



**Bilateral Visit from Tynwald, Isle of Man
25 - 27 October 2017
Houses of Parliament, London**

Final Report



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About the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association UK

CPA UK is one of the largest and most active branches in the CPA community and delivers a unique annual international outreach programme in Westminster and overseas. CPA UK works to encourage parliamentary diplomacy and build parliamentary capacity on behalf of the UK Parliament and the wider CPA. Through activities such as conferences, seminars, delegations and parliamentary strengthening teams, CPA UK provides Members with a practical, current and first-hand perspective on international issues facing fellow parliamentarians across the Commonwealth. Working with CPA UK's international outreach programmes also enhances Members' understanding of issues facing diaspora communities in their own constituencies. For more information, visit www.uk-cpa.org.



Summary

In October 2017, CPA UK hosted nine parliamentarians and a clerk from Tynwald, Isle of Man, for a three-day Westminster familiarisation programme. This was the second of two visits by newly elected Tynwald Members in 2017. The delegates were introduced to the Westminster system and learnt about the current UK political situation. They watched Prime Minister's Questions, committee evidence sessions, and visited the Education Centre. On the last day of the programme, the delegation went on a constituency visit to Romford, hosted by Andrew Rosindell MP to get a better understanding of a UK MP's constituency work.

The delegation was interested in learning more about public financial scrutiny in the UK, so the sessions with the Public Accounts Committee (PAC) and the National Audit Office (NAO) proved particularly useful. As the Isle of Man does not have an equivalent of the NAO, the delegates were interested to learn more about the NAO's role, how the NAO and the PAC work together and how they complement each other. The meeting with the Chair and Clerk of the Justice Committee was also particularly timely, as Tynwald had recently set up a Constitutional and Legal Affairs and Justice Committee. A fruitful discussion took place about the scope of the Justice Committee and ideas were exchanged about how to increase the Committee's effectiveness.



Project Overview

1.01. Parliamentarians from the UK and Tynwald, Isle of Man, participate in regular multilateral activities facilitated by the CPA British Islands and Mediterranean Region (CPA BIMR), of which CPA UK is the Secretariat. CPA UK welcomes visits from Members of Tynwald and has previously provided familiarisation programmes on the Westminster system, giving Members an opportunity to share experience of parliamentary practice and procedure, and to discuss the role of the Commonwealth in promoting good governance. CPA UK provided a similar two and a half day programme for newly elected Members of the House of Keys in March 2017.

1.02. A General Election took place in the Isle of Man on 22 September 2016. The election saw twelve new Members of the House of Keys (MHKs) elected and a record number of five women. In May 2017 the new House of Keys elected a woman to fill a vacancy in the Legislative Council.

1.03. CPA UK hosted a delegation from the Isle of Man, 25-27 October 2017. The programme gave Tynwald Members an opportunity to familiarise themselves with the UK political landscape and Westminster system. The Tynwald delegation was headed by Hon. Juan Watterson SHK, Speaker of the House of Keys.

Project Aim & Objectives

2.01. **Aim.** The aim of the bilateral visit was to build the knowledge and understanding of the Westminster political system through exchanges with parliamentary counterparts and officials, focussing on key areas of importance for Tynwald.

2.02. **Objectives.**

- a. **Objective 1.** Provide an introduction to the Westminster parliamentary system and UK political landscape through exchanges between parliamentary colleagues.
- b. **Objective 2.** Facilitate the exchange of knowledge and experience of parliamentary procedure identified by Tynwald including:
 - Questions, Motions and Private Members' Bills
 - Select Committees
 - Financial scrutiny and the role of the Public Accounts Committee
 - Opposition
 - Management of parliamentary time
- c. **Objective 3.** Strengthen the bilateral relationship between Tynwald Members and UK counterparts, including the Isle of Man APPG.





Participants & Key Stakeholders

3.01. The programme was facilitated by CPA UK with the support of the following:

- UK Parliament
- CPA Isle of Man
- Commonwealth Parliamentary Association Secretariat

3.02. The delegation consisted of:

Hon. Juan Watterson SHK, *Speaker of the House of Keys*

Dr Alexander Allinson MHK (Member of the House of Keys)

Hon. Graham Cregeen MHK

Julie Edge MHK

Lawrie Hooper MHK

Hon. William Malarkey MHK

George Ralph Peake MHK

Martyn Perkins MHK

Jane Poole-Wilson MLC (Member of the Legislative Council)

Dr Jonathan King, *Deputy Clerk of Tynwald and Clerk of the Legislative Council*

3.03. On Thursday 28 October, CPA UK welcomed Dr Corinda Essex MLC from St Helena to Westminster. Councillor Essex MLC is a Member of the Public Accounts Committee of St Helena and joined some of the sessions organised for the Isle of Man delegation on Thursday afternoon.

