

<b>Member</b>	Sam Groth	<b>Electorate</b>	Nepean
<b>Period</b>	01 January 2024 to 31 March 2024		

<b>Regulation 6 - Expense allowance and electorate allowance</b>	
Total amount paid to member for electorate allowance	\$10,354.14
Total amount paid to member for expense allowance	\$2,863.68

<b>Regulation 7 - Motor vehicle allowance</b>	
Total amount paid to member for motor vehicle allowance	\$0.00
Member did not receive the motor vehicle allowance in the previous quarter and member has elected to receive the motor vehicle allowance for this quarter	No

<b>Regulation 9 - Parliamentary accommodation sitting allowance</b>	
Total amount paid to member for parliamentary accommodation sitting allowance	\$0.00
Suburb in which the member's parliamentary accommodation is located	n/a

<b>Regulation 10 - Travel allowance claims</b>					
Date from	Date until	Reason for travel	Total amount paid	Town or city in which accommodation was located	Value of the accommodation
18-Jan-24	20-Jan-24	Attending shadow portfolio related event (Australian Open - tennis)	\$782.83	Melbourne	\$770.00
28-Jan-24	29-Jan-24	Australian Open Tennis, invited as Shadow Minister for Sport	\$389.81	Melbourne	\$385.00
31-Jan-24	01-Feb-24	Australian Cricket Awards, invited as Shadow Minister for Sport	\$389.81	Melbourne	\$385.00
29-Jan-24	30-Jan-24	Shadow Cabinet and Parliamentary meetings to meet with stakeholders in my role as Shadow Minister for Tourism, Sports and Events	\$190.55	Bendigo	\$185.00
30-Jan-24	31-Jan-24	Shadow Cabinet and Parliamentary meetings to meet with stakeholders in my role as Shadow Minister for Tourism, Sports and Events	\$216.17	Bendigo	\$185.00
05-Feb-24	09-Feb-24	Parliamentary Sitings	\$1,672.00	Melbourne	\$1,540.00
19-Feb-24	23-Feb-24	Parliamentary Sitings	\$1,667.79	Melbourne	\$1,540.00
04-Mar-24	08-Mar-24	Parliamentary Sitings	\$1,672.00	Melbourne	\$1,540.00

Total number of nights for travel allowance claims **18**  
Total amount paid to member for travel allowance **\$6,980.96**

<b>Regulation 11 - Commercial transport allowance claims</b>					
Date from	Date until	Reason for travel	Total amount paid	Mode of transport	Value of transport

Total number of nights for commercial transport allowance claims **0**  
Total amount paid to member for commercial transport allowance **\$0.00**

<b>Regulation 12 - International travel allowance claims</b>			
Date from	Date until	Reason for travel	Total amount paid
08-Mar-24	16-Mar-24	Travel to London for Westminster Seminar 2024 - Parliamentary Business	\$8,515.85
08-Mar-24	16-Mar-24	CPA UK Westminster Seminar	\$1,363.10

Total number of nights for international travel allowance claims **8**  
Total amount paid to member for international travel allowance **\$9,878.95**  
See attached travel report for further details

## **COMMONWEALTH PARLIAMENTARY ASSOCIATION – WESTMINSTER SEMINAR ON EFFECTIVE PARLIAMENTS**

This report relates to my travel to London to celebrate Commonwealth Day and attend the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association UK's Westminster Seminar on Effective Parliaments. This travel took place between March 8<sup>th</sup> 2024 and March 15<sup>th</sup> 2024.

This travel related directly to my role as a Member of the Victorian Parliament and provided me with the opportunity to network with other parliamentary representatives. It was a valuable opportunity to draw on their experience to enhance my efforts to represent my constituents actively and effectively.

Meeting delegates from almost 30 Parliaments across the Commonwealth, I engaged in a wealth of learning around best practices in their respective legislatures and how I can bring those principles into my work as the Member for Nepean and as a Shadow Minister.

In addition to meeting many delegates from other Commonwealth political systems, it was also a pleasure to be joined on this trip by other representatives from the Victorian Parliament - Belinda Wilson MP and Dr Vaughn Koops.

Sharing this enriching experience as a bipartisan group, only serves to strengthen our resolve as Victorian MPs to serve our communities to the best of our ability.

Needless to say, having the pleasure of attending the celebrations for the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the modern Commonwealth was an immense privilege.

This historic celebration at Westminster Abbey, joined by members of the Royal Family and other international dignitaries, was a unique opportunity to recognise the importance and strength of Commonwealth democracy.

As one of the oldest provincial democracies represented at the seminar, I feel it is important for the Victorian Parliament to continue attending these conferences and share the many important learnings from our history.

While we are lucky to have a parliament that has endured since we were granted full responsible government in 1855, many of the participant legislatures have not had the benefit of such long-standing democratic systems.

In summary, attending the Westminster Seminar on Effective Parliaments and being immersed in the birthplace of our system of democracy was incredibly rewarding.

Networking with representatives from a wide range of legislatures gave me invaluable perspective and helped enrich my understanding of our Westminster system.

I hope that participating has made me a stronger local member, more effective parliamentarian, and a better-equipped policy maker.

Sam Groth MP

Member for Nepean

OFFICIAL PROGRAMME

72<sub>ND</sub>

# WESTMINSTER SEMINAR

ON EFFECTIVE PARLIAMENTS

11 - 15 March 2024



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# Welcome Message

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It is my great pleasure to welcome you to the Houses of Parliament for the 72nd Westminster Seminar.

This year's Seminar is the first that we've held in-person since the coronation of the Head of the Commonwealth, His Majesty King Charles III, and will coincide with celebrations marking the 75th anniversary of the Commonwealth, adding up to what I hope will be a particularly memorable occasion.

This flagship event is always the most important date in our calendar, and the team have been working hard to deliver what I know will be a week of fruitful peer-to-peer learning, making new and lasting connections, and enjoying the richness and diversity which the Commonwealth family of nations always brings.

The week will start with Commonwealth Day and 75th anniversary celebrations hosted by Mr Speaker, Sir Lindsay Hoyle MP, after which you will take part in five days of sessions exploring different aspects of your roles as parliamentarians, clerks and officials, from the role of the Speaker to holding the Executive to account.

In a personal capacity, this Westminster Seminar will be my first as Chief Executive of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association UK, and so I'm looking forward to experiencing it with you!

With all best wishes,



**Sarah Dickson**  
Chief Executive, CPA UK



# About CPA UK

## CPA UK supports and strengthens parliamentary democracy throughout the Commonwealth

CPA UK focuses on priority themes which support and strengthen parliamentary democracy throughout the Commonwealth. These priority themes are: women in parliament; tackling modern slavery; security; public accounts committees; and international trade.

CPA UK brings together UK and Commonwealth parliamentarians and officials to share knowledge and experience through peer-to-peer learning. It aims to improve parliamentary oversight, scrutiny and representation and is located in, and funded by, the UK Parliament.



## Building stronger parliaments and advancing democracy

CPA UK's core work is to build relationships with parliaments across the Commonwealth. This is achieved through a programme of parliamentary strengthening and capacity building activities.

CPA UK undertakes work at the request of other parliaments around the Commonwealth, and our tailored programmes include both individual country activities, and large scale projects and activities that bring together Commonwealth parliamentarians and parliamentary officials.



### About the Programme

The annual Westminster Seminar on Effective Parliaments is CPA UK's flagship event, which is attended by around 70 delegates from every region in the Commonwealth.

Sessions range from the role of parliamentarians and parliamentary officials, ethics and standards, and engagement with the media, to diversity and inclusion.

The programme is designed to provide space for highly participatory and interactive exchanges, where rigorous discussion takes place on parliamentary democracy, practice and procedure, as well as the various ways parliaments work across the Commonwealth. The Seminar is aimed at parliamentarians and parliamentary officials who are relatively new to their role.

# Outcomes and Outputs

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## **Outcome**

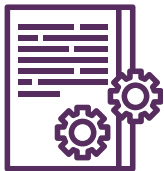
Delegates will have enhanced their ability to effectively scrutinise, represent, and deliver oversight in their respective legislatures.

The outputs for the Seminar are as follows:



## **Output One**

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



## **Output Two**

Delegates will be introduced to knowledge, tools, and skills to enhance their leadership and administrative role in their respective legislatures.



## **Output Three**

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

A summary report will be produced by CPA UK and will be distributed to all relevant stakeholders.

# General Information

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## Behaviour Code

The Houses of Parliament have clear guidelines in place on how all visitors and staff should be treated, and how they should treat others in return. These guidelines apply to all CPA UK events, physical as well as online. You can find a copy of the UK Parliament's Behaviour Code online. Unacceptable behaviour will be dealt with seriously, independently, and with effective sanctions.

Please report any such behaviour confidentially to any CPA UK member of staff involved in the programme or to CPA UK Chief Executive, Sarah Dickson [dicksons@parliament.uk](mailto:dicksons@parliament.uk)



## Programme Attendance

In order to get the most out of the programme, we encourage you to attend all sessions.



## Dress Code

Business attire or national dress is appropriate for the visit. Please bring warm, waterproof coats as temperatures can be low. Wind and rain can be expected during this time.



## Access

You and your belongings will need to go through airport-style security before you enter Parliament. Members will be exempt. You can read more on the UK Parliament website: [www.parliament.uk/visiting/access/security](http://www.parliament.uk/visiting/access/security)



## Participation and Contributions

During the programme, you will be encouraged to share your own experiences and provide examples from your own legislature, to enrich the learning of all participants.

Please refrain from responding to calls or emails unless urgent business arises, and try to avoid distractions whilst taking part in the programme.



# General Information

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## Online Engagement

CPA UK will be posting on social media from CPA UK's official accounts, using **#WestSem24**

Find us on Twitter using **@CPA\_UK**

Find us on Facebook by searching for **CPAUKbranch**

Find us on LinkedIn by searching for **Commonwealth Parliamentary Association UK (CPA UK)**

We encourage you to repost and share your learning experiences online by tagging our social media handles.

Please ensure that online engagement is suitable for professional audiences and related to the content of the sessions.



## Photography

CPA UK will be taking photos during the visit. These photos will be used for our online media and the final report.

If you would prefer not to appear in any photographs, please contact Selsabil, the Communications Officer at [amines@parliament.uk](mailto:amines@parliament.uk)

All photographs will be made available after the visit.

