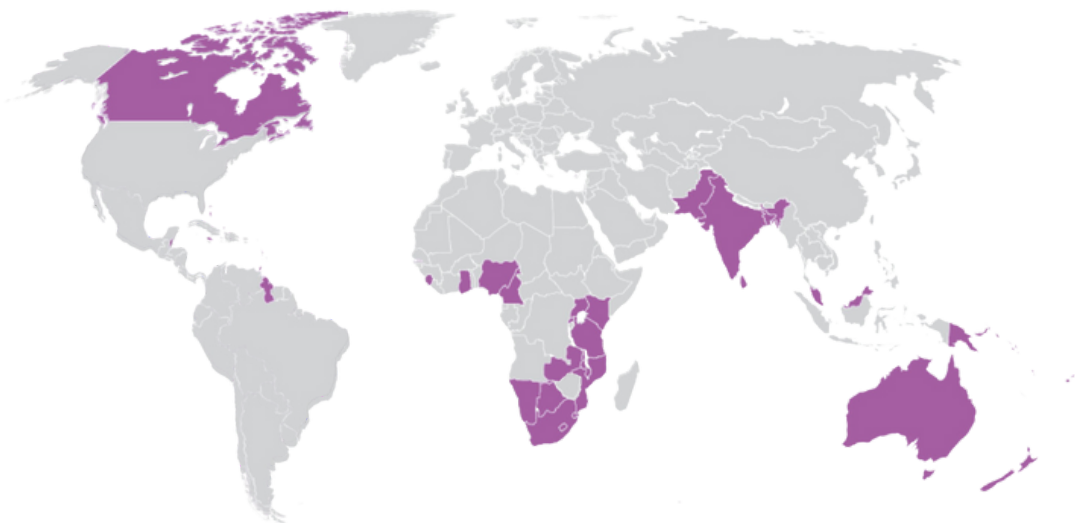
APRIL

- **Modern Slavery Expert Group Meeting**
- **Maldives:** Visit of Maldives PAC and Auditor General

Statistics

850 delegates across 68 legislatures

850 Members and parliamentary officials across 68 legislatures from the Commonwealth, Overseas Territories, Crown Dependencies and Devolved Legislatures participated in our programmes



47%

Of the participants in our programmes were women

52%

Of the participants in our programmes were men

137

Members of the House of Commons and the House of Lords participated in at least one of our programmes

Programme Feedback

"I will work harder to prepare better presentations in parliament. I will lobby harder for parliamentary resources, particularly constituents' funding. This has re-energised me to re-enter the constituency more aggressively."

Westminster Seminar 2023 participant



"A broad and high-level look at national security; a very positive, stimulating conference; excellent expert speakers. I thought the conference was very well balanced between speakers (lectures and interactions)."

Security Conference participant

"I have a comprehensive report prepared, to share with colleagues, in order to utilise this learning in planning future endeavours and promote greater representation for diversity and gender equality."

Westminster Seminar 2023 participant



"The workshop enhanced my ability and scope to be more effective in scrutinising trade deals."

Trade Workshop participant

Her Late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II

HM Queen Elizabeth II (1926 - 2022)



For most of the history of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, HM Queen Elizabeth II was Head of the Commonwealth and patron of CPA. She visited many Commonwealth parliaments throughout her reign and opened four Commonwealth Parliamentary Conferences hosted by the CPA UK Branch in Westminster between 1961 and 2000.

During the countless tributes made to HM The Queen following her death in September 2022, many people referred to her unwavering belief in the Commonwealth as a force for good. She played an invaluable unifying role in the Commonwealth, highlighting its values and the benefits of strong, continuous links and relationships. Talking about the Commonwealth in her 2015 Commonwealth message, the resonances with the purpose of CPA are profound:

"One simple lesson from history is that when people come together to talk, to exchange ideas and to develop common goals, wonderful things can happen."

HM The Queen, Commonwealth Day Message, 9 March 2015

Queen Elizabeth II opened the UK Parliament in person on all but three occasions during her reign.

Her Late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II



Delegates attending the 56th Westminster Seminar, in the presence of Her Majesty The Queen and HRH The Duke of Edinburgh, Commonwealth Day Reception, Marlborough House, 10 March 2007

"Of the many ties linking this family of nations not the least is that system of parliamentary government which is common to us all".

HM The Queen, Coronation Luncheon, 17 May 1953

Her support for parliamentary democracy was emphasised by these regular visits to the Houses of Parliament, which is an emblem for parliamentary democracy throughout the Commonwealth. When HM Queen Elizabeth II's death was announced in September 2022, we reflected on the loss of an internationally respected and revered figure. CPA UK was honoured by the association it had with the late Queen. We are hugely grateful for her patronage of CPA, and the active support she gave to the Association.