Key Issues

Current issues in Parliament

4.01. During their visit to Westminster, the Isle of Man delegation were introduced to current issues in the UK Parliament, most notably the debate surrounding the UK's decision to leave the European Union. Shailesh Vara MP talked about the opportunities the UK's departure from the EU presented to the UK, and the different options the Government had in terms of its negotiation strategy with the EU. Rt Hon. Baroness D'Souza CMG highlighted that the UK's decision to leave the EU will have a large impact on all aspects of the lives of British citizens, and that it will be the key focus of parliamentary business in the years to come.

Parliamentary procedure

4.02. As part of the programme, the delegates met with Michael Hennessy, Deputy Head of the Table Office. Mr Hennessy provided an insight into the role of the Table Office and an overview of the daily procedure in the House of Commons. The newly elected Members of Tynwald were interested to learn that MPs were only allowed to ask one supplementary question during parliamentary question time, as





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Members of the House of Keys had no such limitations. The delegation was also interested in learning more about the role of Westminster Hall debates in the UK Parliament. Since the Government has the greatest influence over what is being discussed in the Commons Chamber, Westminster Hall debates were introduced in the UK Parliament as an alternative platform to discuss backbench issues. Mike Hennessy explained that Westminster Hall debates do not involve votes or discuss legislation, but they allow for the discussion of important issues in a less adversarial context. A minister has to be present at the debate to give a response. After meeting Mike Hennessy, the delegation also visited the Grand Committee Room where the Westminster Hall debates take place.

Newly elected MPs

4.03. The majority of the delegation members were elected since 2015, and the programme provided them with an opportunity to meet with fellow newly elected parliamentarians in Westminster. Stuart McDonald MP spoke of the difficulty of becoming familiar with complex parliamentary procedures, while Alex Burghart MP stressed that learning effective time management was particularly important for newly elected MPs in Westminster. With regards to constituency matters, the MPs highlighted that constituents particularly valued their attendance at local events, which the delegation members affirmed.

Public financial management

4.04. The delegation had expressed a particular interest in parliamentary scrutiny of public financial management. After viewing an oral evidence session by the Public Accounts Committee (PAC) on the Customs Declaration Service, the delegation discussed parliamentary financial scrutiny with the Chair, Meg Hillier MP. She highlighted that the PAC looked at whether government expenditure provides value for money, keeping in mind the user and the end result. Even if money is being saved, projects could still be a failure if they prevent people from getting a good service. Richard Cooke, Clerk of the PAC, added that the PAC tried to refrain from looking at policy issues, but that the divide was sometimes not clear. Meg Hillier MP explained the PAC's relationship with the National Audit Office (NAO) including how the NAO provided the PAC with the figures, whereas the PAC as a political body looked beyond the numbers to discuss the political implications of government spending.

4.05. Following the meeting with the PAC, the NAO gave a presentation about their work. As the Isle of Man does not have an equivalent to the NAO, the delegation was particularly interested in learning more about it. Jennifer Brown, Parliamentary Relations Manager at the NAO, explained that there are five dimensions to the NAO's work:

1. Financial audits
2. Value for money studies
3. Investigations
4. Support to parliament
5. International activities

The PAC could ask the NAO to investigate certain issues, but the NAO could also choose its own areas to focus on. While government departments had their own internal audits, the NAO was entirely separate from government institutions. The NAO makes recommendations in its reports and helps departments to





implement them, which primarily involve pointing officials to the values expected to be upheld. Where the NAO is effective in influencing departments behind the scenes, the PAC is most effective in the public sphere.

Select Committees in the Westminster system

4.06. The session with Robert Neill MP, Chair of the Justice Committee, Nick Walker, Clerk of the Justice Committee, and Danielle Nash, Second Clerk, was particularly timely. Just two weeks before the delegation visit, Tynwald formed a Standing Committee on Constitutional and Legal Affairs and Justice, to which two of the attending delegates were elected. Robert Neill MP discussed the role of select committees in scrutinising government departments, and highlighted the importance of revisiting committee reports to ensure an adequate government response to recommendations. The delegation wondered what the drivers were behind a committee inquiry, and Robert Neill MP explained that the Committee decides on the focus of inquiries by consensus. An interesting discussion followed on the different legal systems between the Isle of Man and the UK, and the challenges these pose for effective committee scrutiny. For example, the Isle of Man does not have an equivalent to the Law Commission¹, increasing the difficulty of parliamentary scrutiny.