# Meet the Team

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# Participating Legislatures



## Asia Pacific

- |  |   |   |
|--|---|---|
|  New South Wales, Australia |  Sri Lanka |  Victoria, Australia |
|  Pakistan                   |  Tonga     |  Western Australia   |


## Africa

- |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|
|  Cameroon   |  Kenya  |  Sierra Leone |
|  The Gambia |  Malawi |  Zambia       |

## Americas, Caribbean, and Europe

- |   |  |   |
|---|--|---|
|  Alberta, Canada   |  Guernsey       |  St Kitts & Nevis  |
|  Antigua & Barbuda |  Jamaica        |  St Lucia          |
|  Canada            |  Jersey         |  Trinidad & Tobago |
|  Grenada           |  Quebec, Canada |  Wales             |

## Overseas Territories

- |  |  |   |
|--|--|---|
|  Bermuda                |  Cayman Islands   |  St Helena |
|  British Virgin Islands |  Falkland Islands |   |

# Delegate List

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## Legislative Assembly of Alberta

Hon. Nathan Ip MLA  
Chantelle de Jonge



## Parliament of Antigua & Bermuda

Rosemarie Weston



## Parliament of Bermuda

Senator Leslie Robinson



## House of Assembly of the British Virgin Islands

Hon. Corine George-Massicote MP  
Hon. Stacy Mather MBE MP



## Parliament of Cameroon

Hon. Ngo Issi Rolande MP  
Hon. Lawson Tabot Bakia MP  
Mr Ndum John Teboh



## Parliament of Canada

Hon. Alexandra Mendès MP  
Hon. Robert Kitchen MP  
Ms Shaila Anwar



## Parliament of the Cayman Islands

Hon. Christopher Saunders MP  
Hon. Sabrina Turner MP  
Ms Nordra Walcott



## Legislative Assembly of the Falkland Islands

Hon. Jack Ford MLA



## Parliament of Grenada

Hon. Leo Cato MP  
Hon. Dessima Williams MP  
Andrew Augustine



## States of Deliberation, Guernsey

Deputy Yvonne Burford  
Deputy Christopher Blin  
Mr Simon Ross

# Delegate List

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## Parliament of Jamaica

Senator Sherene Samantha Golding Campbell  
Mr Brandon Everton Nash



## States Assembly of Jersey

Deputy Hilary Jeune  
Deputy Karen Wilson  
Mr Yannick Fillieul



## Parliament of Kenya

Hon Anthony Njoroge Wainaina MP  
Senator Fatuma Dullo Adan MP  
Ms Jennifer Ndeto



## Parliament of Malawi

Hon. Esther Suman Majaza MP  
Hon. Lobin Lowe MP  
Ms Mary M. Nkhata



## Parliament of New South Wales

Jenny Leong MP  
Hon. Natalie Ward MLC  
Jenelle Moore



## Parliament of Pakistan

Hon. Sardar Ayaz Sadiq MP  
Dr Nafeesa Shah MNA  
Mr Tahir Hussain



## National Assembly of Quebec

Hon. Sona Lakhoyan Olivier MNA  
Hon. François St-Louis MNA



## Legislative Council of Saint Helena

Hon. Ronald Coleman MLC  
Hon. Karl Thrower MLC



## Parliament of Saint Lucia

Senator Deale Lee  
Sharon Montoute



## Senedd Cymru

Hon. Carolyn Thomas MP

# Delegate List

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## Parliament of Sierra Leone

Hon. Adama Bangura MP  
Hon. Sorieba Alhaji Turay MP  
Edward Sahr Lebbie



## Parliament of Sri Lanka

Hon. Ajith Nishantha Rajapakse  
Hon. (Dr) (Ms) Harini Nireka Amarasuriya  
Mr Chaminda Kularatne



## National Assembly of St Kitts & Nevis

Hon. Dr Joyelle Clarke MNA  
Hon. Latoya Jones MNA



## National Assembly of The Gambia

Hon. Alhagie Mbow MNA  
Hon. Amie Colley MNA  
Mrs Jestina Greywoode



## Legislative Assembly of Tonga

Lord Fatafehi Fakafanua MLA



## Parliament of Victoria

Hon. Sam Groth MP  
Hon. Belinda Wilson MP  
Dr Vaughn Koops



## Parliament of Western Australia

Hon. David Scaife MLA  
Hon. Magenta Marshall MLA  
Thomas Moorhead



## National Assembly of Zambia

Hon. Chrizoster Halwindi MP  
Hon. Gystave Chonde MP  
Ms Sibonelo Jere

# CELEBRATING THE COMMONWEALTH

## DAY 1: MONDAY 11 MARCH 2024

TIME	DESCRIPTION OF ACTIVITY
0800 - 0830	<p><b>Registration of delegates at the Official Hotel, Novotel London Waterloo</b> Coaches will leave promptly from the hotel at 0830am. Delegates not on board will be responsible for organising their own travel to Portcullis House.</p> <p>Day 1 will focus on celebrating the Commonwealth. Dress code for the whole day: national dress, lounge suit, or day dress (hats and gloves optional). <b>Please leave all bags and laptops behind as you will not be able to take these with you to Westminster Abbey.</b> Phone and wallets should be fine.</p> <p><b>Official Hotel address:</b> Novotel London Waterloo 113 Lambeth Road, London, SE1 7LS Telephone: +44 (0) 20 7660 0674</p>
0830	<p><b>Coach to depart Novotel London Waterloo for Portcullis House, Houses of Parliament</b></p>
0900	<p><b>Arrival at Portcullis House, Houses of Parliament</b> Delegates will be greeted by CPA UK staff and escorted to the Attlee Suite</p>
0910 - 0920	<p><b>Welcome and Opening Remarks</b> Delegates will be welcomed by Sarah Dickson, <i>Chief Executive, CPA UK</i></p> <p><b>Location:</b> The Attlee Suite, Portcullis House</p>
0920	<p><b>Walk to the Flag Raising Ceremony</b></p>
0930 - 1015	<p><b>Commonwealth Flag Raising Ceremony</b> The ceremony will include the procession of flags by the Parliamentary community, the raising of the Commonwealth flag with the Rt Hon. Sir Lindsay Hoyle MP, <i>Speaker of the House of Commons</i>, and musical performances by Commonwealth artists.</p>
1015 - 1100	<p><b>Tour of the Houses of Parliament</b></p>
1100	<p><b>Walk to the Attlee Suite, Portcullis House</b> Coffee and Tea will be available upon arrival</p>
1110 - 1120	<p><b>Introduction to Seminar</b> Housekeeping and Seminar introduction by Zahra Soolagh, <i>Project and Programme Manager, CPA UK</i></p> <p><b>Location:</b> The Attlee Suite, Portcullis House</p>

# CELEBRATING THE COMMONWEALTH

## DAY 1: MONDAY 11 MARCH 2024

TIME	DESCRIPTION OF ACTIVITY
1120 - 1145	<p><b>Goal Setting</b> Facilitated by Matthew Hamilton, <i>Monitoring and Evaluation Manager, CPA UK</i></p> <p><b>Location:</b> The Attlee Suite, Portcullis House</p>
1145 - 1215	<p><b>Ice Breaker: Human Bingo</b> Facilitated by Nicky Davis, <i>Project Assistant, CPA UK</i></p> <p><b>Location:</b> The Attlee Suite, Portcullis House</p>
1215 - 1225	<p><b>Walk to the Cholmondeley Room</b></p>
1230 - 1345	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>LUNCH</b> <i>The Cholmondeley Room</i> Welcome Remarks by the Lord Speaker, The Rt Hon. the Lord McFall of Alcluith</p>
1345	<p><b>Walk to Westminster Abbey</b></p>
1400 - 1600	<p><b>Commonwealth Day Service of Celebration</b> Commonwealth Day Service of Celebration attended by the Royal Family and dignitaries.</p> <p><b>Location:</b> Westminster Abbey</p>
<p><b>END OF DAY 1</b> <i>Due to road closures and access difficulty, delegates are requested to make their own way back by foot to the hotel after the service.</i></p>	



# PARLIAMENTARY ROLES & RESPONSIBILITIES

DAY 2: TUESDAY 12 MARCH 2024

TIME	DESCRIPTION OF ACTIVITY	
0845	<p><b>Departure from Hotel to Portcullis House by Coach</b></p> <p>Please arrive 5-10 minutes before a sharp departure by coach at 0845. Once the coach has left, delegates not on board will be responsible for organising their own travel to Portcullis House.</p> <p><b>Location:</b> Novotel London Waterloo 113 Lambeth Road, London, SE1 7LS Telephone: +44 (0) 20 7660 0674</p>	
0920 - 0930	<p><b>Overview of the Day Ahead and Recap of Goals</b></p> <p><b>Location:</b> The Attlee Suite, Portcullis House</p>	
0930 - 1025	<p><b>Session 1: The Role of the Speaker</b></p> <p>The seminar will open with a look at one of the key roles in any legislature - that of the Speaker. From interpreting Standing Orders, to maintaining order in the chamber, the Speaker's job is an essential feature in keeping any parliament running. This session will look at the duties of the presiding officer and explore the differences and similarities in their responsibilities in different Commonwealth legislatures, as well as the importance of neutrality and impartiality within their roles.</p> <p><b>Chair:</b> Sarah Dickson, <i>Chief Executive, CPA UK</i></p> <p><b>Speakers:</b> The Rt Hon. Sir Lindsay Hoyle MP, <i>Speaker of the House of Commons, UK Parliament</i></p> <p>Hon. Dessima Williams, <i>Madame President of the Grenada Senate</i></p> <p>Hon. Leo Cato, <i>Speaker of the House of Representatives, Parliament of Grenada</i></p> <p><b>Location:</b> The Attlee Suite, Portcullis House</p>	
1025 - 1045	<p><b>NETWORKING TEA &amp; COFFEE BREAK</b></p>	
1045 - 1140	<p><b>Session 2a: Members Session: Effective Parliaments and Responsibility of Members</b></p> <p>In a dynamic and ever-changing global environment, how can parliaments ensure they are effective? Do definitions of an effective parliament mean different things to different people?</p>	<p><b>Session 2b: Clerks &amp; Officials Session: Effective Parliaments and Responsibility of Officials</b></p> <p>How can clerks and officials ensure their parliament is effective? Why is it important for clerks and officials to remain impartial? Delegates will discuss their ideas on what makes an effective parliament and how the role and responsibilities of a clerk or</p>