Following the Coronation of His Majesty King Charles III and his succession as Head of the Commonwealth, CPA UK looks forward to His Majesty furthering his work to support democracy in the Commonwealth, as already demonstrated by his many visits to Westminster and other Commonwealth parliaments over the years.

Strengthening Parliamentary Democracy

The 71st Westminster Seminar

The overarching theme for the 71st Westminster Seminar was effective parliaments. More than sixty delegates attended the week-long Seminar, and engaged with over twenty Members, Clerks, and officials from the UK, including The Rt Hon. Sir Lindsay Hoyle MP, Speaker of the House of Commons, and The Rt Hon. David Lammy MP, Shadow Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs.



Members and officials from visiting legislatures chaired and participated in sessions that provided a platform for the exchange of a rich and diverse range of positions, viewpoints, and experiences.

"The panellists were of a very high calibre, the diverse variety of issues was simply amazing. It is clear that great thought went into planning."

Westminster Seminar 2023 participant

Strengthening Parliamentary Democracy

2022 Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference, Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada

The 65th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference (CPC), brought together Commonwealth parliamentarians from across the CPA network to explore inclusive, accessible, accountable, and strong parliaments. CPA UK's cross-party, bicameral delegation connected with Commonwealth colleagues on a range of subjects including sustainability, climate change and the risk of online harms.

Delegates from CPA UK and the British Islands & Mediterranean Region (BIMR) pushed for better representation of women parliamentarians at CPCs and on the CPA International Executive Committee.

The Conference culminated with the General Assembly, which saw CPA members elect Ian Liddell-Grainger MP as the new Chairperson of the CPA Executive Committee.

Following the conference, the UK delegation took part in a bilateral programme organised in collaboration with the British High Commission and Nova Scotia Government.



Strengthening Parliamentary Democracy

Grenada Post-Election Seminar

Following the 2022 General Election in Grenada CPA UK organised a Post-Election Seminar for Members and Senators in the Parliament of Grenada. The programme, which coincided with International Women's Day, was resourced by three cross-party women MPs and a House of Commons Clerk.



The Seminar was notable for its high attendance and strong engagement from newly-elected parliamentarians from across the Government and the Opposition, and the Upper and Lower Houses. Whilst in-country, delegates met women's rights campaigners, activists working to improve disability rights and services, the Youth Parliament and climate change campaigners.



Credit: Dwain Thomas

Strengthening Parliamentary Democracy

Jersey Election Observation Mission

In 2022 the CPA British Islands and Mediterranean Region was invited to observe the General Elections in Jersey for the second time. In 2018, CPA BIMR conducted its first Election Observation Mission to Jersey, which resulted in the publication of a report detailing eighteen recommendations.



This follow-up Mission found that thirteen out of eighteen recommendations had been either partially or fully implemented. The 2022 Mission offered fourteen recommendations to enhance the conduct of elections and to bring the legislature more fully in line with international obligations and standards for democratic elections.

Tynwald Members Westminster Study Visit

Visiting Westminster for the first time as newly-elected parliamentarians from the Isle of Man's House of Keys and Legislative Council, the Tynwald delegation's key areas of interest were how to scrutinise legislation, manage budgets and prioritise constituents.



"It's important, as a parliamentarian in a small jurisdiction, that we left feeling more empowered by the visit, and ready to apply that increased confidence to our work in Tynwald."

Tynwald delegate

UK Overseas Territories Project

UK Overseas Territories Forum

The UK Overseas Territories Project focuses on enhancing good governance and oversight of public finances across UK Overseas Territories, and is funded by the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office.

CPA UK has been working on this project together with the National Audit Office and Government Internal Audit Agency since 2016.

The highlight of this project in the last year was the Fifth Overseas Territories Forum on Oversight of Public Finances and Good Governance, which aimed to support participants to effectively scrutinise and deliver oversight and good governance within their jurisdictions.



The Forum was centred on three themes: Partnerships for Good Governance; Scrutiny in Practice; and Leadership and Public Engagement.

UK Overseas Territories Project

Jersey Clerk Attachment to Anguilla

CPA UK worked with the Deputy Clerk of Tynwald and Clerk to the Legislative Council, and a Research and Project Officer from the Jersey States of Assembly on a Clerk Secondment with Anguilla's House of Assembly.



"This was a very positive attachment for me... Work like this is always a two-way learning experience, and friendship given and received endures long after the visit is over."