Constituency visit

4.07. On the final day of the programme, the delegation visited Andrew Rosindell MP's constituency to learn more about a UK MP's constituency work. At his constituency office in Romford, Andrew Rosindell MP explained how he engaged with the local community via printed communication, social media, attending local events and hosting 'surgeries' where constituents come meet with him and his staff to discuss issues of concerns to them and the broader community. He also discussed some of the challenges of constituency work, highlighting the increasing demand on MPs to address local issues. His constituency staff joined the meeting to talk about how they support the MP with his activities, and the delegates shared experiences with their constituency work. Andrew Rosindell MP also gave the delegation a tour of the centre of Romford, visiting key local attractions such as the market and the local church. Afterwards, the delegation visited the Town Hall of the London Borough of Havering, where they were welcomed by the Mayor. An interesting discussion followed on the relation between local, regional and national politics.

Results of the Project

5.01. The programme provided the Isle of Man delegation with an introduction to the UK Parliament and the current political landscape. The different sessions facilitated the exchange of knowledge and experience of parliamentary procedure, and provided the delegation with opportunities to network with their colleagues in the UK Parliament. Additionally, their visit to Westminster was complemented by several individual meetings with relevant contacts outside the official programme, and by a panel

¹ The Law Commission is the statutory independent body created by the Law Commissions Act 1965 to keep the law of England and Wales under review and to recommend reform where it is needed.