# PARLIAMENTARY ROLES & RESPONSIBILITIES

DAY 2: TUESDAY 12 MARCH 2024

TIME	DESCRIPTION OF ACTIVITY	
	<p>Members will have the opportunity to share what makes an effective parliament and the role of parliamentarians in ensuring the functionality of their legislature.</p> <p><b>Chair:</b> Rt Hon. Dame Maria Miller MP, <i>Chair of CPA UK &amp; Member, UK House of Commons</i></p> <p><b>Speakers:</b> Hon. Alexandra Mendès MP, <i>Member, Parliament of Canada</i></p> <p>The Baroness Merron, <i>Member, UK House of Lords</i></p> <p>Hon. Lobin Clarke Lowe MP, <i>Member, Parliament of Malawi</i></p> <p><b>Location:</b> The Attlee Suite, Portcullis House</p>	<p>official can have an impact in ensuring the functionality of their legislature.</p> <p><b>Chair:</b> Mr Liam Laurence Smyth, <i>Clerk of Legislation, UK House of Commons</i></p> <p><b>Speakers:</b> Ms Sharon Montoute, <i>Deputy Clerk, Parliament of Saint Lucia</i></p> <p>Ms Jestina Greywoode, <i>Table Clerk, Parliament of The Gambia</i></p> <p>Ms Chloe Mawson, <i>Clerk Assistant, UK House of Lords</i></p> <p><b>Location:</b> CPA Room</p>
1140 - 1210	<p><b>Session 3a: Interactive Exercise: Parliamentary Systems Analysis</b></p> <p>Delegates will conduct a SWOT analysis for parliamentary functions and processes. Delegates will identify the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats facing their parliamentary systems. This exercise will help in understanding the current state and areas for improvement as well as providing insight on how other parliaments operate.</p> <p><b>Facilitator:</b> Charlotte Geary, <i>Project Assistant, CPA UK</i></p> <p><b>Location:</b> The Attlee Suite, Portcullis House</p>	<p><b>Session 3b: Interactive Exercise: Parliamentary Systems Analysis</b></p> <p>Delegates will conduct a SWOT analysis for parliamentary functions and processes. Delegates will identify the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats facing their parliamentary systems. This exercise will help in understanding the current state and areas for improvement as well as providing insight on how other parliaments operate.</p> <p><b>Facilitator:</b> Mr Liam Laurence Smyth, <i>Clerk of Legislation, UK House of Commons</i></p> <p>CPA UK Staff</p> <p><b>Location:</b> CPA Room</p>
1210 - 1320	<p><b>LUNCH</b> <i>The Attlee Suite</i></p>	

# PARLIAMENTARY ROLES & RESPONSIBILITIES

DAY 2: TUESDAY 12 MARCH 2024

TIME	DESCRIPTION OF ACTIVITY	
1320 - 1405	<p><b>Session 4a: Members Session: Democracy in Practice and Practicing Democracy</b></p> <p>This session will explore the practical dimensions of democratic governance. Delving into real-world applications, the session will analyse case studies, share success stories, and address challenges faced by parliamentarians in upholding democratic principles. By examining the intersection of theory and reality, this session aims to enhance delegates' understanding of the nuances involved in effective democratic governance and inspire collaborative efforts towards strengthening democratic institutions across the Commonwealth.</p> <p><b>Chair:</b> Hon. Chris Elmore MP, <i>Member, UK House of Commons</i></p> <p><b>Speakers:</b> The Lord German OBE, <i>Member, UK House of Lords</i></p> <p>Senator Sherene Golding Campbell, <i>Senator, Parliament of Jamaica</i></p> <p><b>Location:</b> The Attlee Suite, Portcullis House</p>	<p><b>Session 4b: Clerks &amp; Officials Session: Balancing and Managing Relationships with Members of Parliament</b></p> <p>This session may also consider the importance of how to balance assertiveness with influence; the importance of clarity and navigating the needs of others; and how to manage outcomes as well as expectations.</p> <p><b>Chair:</b> Mr Simon Ross, <i>Table Clerk, States of Deliberation, Guernsey</i></p> <p><b>Speakers:</b> Mr Thomas Moorhead, <i>Sergeant-at-Arms, Parliament of Western Australia</i></p> <p>Ms Holly Dustin, <i>Cultural Transformation Project Lead, UK Houses of Parliament</i></p> <p><b>Location:</b> CPA Room</p>
1405 - 1420	<p><b>Democracy in Practice and Practicing Democracy: Case Studies Interactive Exercise</b></p> <p>In this interactive session, delegates will be presented with case studies of successful parliamentary initiatives or reforms. Delegates will form small groups to analyse and discuss the cases. They will be encouraged to identify key factors contributing to success and brainstorm how similar strategies could be applied in their own contexts.</p> <p><b>Facilitator:</b> Maggie El Beleidi, <i>Programme Officer, CPA UK</i></p> <p><b>Location:</b> The Attlee Suite, Portcullis House</p>	<p><b>Balancing and Managing Relationships with Members of Parliament: Interactive Exercise</b></p> <p>Delegates will complete an interactive exercise on assertiveness, to put in practice what has been highlighted in the previous session.</p> <p><b>Facilitator:</b> Nicky Davis, <i>Project Assistant, CPA UK</i></p> <p><b>Location:</b> CPA Room</p>

# PARLIAMENTARY ROLES & RESPONSIBILITIES

DAY 2: TUESDAY 12 MARCH 2024

TIME	DESCRIPTION OF ACTIVITY	
1420 - 1440	<b>NETWORKING TEA &amp; COFFEE BREAK</b>	
1440 - 1540	<p><b>Session 5a: Members Session: Pressures on a Parliamentarian</b></p> <p>What is the role of a parliamentarian in the Commonwealth? How can parliamentarians balance various commitments and prioritise their time between their constituencies, their legislature, special interests, and many other political and personal pressures? How do parliamentarians ensure they work with their political parties, caucuses, or political alliances whilst ensuring the best interests of their constituents?</p> <p><b>Chair:</b> Rt Hon. Lord Foulkes, <i>Member, UK House of Lords</i></p> <p><b>Speakers:</b> Hon. Sabrina Turner MP, <i>Member, Parliament of the Cayman Islands</i></p> <p>Hon. Gystave Chonde MP, <i>Member, Parliament of Zambia</i></p> <p><b>Location:</b> The Attlee Suite, Portcullis House</p>	<p><b>Session 5b: Clerks &amp; Officials Session: Effective Management of Time and Resources</b></p> <p>This session aims to empower delegates with the skills needed to navigate the fast-paced environment of legislative bodies while maintaining effective time and resource management. The session will cover practical techniques for prioritisation, task delegation, and utilising resources. Participants will gain insights into enhancing productivity without compromising the quality of their work.</p> <p><b>Chair:</b> CPA UK</p> <p><b>Speakers:</b> Mr Chaminda Kularatne, <i>Chief of Staff and Deputy Secretary-General of Parliament, Parliament of Sri Lanka</i></p> <p>Ms Sibonelo Jere, Senior Public Relations Officer, Parliament of Zambia</p> <p><b>Location:</b> CPA Room</p>
1540 - 1600	<b>NETWORKING TEA &amp; COFFEE BREAK</b>	
1600 - 1800	<p><b>Session 6a: Members Session: Leadership and Communication Skills Workshop</b></p> <p>A session led by a communication expert, tailored for parliamentarians, to work on leadership and communication skills to achieve impact as public figures.</p> <p><b>Facilitator and Coach:</b> Ginny Radmall, <i>Director, The Ivy Way</i></p> <p><b>Location:</b> The Attlee Suite, Portcullis House</p>	<p><b>Session 6b: Clerks &amp; Officials Session: Leadership and Communication Skills Workshop</b></p> <p>A session led by a communication expert, tailored for parliamentary officials, to work on leadership and communication skills to achieve impact as parliamentary officials.</p> <p><b>Facilitator and Coach:</b> Kate Faragher, <i>Founder &amp; CEO, BeSpoke Skills</i></p> <p><b>Location:</b> CPA Room</p>

# PARLIAMENTARY ROLES & RESPONSIBILITIES

## DAY 2: TUESDAY 12 MARCH 2024

TIME	DESCRIPTION OF ACTIVITY
1800 - 1825	<b>Official Conference Photo</b>
1825	<b><i>Walk to Speaker's House</i></b>
1830 - 2000	<b>Evening Reception at Speaker's House</b> <b>Keynote Speaker:</b> Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon, <i>Member, UK House of Lords</i> <b>Speakers:</b> Sarah Dickson, <i>Chief Executive, CPA UK</i>  Stephen Twigg, <i>Secretary General, Commonwealth Parliamentary Association</i>  The Rt Hon. Sir Lindsay Hoyle MP, <i>Speaker of the House of Commons, UK Parliament</i> <b>Location:</b> Speaker's House
<b>END OF DAY 2</b> <i>Delegates will make their way to the coaches, to be driven back to the hotel</i>	

# IMPACT OF SELECT COMMITTEES

DAY 3: WEDNESDAY 13 MARCH 2024

TIME	DESCRIPTION OF ACTIVITY
0815	<p><b>Departure from Hotel to Portcullis House by Coach</b> Please arrive 5-10 minutes before a sharp departure by coach at 0815. Once the coach has left, delegates not on board will be responsible for organising their own travel to Portcullis House.</p> <p><b>Location:</b> Novotel London Waterloo 113 Lambeth Road, London, SE1 7LS Telephone: +44 (0) 20 7660 0674</p>
0845 - 0900	<p><b>Day 2 Recap and Prime Minister's Questions Ticket Allocation</b></p> <p>A summary of key points covered on day 2. Delegates who wish to view PMQs live in the Chamber will be asked to put their name in for a draw. The draw will take place during the next break. The remainder of delegates will watch the proceedings live on screen.</p> <p><b>Location:</b> The Attlee Suite, Portcullis House</p>
0900 - 1015	<p><b>Session 7: The Role and Impact of Select Committees - Insight into Public Accounts Committees</b></p> <p>Select committees carry out scrutiny of the work of government departments in different ways. This session will provide insights of good committee practice across the Commonwealth. It will highlight both the challenges and impact that committees can have.</p> <p><b>Chair:</b> Dame Meg Hillier MP, <i>Chair of the UK PAC and Member, UK House of Commons</i></p> <p><b>Speakers:</b> Hon. Alhagie Mbow MP, <i>Chairperson of the Committee on Education &amp; ICT and Vice Chairperson of the Committee on Finance &amp; Public Accounts, Parliament of The Gambia</i></p> <p>Tim Jarrett, <i>Clerk, UK Houses of Parliament</i></p> <p><b>Location:</b> The Attlee Suite, Portcullis House</p>
1015 - 1035	<p><b>NETWORKING TEA &amp; COFFEE BREAK</b> <i>Draw for PMQ Tickets</i></p>
1035 - 1135	<p><b>Session 8: Holding the Prime Minister and Executive to Account</b></p> <p>This session aims to foster a dialogue of good practice, challenges, and innovative approaches in ensuring accountability, transparency, and effective scrutiny of the executive branch. The session will outline the importance of the separation of powers. By sharing experiences and insights delegates will have the opportunity to contribute to a collaborative framework that empowers parliamentary institutions to fulfil their vital role in upholding democratic principles.</p>

