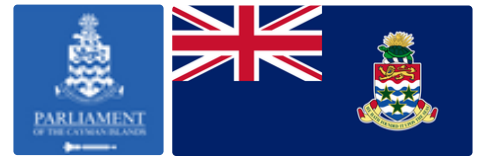


The Cayman Islands Post-Election Seminar



REPORT SUMMARY

22 - 24 October 2025

CPA UK Delegation

- Hon. Dennis Lister, Speaker of the House of Assembly, Parliament of Bermuda
- Deputy Inna Gardiner, States Assembly of Jersey
- Ash Regan MSP, Scottish Parliament
- Chantal La Roche, Director of Legal Services, Parliament of Trinidad and Tobago

Programme Overview

From 22 – 24 October 2025, a CPA UK delegation delivered a Post-Election Seminar in the Cayman Islands following an invitation from its Parliament. The delegation consisted of three parliamentarians and a parliamentary official, representing the parliaments of Bermuda, Jersey, Scotland, and Trinidad and Tobago.

The programme of the seminar was designed in partnership with the Parliament of the Cayman Islands and covered a range of topics. These included: behaviour, ethics and standards; parliamentary questions; the role and remit of committees; exploring the use of AI in parliaments; and public outreach.

This report highlights some of the key discussions that emerged from the programme. Seminar presentations and additional resources were also shared with the participants.



Parliamentary Code of Conduct

The Parliament of the Cayman Islands currently does not have a dedicated code of conduct for Members. In other parliaments, a code of conduct can help clarify expectations for Members of Parliament and enhance public trust.

Seminar participants discussed the possible process, scope, and penalties involved with a code of conduct. In the Parliament of Bermuda, the Ethics, Complaints and Investigations Committee advises Parliament on breaches of the Code of Conduct. The Committee can appoint an independent investigator, who will present a report to the Committee. The Parliament, with a two-thirds majority vote, decides if there will be sanction for a breach of conduct. Sanctions range from an oral or written apology to forfeiture of the Member's salary or suspension from membership of Parliament for a specified period.

In the Jersey States Assembly, a complaint about the conduct of a Member is submitted to the Commissioner for Standards. If there are grounds for investigation, the Commissioner will produce a report that is submitted to the Privileges and Procedures Committee, which decides if a breach occurred and what sanctions apply. In Jersey, the Code of Conduct extends beyond the parliament, and recently a Member was suspended for 28-days due to a criminal offence.



Committee Scrutiny

Committees have the potential to be powerful tools for oversight and accountability. The importance of follow-up after a committee report is published was noted for committees to achieve maximum impact, such as improved administrative practices and reduced expenditure. To follow-up, committees can track responses from government departments and use parliamentary questions and motions to seek updates from the relevant minister.

The Standing Orders of the Parliament of the Cayman Islands allow for the establishment of a select committee to more closely examine a bill or a specific issue. Select committees can call for witnesses and request documents in order to produce a report with recommendations for the House.

Committees can also provide a platform for the public to express their views on bills and legislation. For example, in Jersey a large volume of evidence submitted by the public to the scrutiny committee for education contributed to the Education Minister passing a bill to ban usage of mobile phones by students in school.

Artificial Intelligence in Parliament

Artificial Intelligence (AI) has the potential to increase a parliament's efficiency, for example by quickly transcribing speeches by converting audio into text and by supporting committees by summarising information and evidence for reports. It has the potential to aid individual Members by assisting with the writing of speeches or with bill drafting by providing language suggestions and legal references.



For those less experienced with AI, it was recommended to 'start small'. One presenter suggested using a documents analysis AI tool, such as Petal. They said this type of tool allows you to upload laws and bills to 'speak' to them, such as requesting summaries or explanations, or comparisons to laws and bills from other jurisdictions.

Participants in the seminar were warned that the output of an AI tool must always be checked. One panellist shared that when using AI to aid with drafting a speech, the AI had wrongly used information from a different parliament. Participants were also cautioned that AI tools often provide positive reinforcement to the user, unless it is specifically asked to give the pros and cons of an idea.