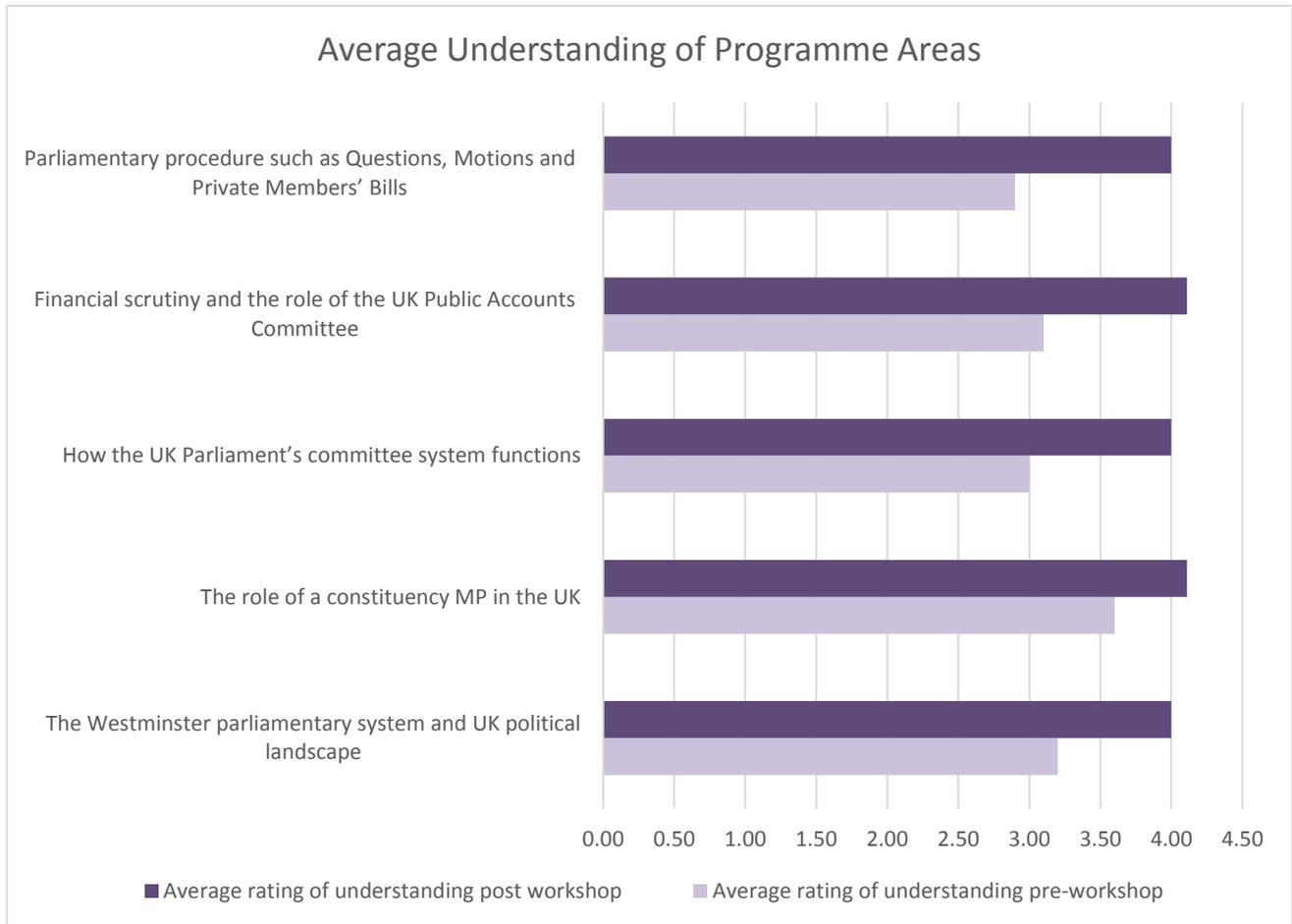




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discussion on small legislatures and parliamentary strengthening, organised by the Community of Practice on Parliamentary Strengthening in the UK Parliament².

5.02. The delegation indicated an increase in understanding of the various topics discussed in the programme, as indicated in the table below (where 1 is equal to “little understanding” and 5 is equal to an “expert” level of understanding):



5.03. The delegation visit was also noted by the media, with publications in the Isle of Man Today³ and The Essex Enquirer⁴.

5.04. The continued engagement between the UK Parliament and Tynwald further strengthened the relationship, with clear indications that exchange between the UK speakers and the delegates will

² The Community of Practice on Parliamentary Strengthening was established following the recommendations of the International Development Committee's enquiry on parliamentary strengthening to enable better coordination and proactivity in sharing good practice by parliamentary strengthening practitioners active in Westminster and the devolved parliaments. This includes Members of Parliament, parliamentary officials, representatives of international parliamentary groups and civil society and civil servants supporting the work of parliament.

³ IOM Today (6 November 2017) 'Commons visit for Manx group'. Available on: <http://www.iomtoday.co.im/article.cfm?id=36797&headline=Commons%20visit%20for%20Manx%20group§ionls=news&searchyear=2017>

⁴ The Essex Enquirer (2 November 2017) 'Isle of Man delegation visit Romford'. Available on: <http://www.theenquirer.co.uk/isle-of-man-delegation-visit-romford/>





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continue. A Member of St Helena Legislative Council also attended part of the programme, allowing for networking between the St Helena Legislative Council and Tynwald.

Next Steps

6.01. Following the successful delegation visit, CPA UK will continue to organise familiarisation visits for newly elected parliamentarians from Tynwald in the future. Given the strong links between Tynwald and the UK Parliament, CPA UK and CPA Isle of Man will continue to work closely together.

6.02. The visit also paved the way for future cooperation between Tynwald parliamentarians and UK MPs and officials on a number of areas including public financial scrutiny, education and equality.

6.03. The UKOTP and CPA BIMR will continue to work with Isle of Man parliamentarians and clerks for activities involving the perspective of a small legislature.

Acknowledgements

7.01. CPA UK would like to extend its thanks to all the speakers who kindly volunteered their time and expertise throughout the programme.

7.02. CPA UK would like to thank Andrew Rosindell MP and his constituency team for hosting the delegation in Romford, and Havering Council for their warm welcome.

7.03. CPA UK also extends thanks to Nina Lowney, Assistant Clerk at Tynwald, for her invaluable assistance in organising the delegation visit.