# IMPACT OF SELECT COMMITTEES

DAY 3: WEDNESDAY 13 MARCH 2024

TIME	DESCRIPTION OF ACTIVITY		
	<p><b>Chair:</b> Hon. Dessima Williams, <i>Madame President of the Grenada Senate</i></p> <p><b>Speakers:</b> Hon. Natalie Ward MLC, <i>Legislative Council, Parliament of New South Wales</i></p> <p>The Rt Hon. Philip Dunne MP, <i>Member, UK House of Commons</i></p> <p><b>Location:</b> The Attlee Suite, Portcullis House</p>		
1135 - 1150	<b>Delegates with tickets to PMQs walk to House of Commons Commonwealth Gallery</b>		
1200 - 1230	<p><b>Viewing of Prime Minister's Questions in either the Commonwealth Galley or The Attlee Suite</b></p> <p><b>Speaker:</b> Ed Beale, <i>Clerk of the Interparliamentary Relations Office, Chamber and Participation Team, House of Commons</i></p> <p><b>Location:</b> The Attlee Suite, Portcullis House</p>		
1230	<b>Members walk to The Attlee Room, Clerk &amp; Officials walk to the CPA Room</b>		
1245 - 1400	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>LUNCH</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Members in The Attlee Room; Clerks &amp; Officials in the CPA Room</i></p>		
1400 - 1600	<table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%; vertical-align: top;"> <p><b>Session 9a: Committee Hearing Exercise</b> <i>Human Trafficking in the context of sport</i></p> <p><b>Witnesses:</b> Lerina Bright, <i>CEO, Mission 89 (virtual)</i></p> <p>Dr Serhat Yilmaz, <i>Senior Lecturer in Sport Law, Loughborough University London (virtual)</i></p> <p><b>Facilitator:</b> Huw Yardley, <i>Clerk of Programming and Grand Committees, House of Commons</i></p> <p><b>Location:</b> CPA Room</p> </td> <td style="width: 50%; vertical-align: top;"> <p><b>Session 9b: Committee Hearing Exercise</b> <i>Cyber Security</i></p> <p><b>Witnesses:</b> Dr Pia Hüsck, <i>Research Analyst for Cyber, Technology, and National Security, RUSI</i></p> <p>Joe Jarnecki, <i>Research Fellow, RUSI</i></p> <p><b>Facilitator:</b> Dr Josh Pike, <i>Committee Specialist, Science, Innovation, &amp; Technology Committee, House of Commons</i></p> <p><b>Location:</b> The Attlee Suite, Portcullis House</p> </td> </tr> </table>	<p><b>Session 9a: Committee Hearing Exercise</b> <i>Human Trafficking in the context of sport</i></p> <p><b>Witnesses:</b> Lerina Bright, <i>CEO, Mission 89 (virtual)</i></p> <p>Dr Serhat Yilmaz, <i>Senior Lecturer in Sport Law, Loughborough University London (virtual)</i></p> <p><b>Facilitator:</b> Huw Yardley, <i>Clerk of Programming and Grand Committees, House of Commons</i></p> <p><b>Location:</b> CPA Room</p>	<p><b>Session 9b: Committee Hearing Exercise</b> <i>Cyber Security</i></p> <p><b>Witnesses:</b> Dr Pia Hüsck, <i>Research Analyst for Cyber, Technology, and National Security, RUSI</i></p> <p>Joe Jarnecki, <i>Research Fellow, RUSI</i></p> <p><b>Facilitator:</b> Dr Josh Pike, <i>Committee Specialist, Science, Innovation, &amp; Technology Committee, House of Commons</i></p> <p><b>Location:</b> The Attlee Suite, Portcullis House</p>
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# IMPACT OF SELECT COMMITTEES

DAY 3: WEDNESDAY 13 MARCH 2024

TIME	DESCRIPTION OF ACTIVITY	
1600 - 1615	<b>NETWORKING TEA &amp; COFFEE BREAK</b>	
1615 - 1715	<p><b>Session 10a: Members Session: Committee Recommendations and Follow Up</b></p> <p>Committee reports are often aimed at governments, recommending changes in policy and practice based on the evidence gathered during an inquiry. This session brings parliamentarians together to share examples of good practice from their own jurisdictions as well as the UK.</p> <p>The session will explore how committees can effectively follow up on their recommendation, and examine the challenges involved with generating a response from the government.</p> <p><b>Chair:</b> Hon Dr. Joyelle Clarke, <i>Senator, Parliament of St Kitts &amp; Nevis</i></p> <p><b>Speakers:</b> Hon. David Scaife MLA, <i>Member, Parliament of Western Australia</i></p> <p>Hon. Anthony Mangnall MP, <i>Member, UK House of Commons</i></p> <p><b>Location:</b> The Attlee Suite, Portcullis House</p>	<p><b>Session 10b: Clerks &amp; Officials Session: Effective Report Writing</b></p> <p>A large part of any committee's work is producing written material that can often be put into the public domain. This session will explore how recommendations are developed and put into reports discussing committee inquiries.</p> <p>This practical session will be facilitated by a UK Clerk who will work together with the delegates to draft the recommendations from the committee exercise prior to this session.</p> <p><b>Facilitator:</b> Joe Briggs, <i>Committee Specialist (International Development Committee)</i></p> <p><b>Location:</b> CPA Room</p>
1720 - 1730	<b>Feedback Session</b>	
<p><b>END OF DAY 3</b></p> <p><i>Delegates will make their way to the coaches, to be driven back to the hotel</i></p> <p><i>Delegates visiting the Senedd to depart for Cardiff. Please refer to separate programme for details</i></p>		



# REPRESENTATION AND OUTREACH

## DAY 4: THURSDAY 14 MARCH 2024

TIME	DESCRIPTION OF ACTIVITY
0915	<p><b>Departure from Hotel to Parliament (Victoria Gardens entrance) by Coach</b> Please arrive 5-10 minutes before a sharp departure by coach at 0915. Once the coach has left, delegates not on board will be responsible for organising their own travel to Portcullis House and security clearance.</p> <p><b>Location:</b> Novotel London Waterloo 113 Lambeth Road, London, SE1 7LS Telephone: +44 (0) 20 7660 0674</p>
0930 - 1030	<p><b>Visit to the Education Centre</b></p>
1030 - 1035	<p><b>Walk to The Attlee Suite</b></p>
1035 - 1040	<p><b>Day 3 Recap</b></p> <p>A summary of key points covered on day 3. Tea and coffee will be available for delegates upon arrival.</p> <p><b>Location:</b> The Attlee Suite, Portcullis House</p>
1040 - 1115	<p><b>Session 11: Diversity and Inclusion</b></p> <p>What does diversity in Parliament mean, and what does this currently look like in the UK? This session aims to explore how diversity within Parliament enhances its effectiveness, but also explores how it shapes the experiences of those within it. Looking closely at the work being done to reduce discrimination and improve inclusivity, speakers and delegates will have the chance to share their experiences on this and the different initiatives employed to ensure diverse parliaments that reflect the societies they serve.</p> <p><b>Chair:</b> Hon. Belinda Wilson MP, <i>Member, Parliament of Victoria</i></p> <p><b>Speakers:</b> The Baroness Barker, <i>Member, UK House of Lords</i></p> <p>Ajeet Dosanjh, <i>Senior Inclusivity &amp; Diversity Manager, House of Commons</i></p> <p><b>LOCATION:</b> The Attlee Suite, Portcullis House</p>
1115 - 1200	<p><b>Session 12: Equal Rights to Political Participation? Addressing Gendered Challenges in Elections</b></p> <p>With 2024 hosting multiple elections across the Commonwealth, how can we make noticeable progress towards equal women's parliamentary representation? Specifically, how do we proactively address the gendered nature of election violence?</p>

# REPRESENTATION AND OUTREACH

DAY 4: THURSDAY 14 MARCH 2024

TIME	DESCRIPTION OF ACTIVITY	
	<p>Delegates will hear reflections from female parliamentarians on their election experience, highlighting their work and the need to make political participation a more inclusive experience for women. There will also be a call to action for advocates, addressing political misogyny.</p> <p><b>Chair:</b> Hon. Alexandra Mendès MP, <i>Member, Parliament of Canada</i></p> <p><b>Speakers:</b> Hon. Dr Harini Nireka Amarasuriya MP, <i>Member of Women Parliamentarian Caucus and Member of Select Committee on Gender Equity, Parliament of Sri Lanka</i></p> <p>Hon. Chrizoster Halwindi MP, <i>Member, Parliament of Zambia</i></p> <p><b>Location:</b> The Attlee Suite, Portcullis House</p>	
1200 - 1315	<p><b>LUNCH</b> <i>Room A</i></p>	
1315 - 1415	<p><b>Session 13a: Members Session: Privileges, Standards, and Behaviour</b></p> <p>Parliamentarians are entrusted with significant privileges and responsibilities. They must uphold standards of integrity, transparency, and accountability in their conduct. This session initiates a dialogue on privilege and conduct.</p> <p><b>Chair:</b> Hon. Yvonne Fovargue MP, <i>Member, UK House of Commons</i></p> <p><b>Speakers:</b> Hon. Christopher Saunders MP, <i>Member, Parliament of the Cayman Islands</i></p> <p>Daniel Greenberg CB, <i>Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards, UK Parliament</i></p> <p>Nicolas Besly, <i>The Lord Registrar, House of Lords</i></p> <p><b>Location:</b> The Attlee Suite, Portcullis House</p>	<p><b>Session 13b: Clerks &amp; Officials Session: Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority</b></p> <p>The Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority (IPSA) was established in May 2010 to do the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Regulate MPs' business costs and expenses</li> <li>2. Determine MPs' pay and pension arrangements</li> <li>3. Provide financial support to MPs in carrying out their parliamentary functions</li> </ol> <p>This session will be an opportunity for Commonwealth Clerks and Officials to hear about what IPSA do on a day-to-day basis and to find out how Parliaments and IPSA work together to ensure standards are upheld.</p> <p><b>Chair:</b> <b>CPA UK</b></p> <p><b>Speakers:</b> Will Curwen, <i>Acting Chief of Staff, IPSA</i></p> <p>Nicole Casey, <i>Head of Policy, IPSA</i></p> <p><b>Location:</b> CPA Room</p>