Joann Corkish, Deputy Clerk of the Tynwald

Clerk Leadership Groups

To encourage peer-to-peer learning and the sharing of knowledge, expertise, and best practice, the Project established 'leadership' groups for Heads of Internal Audit and Auditors General. More recently, a group was also established for parliamentary officials, recognising their central role in the facilitation of parliamentary business and procedure across the Overseas Territories. This year the Internal and External Audit Leaderships Groups focused on the prevention and detection of fraud.

Trade

Since the UK's exit from the European Union trade has been a topic of heightened interest to parliamentarians, officials, and policy experts.

UK-New Zealand Mahi Tahī Series

In June 2022, CPA UK facilitated a series of webinars that allowed a delegation from the UK Parliament to meet parliamentarians from New Zealand, as part of the UK-New Zealand Mahi Tahī Series. The term 'Mahi Tahī' is a Māori term meaning 'working together.' The Series covered multiple topics of significance for the UK-New Zealand trade relationship,



including the UK's application to join the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership. The visit also addressed the ongoing war in Ukraine, global supply chain uncertainties, digital trade, and China's complex relationship with the Pacific region.

UK-Canada Trade Relations

In October 2022, CPA UK welcomed a Canadian delegation for a two-day programme to discuss UK-Canada relations. The programme covered topics of bilateral trade, within the context of the UK's exit from the European Union, as well as ambitions for a new trade deal between the UK and Canada. Over the two days, the delegates covered areas such as domestic



production, self-sufficiency, the impact of global supply chain uncertainties, and the process of scrutiny for trade deals. The talks were timely and insightful, with delegates networking and sharing their experiences in trade policy with the International Trade Committee.

Trade

Trade Workshop for Overseas Territories, Crown Dependencies, and Devolved Legislatures

In February 2023 CPA UK delivered a three-day workshop focusing on trade and parliamentary scrutiny. The workshop was aimed at parliamentarians from across the Overseas Territories, Crown Dependencies, and Devolved Legislatures.

The workshop provided a space for trade experts to share their research and insights on international trade within the post Covid-19 recovery period and the aftermath of the UK's exit from the European Union.

Discussion covered the challenges posed by asymmetrical trade relations, the unintended impacts of the UK's trade policies on smaller economies, and how to develop a trade policy that is inclusive of non-business stakeholders.



"I learnt so much about TA, FTAs. There was no session that was not impactful."

Trade Workshop participant

Public Accounts Committees

Maldives PAC Study Visit

In April 2022, CPA UK hosted a seventeen-member delegation consisting of parliamentarians and clerks from the Public Accounts Committee (PAC), as well as the Auditor General and his staff, from Maldives. As a consequence of the study visit, delegates decided to introduce private pre-hearing meetings between the Auditor General and their own PAC, so that Members would have the information necessary to prepare effective and incisive questions for witnesses in advance.



Hon. Mohamed Nashiz, Chair of the Maldives PAC, commented:

"I wish to thank CPA UK for bringing the Maldives PAC together with key stakeholders from the UK PAC and its Parliament. This forum has provided us with invaluable practical experience tailored to the issues affecting our committee, and renewed the friendship between our two legislatures following Maldives' return to the Commonwealth family."

Hon. Mohamed Nashiz, Chair of the Maldives PAC

Public Accounts Committees

The Commonwealth Association of Public Accounts Committees was established eight years ago to foster best practice in how Public Accounts Committees hold governments to account.

CAPAC Conference

The Association held a Conference in the People's Majlis, Maldives, in August 2022. A key issue was how Public Accounts Committees handle sensitive information. Delegates used a real-life case from the UK Parliament to discuss how they would have approached it. Hon. Mohamed Nashiz (Maldives) was elected as the new Chair of CAPAC, taking over from Dame Meg Hillier MP.

PAC Clerks Workshop

In December, CPA UK hosted a PAC Clerks Workshop, which brought PAC clerks and officials from 31 legislatures together to foster collaboration with colleagues from across different Commonwealth regions. During the sessions the delegates tackled challenges faced by PACs across the Commonwealth and discussed possible responses in their own legislatures. Clerks and officials shared experiences, examined existing practices and found new approaches to the financial scrutiny work of PACs.



Women in Parliament

Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians Conference

In the British Islands and Mediterranean Region, in 2022, Gibraltar hosted its second Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians Conference on the theme of attracting and retaining effective women parliamentarians. The Conference was co-organised by the Gibraltar Parliament and CPA UK as the Regional Secretariat for the CPA British Islands and Mediterranean Region.