Full Programme

Day 1: Wednesday 25 October		
1030	<p>Tour of the Houses of Parliament</p> <p>The delegation will undertake a tour of the UK Parliament. This will be a partial tour as both Houses will be sitting. Please note that the tour lasts one hour and ten minutes and includes stairs. Please ensure you wear adequate footwear.</p>	<i>Start from Westminster Hall</i>
1200	<p>View Prime Minister's Questions</p> <p>The delegates will be given an opportunity to view weekly Prime Minister's Questions in the House of Commons Chamber, observing the practice, procedures, and customs of the Chamber. It will also allow an opportunity for the delegation to witness how debate is moderated by Mr Speaker.</p>	<i>Commonwealth Gallery</i>
1245 - 1345	<p>Lunch with Members of the Isle of Man All Party Parliamentary Group</p> <p>In attendance:</p> <p>Andrew Rosindell MP, Chair</p> <p>Lord Shutt of Greetland, Deputy Chairman</p> <p>David Morris MP, Secretary</p> <p>Angus MacNeil MP, Vice Chair</p> <p>Ian Paisley MP, Vice Chair</p> <p>Baroness Harris of Richmond, Vice Chair</p> <p>Lord Kilclooney of Armagh, Vice Chair</p> <p>Shailesh Vara MP</p>	<i>CPA Room</i>
1345	<p>Session 1: Key Issues in the UK Parliament</p> <p>This session will provide a basis for discussion of the UK political system focussing on the following: the UK political system, its evolution and current debates surrounding electoral reform, reform of the House of Commons and House of Lords, the role of the Speaker and Clerk, and the current UK political landscape.</p> <p>Shailesh Vara MP (Conservative)</p> <p>Rt Hon. Baroness D'Souza CMG (Crossbench)</p>	<i>CPA Room</i>
1430	<p>Observe Oral Evidence Session</p> <p>Delegates will be split into two groups, and have a choice to view either of these evidence sessions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public Accounts Committee evidence session on customs declaration service (<i>The Boothroyd Room, Portcullis House</i>) Environment, Food and Rural Affairs Committee evidence session on 	<i>Portcullis House</i>





	2 Sisters Poultry Plant (<i>The Thatcher Room, Portcullis House</i>)	
1530	<i>Tea break</i>	
1545	<p>Session 2: Welcome and Introduction to CPA UK</p> <p>This session will provide delegates with an overview of the work of CPA UK, its role in the wider CPA network and the role of CPA BIMR.</p> <p>Helen Haywood, Deputy Chief Executive, CPA UK</p>	<i>CPA Room</i>
1615	<i>End of Day One</i>	<i>CPA Room</i>
1730 - 1900	<p>Community of Practice on Parliamentary Strengthening</p> <p>Panel discussion and Q&A on the theme: “Small Legislatures”. From 18.30h, there will be an opportunity for informal networking.</p>	<i>CPA Room</i>
Day 2: Thursday 26 October		
1000	<p>Session 3: Overview of Daily Procedure in the House of Commons</p> <p>This session will give an overview of the parliamentary day including Questions, Statements, presentation of Bills and practical elements such as time keeping.</p> <p>Mike Hennessy, Deputy Head of the Table Office</p>	<i>CPA Room</i>
1100	<p>Session 4: Meeting with Newly Elected MPs</p> <p>This session will give delegates the opportunity to share their experiences and challenges as new parliamentarians with their UK counterparts.</p> <p>Stuart McDonald MP (SNP) Alex Burghart MP (Conservative)</p>	<i>CPA Room</i>
1200	<p>Tour of the Education Centre</p> <p>Opened in 2015, the Education Centre provides much needed practical facilities and a purpose-built learning environment for schools and teachers. This has enabled the Education Service to double the number of students who visit Parliament each year, from 45,000 to 100,000. The Centre makes use of creative and immersive technologies to create a unique learning experience.</p> <p>Peter Lee</p>	<i>Education Centre</i>
1245	Lunch	<i>CPA Room</i>
1400	<p>Session 5: Meeting with the Public Accounts Committee</p> <p>This session will provide an informal opportunity to discuss the role of the PAC and its work in the UK Parliament.</p> <p>Meg Hillier MP (Labour), Chair of the Public Accounts Committee Richard Cooke, Clerk, Public Accounts Committee Dominic Stockbridge, Second Clerk, Public Accounts Committee</p>	<i>CPA Room</i>





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1500	<p>Session 6: The Role of Select Committees in the Westminster System</p> <p>This session will explore the role of committees in the Westminster Committee System. It will discuss the role of Members and Clerks on the committee, and how to ensure their effectiveness in scrutinising government.</p> <p>Robert Neill MP (Conservative), Chair, Justice Committee Nick Walker, Committee Clerk, Justice Committee Danielle Nash, Second Clerk</p>	CPA Room
1545	Tea	CPA Room
1600	<p>Session 7: Meeting with the National Audit Office</p> <p>This session will give an introduction to the National Audit Office, the UK's Supreme Audit Institution, and its work. It will also explore the principles and the practices of effective engagement between Parliament and the UK National Audit Office.</p> <p>Jennifer Brown, Parliamentary Relations Manager, National Audit Office</p>	CPA Room
1700	<i>End of Day Two</i>	
Day 3: Friday 27 October		
0930	<p>Constituency Visit (<i>programme to be confirmed</i>)</p> <p>Andrew Rosindell MP, Member of Parliament for Romford (Conservative)</p> <p>The constituency visit is a chance to discuss constituency management and shared challenges when balancing parliamentary and constituency responsibilities.</p>	
1330	<i>End of programme</i>	