# REPRESENTATION AND OUTREACH

DAY 4: THURSDAY 14 MARCH 2024

TIME	DESCRIPTION OF ACTIVITY
1415 - 1435	<b>NETWORKING TEA &amp; COFFEE BREAK</b>
1435 - 1535	<p><b>Session 14: Utilising Social Media</b></p> <p>In an era where social media is increasingly present within the political and public spheres, what responsibility do members have to promote freedom of speech online whilst still protecting the fundamentals of democracy? What can parliaments do to ensure effective scrutiny of bullying and harassment legislation online?</p> <p>This session uses examples of how MPs and committees best utilise social media to increase their presence, manage misinformation, and encourage greater public engagement. The session will also explore how committee clerks ensure safeguarding when addressing sensitive communication from the public.</p> <p><b>Chair:</b> TBC</p> <p><b>Speakers:</b> Lucy Dargahi, <i>Lord Speaker's Communications Office, UK House of Lords</i></p> <p>Annika Weerasinghe, <i>Director of Select Committee Communications and Engagement, UK Houses of Parliament</i></p> <p>Stacy Jo Dixon, <i>Researcher, Statista</i></p> <p><b>Location:</b> The Attlee Suite, Portcullis House</p>
1535 - 1550	<b>NETWORKING TEA &amp; COFFEE BREAK</b>
1550 - 1650	<p><b>Session 15: Parliamentary Outreach</b></p> <p>To reach less engaged stakeholders, the UK Parliament and its committees have developed a range of outreach and engagement strategies, using various means of communication. This session will encourage delegates to consider how previous and new strategies could expand the reach of their engagement with constituents and the wider public based on examples from across the Commonwealth.</p> <p><b>Chair:</b> Hon. Adama Bangura MP, <i>Member, Parliament of Sierra Leone</i></p> <p><b>Speakers:</b> Hon. Theo Clarke MP, <i>Member, UK House of Commons</i></p> <p>Mariam Keating, <i>Clerk, UK Houses of Parliament</i></p> <p>Shaila Anwar, <i>Clerk Assistant, Senate of Canada</i></p> <p>Kerrie Carpenter, <i>Senior Education and Engagement Outreach Officer, House of Commons</i></p>

# REPRESENTATION AND OUTREACH

## DAY 4: THURSDAY 14 MARCH 2024

TIME	DESCRIPTION OF ACTIVITY
	<b>Location:</b> The Attlee Suite, Portcullis House
1650	<b>Day 4 Recap and Feedback</b>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>END OF DAY 4</b> <i>Delegates will make their way to the coaches, to be driven back to the hotel</i></p>	

# OUTREACH IN PRACTICE

DAY 5: FRIDAY 15 MARCH 2024

TIME	DESCRIPTION OF ACTIVITY	TIME	DESCRIPTION OF ACTIVITY
0800	<b>Members Depart from Hotel to Constituencies</b> Please arrive promptly for departure at 0800.	0900	<b>Clerks &amp; Officials Depart from Hotel to Parliament</b> Please arrive promptly for departure at 0900.
0900 - 1245	<b>Members: Arrival at Constituency</b>  Members will be divided into small groups and will join a UK Member of Parliament at their constituency.  <b>Constituency 1:</b> Nickie Aiken MP, <i>Cities of London and Westminster</i>  <b>Constituency 2:</b> Virendra Sharma MP, <i>Ealing, Southall</i>  <b>Constituency 3:</b> Rupa Huq MP, <i>Ealing Central and Acton</i>	0930 - 1030	<b>Session 16: Clerks &amp; Officials Session: Reflections</b>  <b>Speakers:</b> TBC  <b>Location:</b> The Attlee Suite, Portcullis House
		1040 - 1140	<b>Clerks &amp; Officials to visit the House of Commons Library</b>
		1140 - 1200	<b><i>Walk to the Churchill War Rooms</i></b>
		1200 - 1330	<b>Tour of the Churchill War Rooms</b>
1245	<b>Members Travel back to Westminster</b>	1330	<b><i>Return to the Attlee Suite</i></b>
1315 - 1435	<b>LUNCH</b> <i>The Attlee Suite, Portcullis House</i>		
1435	<b>Return of Delegates from Wales</b>		
1445 - 1530	<b>Feedback and Awards Ceremony</b>  <b>Location:</b> The Attlee Suite, Portcullis House		
<b>END OF SEMINAR</b>			

# Speaker Biographies



**Sarah Dickson**  
**Chief Executive, CPA UK**

Sarah previously worked at the Foreign, Commonwealth, and Development Office (FCDO). Her most recent overseas posting was as British High Commissioner to The Bahamas, until July 2022. She has served in the British Diplomatic Service for more than 20 years. Her previous diplomatic appointment was as Ambassador to Guatemala and Honduras. She has also served in Spain, Argentina, and the former Yugoslavia, as well as various appointments in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office in London. Sarah also spent a period as International Director at the Scotch Whisky Association.



**The Rt Hon. Sir Lindsay Hoyle MP**  
**Speaker of the UK House of Commons & Co-President of CPA UK**

Sir Lindsay became the youngest ever councillor to serve Chorley when elected in 1980 at the age of 22. He went on to become Deputy Leader of Chorley Council, and then Mayor of Chorley in 1997. In winning the Chorley seat in 1997, he became the first Labour MP to represent the constituency for 18 years. In 2010, he was elected to the position of Deputy Speaker, and Speaker in November 2019. Sir Lindsay is a keen supporter of the Armed Forces. He also wishes to strengthen and renew the UK's ties with the Commonwealth nations and British Overseas Territories. Married to Catherine, he has a daughter and two grandchildren as well as several pets. Outside of politics, he is fan of rugby league, football, and cricket.



**The Rt Hon. Dame Maria Miller MP**  
**Member, UK House of Commons & Chair, CPA UK**

The Rt. Hon Dame Maria Miller MP was first elected as MP for Basingstoke in the 2005 General Election. Prior to this, she worked for twenty years in marketing, including board level experience. Dame Maria Miller was appointed Minister for Disabled People at the Department for Work and Pensions in May 2010, and in 2012 was promoted to Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, and Minister for Women and Equalities. In June 2015, she was elected as Chair of the newly established Women and Equalities Select Committee, overseeing significant reports into the prevalence of sexual harassment against women and girls across a range of settings. In 2022, Dame Maria Miller was appointed as the Prime Minister's Trade Envoy to Canada, and was awarded Dame Commander of The Order of The British Empire (DBE) for her Parliamentary work and Public Service in HM The Queen's Jubilee Birthday Honours List 2022.

# Speaker Biographies



**Hon. Alexandra Mendès MP**  
**Member, Parliament of Canada**

Born in 1963 in Lisbon, Portugal, and living in Canada since 1978, Alexandra Mendès has been an active and engaged citizen since her college days. From 2008 to 2011, she was the Member of Parliament for Brossard - La Prairie. During that time, her actions in the House of Commons were a testament to her continued dedication to her constituents. Since October 2015, Alexandra Mendès has been the Member of Parliament for the new constituency of Brossard - Saint-Lambert. She was Vice-Chair of the Standing Committee on Public Accounts in the 42nd Parliament, and Vice-Chairperson of the Executive Committee of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association from 2017 to 2019. In December 2019, Alexandra was appointed Assistant Deputy Speaker of the House of Commons. She remains Co-Chair of the Canada-Portugal Parliamentary Friendship Group, and Co-Chair of the Liberal Caucus on Animal Welfare. Re-elected in 2021, Alexandra remains Assistant Deputy Speaker of the House of Commons.



**The Baroness Merron**  
**Member, UK House of Lords**

Gillian Merron is a Life Peer, Opposition Whip, and Shadow Spokesperson for Health and Social Care. Formerly a local government officer, senior trade union official, and Chief Executive of the Board of Deputies of British Jews, she was the MP for Lincoln between 1997 and 2010. During this time, Baroness Merron served in government as Minister of State for Public Health, and Parliamentary Under-Secretary in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, the Cabinet Office, the Department for Transport, and the Department for International Development.



**Hon. Lobin Lowe MP**  
**Member, Parliament of Malawi**

Hon. Lobin Lowe has been MP for Lilongwe Central constituency since 2009, representing the Malawi Congress Party. He served as the Malawi Congress Party Chief Whip from 2014 to 2019, and briefly as Acting Leader of the Opposition. He was also Minister of Agriculture from July 2020 to October 2022. His committee memberships include: Budget and Finance; Defence and Security; Transport and Public Works; Media and Communications; and Public Accounts.



**Liam Laurence Smyth**  
**Clerk of Legislation, UK House of Commons**

Liam Laurence Smyth, Clerk of Legislation in the House of Commons, entered the House of Commons Service through CSSB (the forerunner of the Fast Stream) in 1977. He has clerked a number of select committees including Agriculture, the Channel Tunnel Bill, Social Security, and Education & Employment (later Education & Skills). He was the lead Commons Clerk on the Joint Committees on the draft House of Lords Reform Bill (2011-12) and on Parliamentary Privilege (2013). As Clerk of Legislation, he is responsible for ensuring the continuity and consistency of procedural advice on the application of the rules and practices that govern the House's consideration of financial and legislative business. His overseas work has taken him to more than thirty countries, focussing most recently on Myanmar.