The Conference included training for women parliamentarians on managing their online safety, delivered by the UK charity Glitch. Delegates also examined the UK's Online Safety Bill and considered the importance of parliamentary scrutiny that addresses the specific experience of women online.

"The panel of experts provided a clear oversight of the issues from differing sectors and angles and presented a case for legislation to be ambitious, robust and resilient for optimum future outcomes."



With the aim of encouraging more women in Gibraltar to consider standing for election, the programme included a session open to local women to hear testimonials from female parliamentarians from different jurisdictions. Only two out of seventeen parliamentarians in Gibraltar are women, but elections are due later this year.

Women in Parliament

The Gambia Delegation Visit to UK Parliament

Women's representation was also at the heart of discussions during a four-day visit to the UK Parliament in January 2023 from a delegation from the National Assembly of The Gambia. Progress in achieving a greater gender balance within the National Assembly has stalled in recent years, with only five female members currently serving out of a total of fifty-eight, and National Assembly Members recently tabled legislation which would have enlarged the assembly and reserved newly created seats for women.

Representatives from both parliaments agreed on the value of 'positive discrimination' measures, such as reserved seats or all-women shortlists. At the same time, they acknowledged that deeper societal problems inhibiting women's opportunities must be addressed.



Modern Slavery

By building parliamentarians' understanding and knowledge on contemporary forms of exploitation, CPA UK aims to contribute to the global effort to 'eradicate forced labour, end modern slavery and human trafficking and secure the prohibition and elimination of the worst forms of child labour' (Sustainable Development Goal target 8.7).

Roundtable on Sport Trafficking

CPA UK organised a physical roundtable on Sport Trafficking for UK parliamentarians, businesses, academics, lawyers, sporting organisations and NGOs. The objective was to increase knowledge on sport trafficking and learn from successful initiatives and actions taken by stakeholders ahead of mega sporting events, encouraging collaboration and corporations to address the issue.

The roundtable saw speakers from the Commonwealth Games Federation, Marshalls Plc, Loughborough University, Mission 89, and FIFA, discussing the impactful actions they have taken to tackle sports trafficking ahead of the Birmingham Commonwealth Games.



Modern Slavery

To further highlight the issue of Sport Trafficking, CPA UK's Adeline Dumoulin presented at the United Nations General Assembly. She cited the case of Hon. Jared Okelo MP, who organised a successful football tournament in the Western region of Kenya, to increase awareness of the hidden prevalence of football trafficking. Prior to this, Hon. Jared Okelo MP attended a workshop organised by CPA UK for parliamentarians on addressing sport trafficking. From then on, he acted to raise awareness of this issue.



In her UN address, Adeline Dumoulin highlighted the breadth of work done by CPA UK, and elaborated on the powerful position held by parliamentarians in addressing sport trafficking. She noted that “politicians are uniquely placed to inspire and lead the journey towards the eradication of exploitation,” and given their unique positions, it is imperative that there are communication bridges established across sectors: “Building trust and confidence is the only way the issue can be addressed successfully.”

Security

Conference on Scrutiny of National Security Legislation

In November 2022 CPA UK delivered a three-day conference on the Scrutiny of National Security Legislation. The Conference provided a platform for delegates to meet experts and parliamentarians from across the Commonwealth including the Overseas Territories.

The diversity of legislatures present mirrored the diversity of topics discussed, questions posed and fielded, and knowledge shared.

"As a member of the Administration and Internal Security Committee in my legislature, I have gained ideas and knowledge on how I can help the Committee do better for the country."

Security Conference participant

Delegates shared how they are actively responding to, and preparing for, the threats posed by climate change. There were discussions on the importance of shifting from short-term tactical thinking to long-term strategic thinking, which opened areas of further conversation on the need for experts in the development of security policy. Other related and urgent topics, including food security, national infrastructure resilience, and nation-wide natural disaster preparation, were also covered.



The Conference covered the prevalence of violence against women and girls, and different ways in which this crime manifests itself within diverse communities. Examples raised included gendered violence during times of conflict, the practice of forced marriage, and the risk of abuse from humanitarian workers and peacekeepers.

Finance

CPA UK had an income of £2,598,094 which included an annual grant-in-aid payment of £2,049,228 from the UK Parliament (70% House of Commons/30% House of Lords).

The UK Overseas Territories Project received funding of £490,059 from the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office.

This is a summary of our financial activities, extracted from the audited accounts for the year ending 31 March 2023. Copies of the full Annual Reports and Accounts are available on the CPA UK website: www.uk-cpa.org

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