Full Delegate List

**The Hon. Juan Watterson SHK**

Juan Watterson has been Speaker of the House of Keys since 2016 having been first elected in 2006. He is also the Deputy President of Tynwald and the Chairman of the Public Accounts Committee. He held the role of Minister for Home Affairs from 2011 to 2016. Prior to his Parliamentary career, Juan was a Chartered Accountant and employed by KPMG as Audit Senior.

**Dr Alexander Allinson MHK**

Alex Allinson was elected as a Member of the House of Keys for Ramsey in 2016. He is the Chair of the Manx Utilities Authority. He is also a Member of the Department of Home Affairs and the Select Committee on the Functioning of Tynwald. Alex is a GP and practiced in Western Australia and the UK before joining the Ramsey Group Practice as a GP Partner in 2002.

**Hon. Graham Cregeen MHK**

Graham Cregeen was first elected as a Member of the House of Keys in 2006, was re-elected in 2011 and again in 2016 for the new constituency of Arbory, Castletown & Malew. He has held the role of Minister for Education & Children since 2016. He is also a Member of the Standing Orders Committee.





Julie Edge MHK

Julie Edge was elected as a Member of the House of Keys for Onchan in 2016. She is the Chair of the Isle of Man Post Office. She is also Member of the Department of Infrastructure, the Emoluments Committee, the House of Keys Management and Members' Standards Committee and the Tynwald Standards and Members' Interests Committee.



Lawrie Hooper MHK

Lawrie Hooper was elected as a Member of the House of Keys for Ramsey in 2016. He is a Member of the Department of Economic Development, the Department of Education and Children and the House of Keys Standing Orders Committee. Prior to this Lawrie was a Ramsey Town Commissioner from 2012 to 2016 and a qualified Chartered Accountant working on a mix of local and international clients, including audit, assurance, accountancy, tax and general Corporate Service Provider work.



Hon. William Malarkey MHK

Bill Malarkey was first elected as a Member of the House of Keys 2006-2011, re-elected at a by-election in 2015 and re-elected for Douglas South in 2016. Bill has held the role of Minister for Home Affairs since 2016, and he is the Chairman of the Communications Commission. Previously, he was a Douglas Town Councillor.



George Ralph Peake MHK

Ralph Peake was elected as a Member of the House of Keys for Douglas North at a by-election in 2015 and re-elected in 2016. He is a Member of the Treasury. Prior to his Ralph was a local business owner and is a Member of the Chartered Management Institute and Chamber of Commerce.





Martyn Perkins MHK

Martyn Perkins was elected as Member for the House of Keys for Garff in 2016. He is the Chair of the Isle of Man Office of Fair Trading. He is also a Member of the Department of Economic Development, the Department of Environment, Food and Agriculture, and a Member of the Social Affairs Policy Review Committee.



Jane Poole-Wilson MLC

Jane Poole-Wilson was first elected as a Member of the Legislative Council in May 2017 and is a member of the Select Committee of Tynwald on Library Provision. Mrs Poole-Wilson is a qualified solicitor specialising in employment law, and was recently appointed by the Isle of Man Government as the Equality Champion to support the implementation of the Equality Act.



Dr Jonathan King LLB, MA, DPhil, LRSM, *Deputy Clerk of Tynwald*

Jonathan King has held the role of Deputy Clerk of Tynwald and Clerk to the Legislative Council since 2007. Prior to this Jonathan was a Civil Servant in the UK holding positions in the Home Office, Cabinet Office and the Ministry of Justice.



Dr Corinda Essex MLC
Elected Member of the Legislative Council of St Helena

Dr Essex was first elected in 1993 but resigned her seat to take up the position of St Helena UK Representative. She has 42 years' service St Helena Government, initially as a teacher, but then moved into management roles, culminating in 14 years at Head of Department/Directorate level. Dr Essex stood for election in 2014 following retirement from public service and won her seat. She has owned a retail business for over 20 years and is currently President of the St Helena Chamber of Commerce.