# Speaker Biographies



**Ms Sharon Montoute**  
**Deputy Clerk, Parliament of Saint Lucia**

Ms Sharon Montoute has been employed with the Government of Saint Lucia for the past twenty-two years. She joined the Parliament of Saint Lucia in 2012 as a Secretary and Hansard Reporter. In December 2021, she was appointed to the post of Deputy Clerk. She completed the Secretarial Studies Programme with the Sir Arthur Lewis Community College, where she obtained a Certificate and Diploma in Secretarial Studies in 2007. She is presently enrolled in the “Professional Development Certificate Programme” with McGill University.



**Jestina Greywoode**  
**Table Clerk, Parliament of The Gambia**

Jestina Greywoode is a Public Administrator and women’s rights advocate. She holds a degree in Computer Science, Political Science, and International Relations, with several years experience in teaching and public sector management. She joined the National Assembly of The Gambia in 2020 as Principal Administrative Officer to the Office of the Hon. Speaker, and subsequently rose to the rank of a Table Clerk. She is an avid reader, a mother of two, who has developed great passion for teaching and advocacy. Her areas of interest include academic research, women and youth empowerment, gender equality, and policy analysis.



**Chloe Mawson**  
**Clerk Assistant, UK House of Lords**

Chloe joined the House of Lords Administration in 1999 and has over twenty-four years of experience across many roles including Clerk of Select Committees and Clerk of the Journals. Chloe was appointed Clerk Assistant and Deputy Chief Executive of the House of Lords in May 2021. As Clerk Assistant, Chloe is responsible for overseeing the provision of parliamentary services to the House of Lords and is its second most senior procedural adviser. She is responsible for the services provided by the following offices: the Lords Committee Office, Lords Hansard, the Lords Library, Black Rod’s Office, the Inter-parliamentary Relations Office, and the Lord Speaker’s Office. Chloe is a member of the House of Lords Management Board and is the senior responsible officer in the Lords for the Independent Complaints and Grievances Scheme. Chloe is the first woman to hold the role of Clerk Assistant since it was created in the 1600s.



**Hon. Chris Elmore MP**  
**Opposition Whip, UK House of Commons**

Chris Elmore was first elected to represent Ogmere in 2016, serving as a member of the Opposition Front Bench as an Opposition Whip. From April 2020 to December 2021, he served as Shadow Minister for Scotland. Since April 2020, Chris has taken on the role of Senior Opposition Whip, and from December 2021 to July 2022, was Shadow Minister for Media, Data, and Digital Infrastructure as part of Labour’s Front Bench. Since August 2022, he has fulfilled the role of Vice-Chair of the UK Labour Party. As an Opposition Whip, he is involved with the business and legislation of the House. He currently sits on the Procedure Committee, and, during the Coronavirus pandemic, helped to facilitate hybrid proceedings. He is an office holder for multiple All-Party Parliamentary Groups. He is a member of the CPA UK Executive Committee, currently serving as Treasurer, and has taken part in a number of CPA UK delegations.



# Speaker Biographies



**The Lord German OBE**  
**Member, UK House of Lords**

Lord (Michael) German led the Liberal Democrat group on Cardiff City Council from 1983-1995. In 1997, he was awarded an OBE for political and community service in Wales. In 1999 he was elected to represent South Wales East in the first ever elections for the National Assembly for Wales, and to lead his Party in the Senedd (now also called the Welsh Parliament). He is a former Deputy First Minister and also held various ministerial portfolios including the Economy, Europe, and Rural Affairs. Lord German left the National Assembly in June 2010 to join the House of Lords. Between 2010-2015, he was Spokesperson on Work and Pensions in the House of Lords. In 2015, he was elected Treasurer of the Liberal Democrats, a post he held until 2021. He is a former Member of the Democracy and Digital Technologies Committee, House of Lords, and is currently a Member of the International Agreements Committee.



**Senator Sherene Golding Campbell**  
**Senator, Parliament of Jamaica**

Sherene Golding Campbell was appointed to the Jamaican Senate in 2020. She has served on parliamentary committees championing legislation promoting good governance, empowering marginalised groups, and safeguarding individual liberties. She also serves as a Director of the Development Bank of Jamaica where she advocates for programmes to support the growth and success of MSMEs, all while leading Golding Campbell & Associates, a boutique law firm specialising in commercial and corporate law. Senator Golding Campbell is a certified mediator and arbitrator in commercial matters in Jamaica, with a diverse background in food science and law. She is a proud graduate of the United World College of the Atlantic, Howard University, Rutgers University, and Georgetown University. Senator Golding Campbell is unwavering in her commitment to democratic principles and sound and inclusive governance.



**Simon Ross**  
**Table Clerk, States of Deliberation, Guernsey**

Simon Ross was educated at London University where he completed a degree in Art History. He was called to the Bar by the Middle Temple in 2007. In 2008 he completed the certificate in Norman Customary Law from the Université de Caen. He became Second Deputy Clerk of the States of Guernsey in 2001, Clerk Assistant in 2011 and Clerk (States' Greffier) in 2020. He has been an active participant in the CPA since 2000, attending most CPCs since 2003. Before working for the States Assembly, he spent time working in Peshawar Pakistan, and also for the Church of England. He has a professional interest in parliamentary standards and in his leisure hours he likes drawing, sailing, and flat racing, but not all at the same time.

# Speaker Biographies



**Thomas Moorhead**  
**Sergeant-at-Arms, Parliament of Western Australia**

Thomas Moorhead is the Sergeant-at-Arms at the Parliament of Western Australia. He has been in the role since October 2022. Thomas holds a Bachelor of Arts and a Juris Doctor from the University of Melbourne and was admitted to the Supreme Court of Victoria in 2017. Professionally, Thomas has worked as Clerk's Associate at the Legislative Assembly of the Northern Territory (NT), and then as Policy Adviser in the Office of the Leader of the Opposition (NT). Thomas has practised law in Tasmania, before moving to Perth and returning to policy work at the Law Society of Western Australia. In his current role as the Sergeant-at-Arms, Thomas is the Principal Research Officer to the Legislative Assembly's Procedure and Privileges Committee.



**Holly Dustin**  
**Cultural Transformation Project Lead, UK Parliament**

Holly is the Cultural Transformation Projects Lead in the House of Commons, where she works with colleagues across Parliament on a range of initiatives supporting positive workplace cultures. She has also worked on culture change in the House of Lords, leading the Steering Group for Change. Holly joined Parliament in 2016, working for the Women and Equalities Committee in the Commons for five years where she managed inquiries, including on sexual harassment, and attended the examination of the UK by the UN Committee on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women in Geneva in 2019. Previously, Holly carried out research on the Sustainable Development Goals for the British Council and led the civil society engagement with the UK Government on its Violence Against Women and Girls strategy. She has a Politics degree, a Masters in Women and Law and has practised as a criminal lawyer in London and Liverpool.



**The Rt Hon. the Lord Foulkes of Cumnock**  
**Member, UK House of Lords**

From 1979 to 2005, Lord Foulkes was an MP for Carrick, Cumnock, and Doon Valley in Ayrshire. He was made a Member of the House of Lords in 2005. From 1983 to 1997, he was a Shadow Minister for Foreign Affairs, Defence and Overseas Development. In 1997, he was appointed Under Secretary of State for International Development and in 2001, as Minister of State for Scotland. From 2007 to 2011, he was a Member of the Scottish Parliament for Lothians, and was a Member of the Intelligence and Security Committee between 2007 and 2010. He served as President of the Caribbean Council between 2006 and 2016. He has previously sat on the European Affairs Committee and the Procedure and Privileges Committee, and is currently a Member of the Constitution Committee.

# Speaker Biographies



**Hon. Sabrina Turner MP**  
**Member, Parliament of the Cayman Islands**

Hon. Sabrina Turner was elected to her first term in the Parliament of the Cayman Islands in April 2021, and currently serves as the Minister of Health, Wellness & Home Affairs. In 1993 she became a Licensed Practical Nurse, and a few years later she joined the Department of Immigration, where she served in various roles. In 2006 Hon. Turner became the successful business owner and CEO of Cayman Immigration Consultant Services. She has been active in a number of professional, civic, district, and community organisations. Recently, she led the small executive team that worked to provide development and support services to a community of approximately 3000, raising funds towards various projects focused on disaster resilience, the fight against crime, and community cohesion.



**Hon. Gystave Chonde MP**  
**Member, Parliament of Zambia**

Hon. Chonde is a Project Management Specialist and Politician. He was first elected to the Zambian Parliament in September 2021 as an Independent Member for Milenge Constituency. Since his election, he has served as a Member of the Standing Orders Committee and the Planning and Budgeting Committee, and currently serves on the Committee on National Guidance and Gender Matters and the Committee on Delegated Legislation.



**Sibonelo Jere**  
**Senior Public Relations Officer, Parliament of Zambia**

Sibonelo Jere is a Communication, International Relations, and Development specialist with over ten years experience in the named fields. She's currently serving as Senior Public Relations Officer and Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) International Desk Officer for the National Assembly of Zambia. Ms Jere holds a Masters degree in International Relations, a Bachelors degree in Mass Communication and Development Studies, a diploma in Development Journalism, a diploma in Foreign Reporting, and a diploma in Monitoring and Evaluation.



**Mr Chaminda Kularatne**  
**Chief of Staff and Deputy Secretary-General of Parliament, Parliament of Sri Lanka**

Mr. Chaminda Kularatne serves as Chief of Staff and Deputy Secretary-General of Parliament. With nearly twenty years of national and international experience in constitutional law, parliamentary affairs, and public administration, he has held executive roles including Secretary to the Chief Government Whip, Additional Secretary to the President, and Minister Counsellor at the Sri Lanka High Commission in London. Mr. Kularatne holds a Bachelor of Laws (LLB) from Sri Lanka, a Post Graduate Diploma in Business Management from the University of Colombo, and has represented Sri Lanka in various international forums. He has also held directorships in several institutions and is recognised for fostering strong diplomatic relations with the UK Parliament and the Commonwealth Secretariat when he was working at the Sri Lanka High Commission in London as a diplomatic officer.