Constituency Engagement

Strategies for managing constituency engagement were discussed by participants, as well as what resources can be used to support this work. One participant explained that they block out Friday to focus on constituency engagement. This can help set clear boundaries and better manage the expectations of constituents, aside from emergencies. Members can consider 'roaming' constituency surgeries around their constituency to improve engagement with their community. For example, if permissible, a pop-up surgery set up in a supermarket can be a valuable way to engage with constituents.

In the Scottish and UK Parliaments, Members utilise CaseworkerMP software to assist with constituency casework. One presenter said this software can assist when processing a high volume of emails around controversial issues, tracking progress with long-term case work, and providing analytics information. However, it requires a subscription, and the cost is met by these Parliaments.

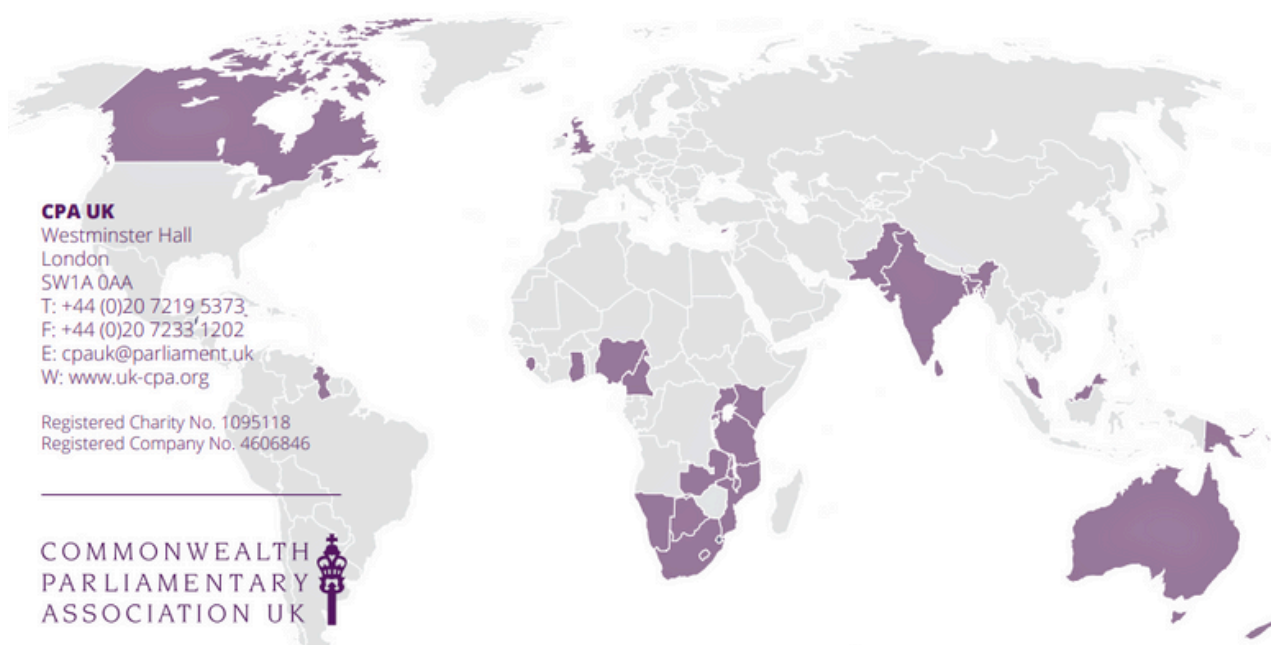
In Jersey, until recently Members were solely responsible for managing their constituency work. Last year, three constituency officers, who can attend surgeries and be given case work tasks, were established to support all 49 voting Members of the States Assembly. While the system is still developing, it has already proven helpful.

Social media

Presenters noted the importance of picking the right platform for your audience and purpose. Facebook can be helpful for community engagement and staying aware of issues in the constituency, while X and TikTok can be more suited for reacting to current affairs and engaging with younger people, and LinkedIn provides a platform to connect with businesspersons and professionals.



One challenge raised with a Member having a presence on social media is that it can create the expectation among the public for them to provide a quick response to their questions. Participants also noted that social media can have a harmful effect on the mental health and family life of a Member. Rather than attempting to respond to everyone, one suggestion was that social media platforms can instead be used primarily for broadcasting purposes. Members should also be prepared to block a person should they act inappropriately towards you online.



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