Dr Essex has a Bachelor's and Master's Degree and Doctorate awarded by the University of Bristol. She is a Member of the British Psychological Society and Fellow of the Institute of Chartered Management (UK).



Speaker Biographies

**Alex Burghart MP***Member for Brentwood and Ongar (Conservative)*

Alex Burghart was elected as Member for Brentwood and Ongar in June 2017. He is a member of the Work and Pensions Committee.

Alex is a former school teacher and the son of two teachers. The first person in his family to go to university, he read history at Oxford before taking his doctorate at King's College London where he taught and lectured.

He has been a policy adviser at the Department for Education, where he worked on the Munro Review of Child Protection, and most recently he was a Special Adviser to the Prime Minister, Theresa May, on social justice. For four years Alex was Director of Policy at the Centre for Social Justice, where he led research on housing, welfare, education, and family policy. Before working at 10 Downing Street, he was deputy to the Children's Commissioner.

**Rt Hon. Baroness D'Souza CMG***(Crossbench)*

Baroness D'Souza has been a Member of the House of Lords since 2004, holding the position of Lord Speaker from 2011 - 2016. Baroness D'Souza previously had a professional career in academia, serving as a lecturer and a fellow at numerous institutes throughout the 1970's and 1980's. Baroness D'Souza was

Director of Article 19, an organisation promoting Freedom of Expression, from 1989 - 1998 and also served as Director of the Redress Trust, a Human Rights Organisation, from 2003 - 2006.

**Stephen Hammond MP***Member for Wimbledon (Conservative)*

Stephen Hammond has been MP for Wimbledon since 2005, having had a successful career at a number of leading investment banks in the City. He has long campaigned for better transport links, cleaner streets and improved schools in Wimbledon. In May 2005 Stephen was elected Member of Parliament for Wimbledon. He was promoted to the front bench as Shadow Minister for Transport in the same year and





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was the Parliamentary Under-Secretary for the Department for Transport between 2012 and 2014. Stephen has sat on the Treasury Committee, and both the Select and Joint Committee for Statutory Instruments since 2015.



Helen Haywood

Deputy Chief Executive and Head of Strategy and Business Development, CPA UK

As Head of Strategy & Business Development, Helen has responsibility for strategy, business planning and development, communications and marketing, finance and administration and stakeholder relations. Deputy to the Chief Executive since 2011, she previously led the Southern & East Africa Team, has project managed numerous Westminster conferences and seminars and has accompanied delegations to many Commonwealth countries.



Mike Hennessey

Deputy Head of the Table Office, House of Commons

Mike Hennessey has been a Clerk in the House of Commons since October 1992. He is currently the Deputy Head of the Table Office. Previously he has clerked for the Joint Committee on Human Rights, as well as serving in the Public Bill Office and acting as Private Secretary to the Chairman of Ways and Means (2010-2015); the Defence Committee (2008-2010); the Environmental Audit Committee (2003-2008); the Joint Committee on Statutory Instruments (1999-2001) and the Joint Committee on Consolidation and Bills (1994-1996).



Meg Hillier MP

Member for Hackney South and Shoreditch (Labour)

Meg Hillier was elected Chair of the Public Accounts Committee in 2015. First elected in 2005, she has held the roles of junior Home Office Minister and Shadow Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change. She also served on The Speaker of the House of Commons' Digital Democracy Commission. Set up by the Speaker, the Commission investigated the opportunities digital technology can bring for parliamentary democracy in the UK and reported in January 2015.

Before entering Parliament she represented Hackney, Islington and Waltham Forest on the London Assembly. A former local councillor, she was also the youngest ever Mayor of Islington in 1998/99.





Rt Hon. Lord Kilclooney of Armagh

(Crossbench)

Raised to the peerage as Baron Kilclooney, of Armagh in the County of Armagh 2001, Lord Kilclooney is a former Ulster Unionist Party MP. He was deputy leader of the UUP from 1995 to 2001, and a member of the Northern Ireland Assembly. During his time in the House of Commons he was the spokesperson for Trade and Industry (1992-97) and Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (1997-2001)



Stuart McDonald MP

Member for the Cumbernauld, Kilsyth and Kirkintilloch East (Scottish National Party)

Stuart McDonald has been a Member of Parliament for the SNP since 2015. He is the SNP Spokesperson on Immigration, Asylum and Border Control and a member of the House of Commons Home Affairs Select Committee.