# Speaker Biographies



**Stephen Twigg**  
**Secretary-General, CPA HQ**

Stephen Twigg was appointed as the 8th Secretary-General of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) in 2020. Stephen is a former UK Parliamentarian, who was previously elected to the Parliament of the United Kingdom as a Member of Parliament from 1997 to 2005 for Enfield Southgate, and then from 2010 to 2019 for Liverpool West Derby. During his parliamentary career, he held several senior positions including Chairperson of the International Development Select Committee, Minister for Schools and a range of Shadow Front Bench roles. Prior to his parliamentary career, he was the youngest President of the National Union of Students in 1990-92 and was then elected as a Local Councillor in the London Borough of Islington.



**Dame Meg Hillier MP**  
**Member, UK House of Commons**

Dame Meg Hillier is the Member of Parliament for Hackney South and Shoreditch, and has been Chair of the Public Accounts Committee since 2015. This cross-party Committee scrutinises the value for money of public spending and holds the government to account for the delivery of public services. First elected in 2005, Meg has been a Home Office Minister and Shadow Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change.



**Hon. Alhagie Mbow MP**  
**Member, Parliament of The Gambia**

Hon. Alhagie Mbow is an elected lawmaker in The Gambian National Parliament since 2017, and is currently serving his second term. Hon. Mbow is the Chairperson of the Committee on Education, Training, & ICT, as well as the Vice-chairperson of the Committee for Finance & Public Accounts. Hon. Mbow represents The Gambia in the Pan African Parliament (PAP) - the legislative arm of the African Union (AU) in Johannesburg, South Africa, where he is the Chairperson of the West African Caucus (region) and serves on the Committee on Education, Technology & Innovation. He is a member of African Parliamentarians Network Against Corruption (APNAC) and co-founded the African Parliamentary Network on Internet Governance. He has also been appointed as a member of the Multi-stakeholder Advisory Group (MAG) on Internet Governance by the United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres in December 2021. Prior to becoming a legislator, Hon. Mbow worked in the private sector (Banking & Telecoms) for over twenty-seven years, and holds Masters and Bachelors degrees in Computer Information Systems and an Associate degree in Computer Science from Atlanta Metro College Kennesaw State University in the USA.



**Tim Jarrett**  
**Second Clerk, Public Accounts Committee, UK House of Commons**

Tim Jarrett is the Second Clerk to the House of Commons' Public Accounts Committee, responsible for providing procedural advice, liaising with the National Audit Office and Government departments, and reviewing report drafts. Having joined the House Service in 1999, Tim previously worked on other select committees including Treasury, and Environment, Food and Rural Affairs. Tim has also worked in the House of Commons Library as a social care specialist, and in the Chief Executive's office.

# Speaker Biographies



**Hon. Dr Dessima Williams**  
**Madame President of the Grenada Senate**

Hon. Dessima Williams began her public service career when she was appointed Ambassador/Permanent Representative to the Organisation of American States in 1979; she served for almost five years. Decades later, she served again her country as Ambassador/Permanent Representative to the United Nations and later become the Special Advisor to the President of the UN for the Sustainable Development Goals. She is the founder of the Grenada Education and Development Programme which supports the development of rural children and communities. She has worked in the private sector, in agriculture and tourism, and has taught at University level. She served at the UN and led the Alliance of Small Island Developing States, AOSIS. Ambassador Williams became the President of the Grenada Senate in July 2022, the fourth woman to hold the post.



**Hon. Natalie Ward MLC**  
**Member, Legislative Council, Parliament of New South Wales**

Hon. Natalie Ward MLC was elected to the Legislative Council of the Parliament of New South Wales in 2017. She served as Minister for Metropolitan Roads and Women's Safety in the Perrottet Government, overseeing a \$76 Billion Infrastructure budget and \$500 million record investment into Women's Safety, including successfully legislating to criminalise Coercive Control. As Minister for Sport, Multiculturalism, Seniors and Veterans in the Berejiklian Government, she managed these portfolios during the Covid-19 pandemic and subsequent emergence and re-opening of communities. As Parliamentary Secretary to the Attorney General, Hon. Ward chaired Joint Select Committee Inquiries into Sydney's Night-Time Economy, and the Inquiry into Coercive Control. Both Inquiries led to substantial legislative reform being pursued by the NSW Liberal Nationals Government. Prior to entering Parliament in 2017 Hon. Ward, practised law as a commercial litigation solicitor and holds a current practising certificate. She currently serves as the Deputy Leader of the Opposition, Deputy Leader of the Liberal Party, Deputy Leader of the Liberal Party in the Legislative Council, Shadow Minister for Transport, Roads, and Infrastructure, and Shadow Minister for the South Coast and Illawarra.



**The Rt Hon. Philip Dunne MP**  
**Member, UK House of Commons**

Philip Dunne was elected Member of Parliament for Ludlow in Shropshire in 2005. He has been a member of the Environmental Audit Committee since 2018, which he has chaired since January 2020. He previously served as Minister of State for Health (2016-2018) and as Minister for Defence Procurement (2012-2016), having been a Conservative Whip (2008-2012).

# Speaker Biographies



**Ed Beale**

**Clerk of the Interparliamentary Relations Office, Chamber and Participation Team, UK House of Commons**



**Hon. Dr Joyelle Clarke**

**Senator, Parliament of St Kitts & Nevis**

Senator the Hon. Dr Joyelle Clarke is the Minister of Sustainable Development, Environment, Climate Action and Constituency Empowerment. She became one of the youngest females to become a Director of a government office, the Department of Constituency Empowerment in 2012. Dr Clarke has been involved in Social Impact Assessments and Sustainable livelihoods research for over fifteen years; during this time, she has led projects on livelihoods-transition, conducted research and developed programs in various capacities as a government official and community activist. The Honourable Minister's project-related work ranges from livelihood support, community-based development initiatives, sustainable tourism, and environmental conservation. She was engaged in developing and executing community-based projects in collaboration with community groups on behalf of the Government of St. Kitts & Nevis. She sat on the Opposition benches as a Senator and advocated extensively for matters relating to the environment, climate action, youth empowerment, and gender justice.



**Hon. David Scaife MLA**

**Member, Parliament of Western Australia**

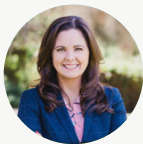
David is the Member for Cockburn in the Parliament of Western Australia, elected in March 2021. He is Acting Speaker, Member of the Economics and Industry Standing Committee, and Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Planning; Lands; Housing; Homelessness. He was formerly a founder and Legal Practice Director of Eureka Lawyers, a leading Western Australian law firm for unions and workers. David holds the degrees of Bachelor of Laws (Distinction) and Bachelor of Arts (Honours) from the University of Western Australia, Master of Laws (Distinction) from University College London, and Graduate Certificate of Public Policy from the Australian National University (ANU). He is currently completing a Masters of Public Policy at the ANU.

# Speaker Biographies



**Hon. Anthony Mangnall MP**  
**Member, UK House of Commons**

Anthony Mangnall MP was first elected as MP for Totnes and South Devon in 2019. The son of an officer in the Royal Green Jackets, Anthony is a former shipbroker, first in Singapore and then London; bookended by working for former Foreign Secretary, Lord Hague, first in Parliament during the coalition government and then as a senior advisor on the Preventing Sexual Violence in Conflict Initiative (PSVI) and closing the UK's domestic ivory market. Anthony subsequently served as a special advisor to the Secretary of State for Wales, specialising in trade policy, before being elected to Parliament. He served as a member of the International Trade Committee from 2020 to 2023, and is now a member of the Commons Business and Trade Committee.



**Hon. Belinda Wilson MP**  
**Member, Parliament of Victoria**

Belinda Wilson MP is a Member of Victorian State Parliament, representing the electorate of Narre Warren North in the South-East of Melbourne, Australia. She was elected in 2022. Belinda is passionate about education, good local jobs, and mental health. She wants to ensure every family has access to good quality, local schools. Belinda's time on school councils led her to consider the positive impact she could have advocating for local schools in Parliament. This is what prompted her to run for Parliament. The main passions and priorities Belinda has as a member of Parliament are education, jobs, healthcare, and public transport. She enjoys being involved in the local community and is always working hard to advocate for issues that are important to her electorate. Belinda is also the Government Deputy Whip in the Legislative Assembly.



**The Baroness Barker**  
**Member, UK House of Lords**

Baroness Barker has been a member of the House of Lords since 1999, and as been the Deputy Chairman of Committees since 2020. She also serves as the Liberal Democrat Lords Spokesperson (Voluntary Sector). She is a Member of the Joint Committee on the Draft Mental Health Bill, the Integration of Primary and Community Care Committee, and the Modern Slavery Act 2015 Committee.



**Ajeet Dosanjh**  
**Senior Inclusivity & Diversity Manager, UK House of Commons**

Ajeet Dosanjh works in the House of Commons Inclusion and Diversity team, having spent the past three and a half years within the organisation driving progress through culture and behaviour change programmes. Her work encompasses developing and delivering impactful mentoring initiatives, designing and implementing targeted training programmes, and utilising data analysis to measure progress and inform future strategies. Ajeet is passionate about fostering an inclusive environment where every colleague feels valued and empowered to contribute their unique talents in the workplace.

# Speaker Biographies



**Hon. Dr Harini Nireka Amarasuriya MP**  
**Member, Parliament of Sri Lanka**

Dr. Harini Amarasuriya was nominated by the National People's Power coalition to the 9th Parliament of Sri Lanka in August 2020. She served as a senior lecturer in Sociology at the Open University of Sri Lanka for the past decade, engaging in teaching, administrative leadership, and research. With a background in Sociology and Social Anthropology, Dr. Amarasuriya has contributed extensively to research on social justice, gender equality, and education. She holds a PhD in Social Anthropology and International Health and Development from the University of Edinburgh and Queen Margaret University. Dr. Amarasuriya has also been involved in community health organisations and research institutions. She is currently a Member of the Women Parliamentarians Caucus and the Select Committee on Gender Equity.



**Hon. Chrizoster Halwindi MP**  
**Member, Parliament of Zambia**

Ms Halwindi is a nurse, business administrator and politician. She belongs to the ruling United Party for National Development (UPND) and was first elected to the Zambian Parliament in September, 2021 as Member of Parliament for Kabwe Central Constituency. Ms Halwindi is the seventh Member of Parliament for Kabwe Central Constituency and the first female parliamentarian to represent the constituency. She holds a diploma in nursing, a bachelor's degree in Business Administration and Entrepreneurship and currently pursuing a master's degree in Business Administration and Entrepreneurship. Since her election to Parliament, Ms Halwindi has served on the following committees; Youth, Sport and Child Matters; Education, Science and Technology; Cabinet Affairs; National Security and Foreign Affairs; Privileges and Absences; and National Guidance and Gender Matters.