After studying Law at the University of Edinburgh, Stuart worked for NHS Scotland's Central Legal Office as a Solicitor, before working for the Immigration Advisory Service (IAS) as a Human Rights Solicitor until November 2009, when he became a Senior Researcher at the Scottish Parliament.

He left his position at the Scottish Parliament in February 2013, to become a Senior Researcher for the pro-independence Scottish independence referendum campaign Yes Scotland, a position he held until the independence referendum on 18 September 2014. Immediately prior to his election, McDonald worked as a Parliamentary and Public Affairs Officer for the Coalition for Racial Equality and Rights.



David Morris MP

Member for Morecambe & Lunedale (Conservative)

David Morris was first elected as MP for Morecambe & Lunedale in May 2010. Since being elected, David has secured the building of the £124.5 Million Heysham M6 Link Road, secured Heysham as the site for a new nuclear build, delivered a GP lead NHS Same Day Service in Morecambe, campaigned for more trains to stop at Carnforth, campaigned to improve NHS services locally and has enabled the residents of Sunderland Point to build sea defences to protect the point from coastal erosion and storm to name a few things David has worked on.

David was made the PPS to the Secretary of State for Wales in June 2014, a role he has carried into the new Parliament, and David is also the first ever self-employment ambassador to the Government.





Andrew Rosindell MP

Member for Romford (Conservative)

Andrew Rosindell MP has represented the constituency of Romford since 2001. Prior to this, he enjoyed a career as a journalist and then parliamentary researcher, before going on to become the Director of the European Foundation.

He served as Opposition Whip from 2005-2007 and as Shadow Minister for Home Affairs (Animal Welfare) from 2007-2010. He has a keen interest for international affairs with a particular focus on the Commonwealth, and is an active member of the Inter-Parliamentary Union. He is the Chair of many All-Party Parliamentary Groups, such as the British-Canada Group, the British Overseas Territories Group, Isle of Man Group, amongst many more.



Rt Hon. Lord Shutt of Greetland

(Liberal Democrat)

Lord Shutt first became a Liberal, and then a Liberal Democrat Councillor in Calderdale MBC, first in 1973 (with a spell as Mayor for a year in 1982/3). In 1995, David was also returned again as a Councillor in Calderdale MBC, and remained there until 2003.

Lord Shutt contested the Sowerby parliamentary seat for the Liberal Party in 1970 and the February and October General Elections of 1974 and in 1979. He contested the Calder Valley seat in both 1983 and 1987 for the Liberal Alliance. He stood for the Liberal Democrats in Pudsey in 1992.

In 2000 he entered the House of Lords as a life peer - Baron Shutt of Greetland in the County of West Yorkshire. He was Liberal Democrat International Development spokesperson in the Lords until 2002.



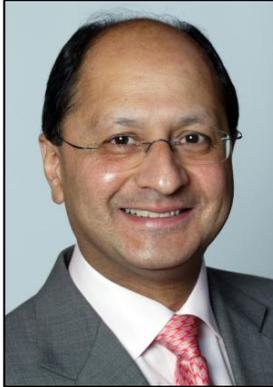
Dominic Stockbridge

Second Clerk, Public Accounts Committee

Dominic has worked for the House of Commons since October 2015 on the Northern Ireland Affairs Committee, Welsh Affairs Committee, Administration, and now the Public Accounts Committee (PAC).

As Second Clerk of PAC, Dominic's main role is liaising with government departments to secure witnesses' attendance. He is also the Committee's main contact point with the National Audit Office. Dominic is half Manx.





Shailesh Vara MP

Member for North West Cambridgeshire (Conservative)

Shailesh Vara is a Conservative MP and was elected to Parliament in 2005.

He is a former Justice Minister (2013 - 2016) as well as a former Minister for Work and Pensions (2015 - 2016).



Nick Walker

Clerk, Justice Committee, House of Commons

Nick Walker has been Clerk of the House of Commons Justice Committee since October 2012. He heads the small team of staff who support the Committee, composed of 12 backbench MPs, that is responsible for scrutinising the expenditure, administration and policy of the Ministry of Justice and its associated public bodies.

Nick joined the House of Commons Service in 1987. He has clerked other Committees, including the Agriculture Committee, the Defence Committee, the Energy Committee and the Joint Committee on Human Rights. He has also worked in various procedural offices: the Public Bill Office, the Table Office and the Journal Office. Between 2001 and 2004 he was head of the House of Commons office in Brussels. Immediately before joining the Justice Committee he worked as the business manager for the Department of Chamber and Committee Services.