**Hon. Yvonne Fovargue MP**  
**Member, UK House of Commons**

Yvonne Fovargue has been the Labour Member of Parliament for Makerfield since 2010. In addition to serving as Prime Minister's Trade Envoy to Tunisia and Libya, she is a member of the Panel of Chairs and of the Privileges and Standards Committees. She is an office holder for several All-Party Parliamentary Groups (APPGs), including as Chair of the Debt and Personal Finance Group and as Vice-chair of both the British Overseas territories and Caribbean Groups.



# Speaker Biographies



**Christopher Saunders MP**  
**Member, Parliament of the Cayman Islands**

Christopher Saunders is a Certified Public Accountant whose career spans some twenty years in the public and private sectors. He has held senior positions within the banking, telecommunications, and financial services industries. His professional career was nurtured in the Civil Service, sharpening his accounting skills and knowledge of government operations. Mr. Saunders has lived in the US and travelled extensively around the Caribbean, Europe, and Canada, which has enabled him to observe and see policies and practices that work and equally so, what did not. Mr. Saunders is a former Director of the Health Services Authority and a former member of the Immigration Business Staffing Plan Board. He is serving his second term representing the people of Bodden Town West. He was first elected to the Legislative Assembly (now Parliament) in 2017, and served as a Member of the Opposition. In 2021, Mr. Saunders was re-elected and served as the Deputy Premier, Minister for Finance & Economic Development and Border Control and Labour from 2021 to March 2023. Mr. Saunders is currently serving as a Member of the Opposition.



**Daniel Greenberg CB**  
**Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards, UK Parliament**

Daniel Greenberg CB is a lawyer specialising in legislation and the legislative process. He served in the Lord Chancellor's Department (1988-1991), as Parliamentary Counsel (1991-2010), as a consultant at Berwin Leighton Paisner LLP (2010-2016), and as Counsel for Domestic Legislation in the House of Commons (2016-2022). He took up appointment as Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards on 1 January 2023. He was appointed Companion of the Order of the Bath (CB) in the New Year Honours List 2021, for services to Parliament. He also serves as the General Editor of Westlaw UK Annotated Statutes and Topics Encyclopaedia. From 2010 to 2022, he provided drafting and training services on legislation in the UK and around the world. He is the Editor of Craies on Legislation, Stroud's Judicial Dictionary and Jowitt's Dictionary of English Law. His book "Laying Down the Law" was published by Thomson Reuters in 2011. He holds a number of academic appointments and interests.



**Nicolas Besly**  
**The Lord Registrar, House of Lords, UK Parliament**

Nicolas Besly became a clerk in the House of Lords in 2002. He has worked in the Committee Office, Public Bill Office, Table Office, and Journal Office. He became the first private secretary to a Lord Speaker and edited *The Table*, a journal on Commonwealth parliaments. He is currently the Registrar of Lords' Interests, advising on compliance with the House's code of conduct.

# Speaker Biographies



**Will Curwen**

**Acting Chief of Staff, Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority**

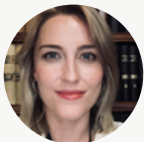
Will has been Acting Chief of Staff at IPSA since October 2023. He is responsible for supporting the Chief Executive, the Executive Leadership team, and the Board, in delivering IPSA's strategic plan. Prior to his current role, Will gained invaluable experience of IPSA's operational activities firstly as an MP Services Account Manager and latterly as MP Services Manager for the Central region, having worked at IPSA since July 2020. Previously, Will worked as a recruitment consultant specialising in interim recruitment for Central Government roles.



**Nicole Casey**

**Head of Policy, Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority**

Nicole has worked at IPSA since 2016. As IPSA's Head of Policy, she is responsible for developing and reviewing the Scheme of MPs' Staffing and Business Costs – which sets out the rules for what funding Members of Parliament can claim to support their parliamentary work – as well as the policy setting MPs' salaries and pensions. She provides strategic policy advice to the IPSA Board and leads an internal policy advisory service to IPSA's customer-facing teams. In addition to policy work, Nicole is responsible for IPSA's routine publication of staffing and business costs data, which is fundamental to IPSA's role in bringing transparency to how public money is being used by MPs. Prior to joining IPSA, Nicole spent a number of years working in the health sector, focused on counter fraud and security management policy and on professional standards.



**Lucy Dargahi**

**Lord Speaker's Communications Office, UK House of Lords**

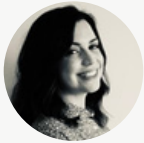
Lucy Dargahi has been a communications adviser for almost 10 years across the public, private and charity sectors. She has worked for House of Commons select committees, including the DCMS Committee, the Online Safety Bill Committee, and the Joint Committee on Human Rights. She is currently the Communications Adviser and spokesperson for the Lord Speaker. She has been responsible for some of the most viral tweets ever published by UK Parliament official channels.



**Annika Weerasinghe**

**Director of Select Committee Communications and Engagement, UK Houses of Parliament**

# Speaker Biographies



**Stacy Jo Dixon**  
**Researcher, Statista**

Stacy Jo Dixon is a researcher from Liverpool, UK, with a background in ethics, social media, and mental health advocacy. At Statista, she focuses on internet-related subjects with special emphasis on social media and user-generated content, including online disinformation, cyberbullying, and the societal impact of social media.



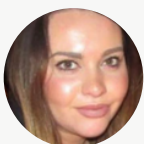
**Hon. Adama Bangura MP**  
**Member, Parliament of Sierra Leone**

Hon. Adama Bangura is a Sierra Leonean, born in the Northern part of Freetown. She attended the University of Management and Technology with an HND and BSc in information system from UMITECH in Freetown, Sierra Leone. She is a humanitarian and development worker with more than seventeen years of work experience. She is a member of the Ruling Party, Sierra Leone Peoples Party (SLPP), and a first-time Member of Parliament. Hon. Adama Bangura is a member of the following committees in parliament; Trade and industry, Transparency and accountability, Planning and economic development, and Public and Political Affairs.



**Hon. Theo Clarke MP**  
**Member, UK House of Commons**

Theo Clarke is the Member of Parliament for Stafford. She serves as the Prime Minister's Trade Envoy to Kenya and sits on the International Development Select Committee. She is a member of the Executive Committee for the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association and chairs the All Party Parliamentary Groups for the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals and Trade out of Poverty.



**Mariam Keating**  
**Second Clerk, UK House of Commons Home Affairs Committee**

Mariam has worked in the House of Commons since 2014 where she has worked advising several parliamentary committees including the Women and Equalities Committee, Education Committee and Home Affairs Committee. Her policy background has been focused on violence against women and girls and other equality-based issues. In 2021, she led on the Women and Equalities Committee's inquiry into Violence Against Women, as well as its inquiry into the Gender Recognition Act. In 2020, she went on secondment to the Myanmar Parliament where she worked with the Women and Children Committee on developing new legislation on domestic violence. She is now the deputy team leader of the Home Affairs Committee and leading on the Committee's work on Violence Against Women and Girls, including rape prosecutions and spiking. She is also Chair of Parliament's Gender Equality Network – Parligender which aims to promote gender equality in Parliament. She has a degree in History and Politics, an MA in Law and an MSc in International Public Policy.

# Speaker Biographies

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**Shaila Anwar**  
**Clerk Assistant, Senate of Canada**

Shaila Anwar is currently Clerk Assistant and Director of the Committees Directorate in the Senate of Canada, a position she has occupied since 2021. She joined the Senate Committees Directorate in 2007; since that time, she has been a clerk of many Senate committees, including Legal and Constitutional Affairs, Social Affairs, Science and Technology, National Security and Defence, and the Special Joint Committee on Physician-Assisted Dying, and more recently the newly created Audit and Oversight Committee. She has seen the Senate transition from the traditional 2-party system with government and opposition senators, to the emergence of independent senators and recognised parliamentary groups. Shaila played a leading role during the pandemic on the Senate's transformation from an in-person legislative body to hybrid institution. She was also a key player in the move of the Senate to its interim chamber, while Parliament Hill undergoes extensive rehabilitation. She attended Carleton University where she studied Political Science and English Literature.



**Kerrie Carpenter**  
**Senior Education and Engagement Outreach Officer, UK Parliament**

Kerrie Carpenter has been the UK Parliament Senior Education and Engagement Outreach Officer covering the South East region since 2019. In this time she has spoken with over 24000 school children and 11000 people in the community. She has previously worked at UK Parliament's Education Centre after leaving a 20 year career as a teacher and Head of Faculty in two London secondary schools. She is passionate about the work of the Outreach team and demystifying the working of Parliament so that the public can engage with it. She thinks she has the best job in Parliament.

# Facilitator Biographies



**Ginny Radmall**  
**Director, The Ivy Way**

Ginny Radmall is the Director of The Ivy Way. She works with startups and corporates, equipping companies to communicate their message clearly. She has worked with the likes of Microsoft, Google, Salesforce, IKEA, WeWork and Moody's Analytics, as well as running all of the pitch training for Google for Startups across their global Demo Days. Over the last few months, Ginny has been training companies on how to exercise good leadership in video calls, when it can often feel like you're speaking into a void.



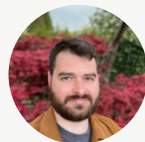
**Kate Faragher**  
**Founder & CEO, BeSpoke Skills**

Kate is the Founder and CEO, BeSpoke Skills. She has over fifteen 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.



**Huw Yardley**  
**Clerk of Programming and Grand Committees, Public Bill Office, UK House of Commons**

Huw Yardley has worked for the House of Commons since 1996. He has been employed by five select committees: the Health and Social Care Committee (2015–2020); 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 joined the Public Bill Office in September 2020.



**Dr Josh Pike**  
**Committee Specialist, Science, Innovation, & Technology Committee, UK House of Commons**

Dr Josh Pike is a Committee Specialist on the House of Commons Science, Innovation and Technology Committee. Josh has led inquiries on quantum technologies, scientific infrastructure and diplomacy, and the cyber security and resilience of the UK's critical national infrastructure. Before joining the House of Commons, Josh worked as a climate science researcher, carrying out fieldwork across Europe, Patagonia, and the East African rift valley.



**Joe Briggs**  
**Committee Specialist (International Development Committee)**

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