



HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT



**CPA UK BILATERAL VISIT TO THE PARLIAMENT OF TRINIDAD & TOBAGO**

1 - 7 FEBRUARY 2015



**FINAL REPORT**

COMMONWEALTH PARLIAMENTARY ASSOCIATION UK

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## 1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.1 The UK Parliament and the Parliament of Trinidad & Tobago have over many years developed productive and friendly bilateral relations. After a review of its outreach activities and with a desire to increase engagement with the Caribbean Commonwealth. CPA UK organised a cross-party delegation of six UK parliamentarians (three from the House of Commons and three from the House of Lords) to visit Trinidad & Tobago in February 2015 (postponed from November 2014).

1.2 The delegation comprised of senior parliamentarians with varied experience of Trinidad & Tobago, including a former Minister of State for the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) and a Peer who previously visited in a CPA UK capacity. This gave an opportunity for the delegation to follow-up on developments since their previous visits and review progress made. All Members of the delegation had a strong familiarity with the Caribbean region, in particular Jamaica, Grenada and the Overseas Territories. As such, the entire delegation was in a position to understand the complexity of regional issues from a local perspective, thus adding to their wealth of understanding of the challenges and opportunities faced by the Parliament of Trinidad & Tobago.

1.3 The visit consisted of six days in Port of Spain, Trinidad, followed by the final day in Tobago. Based primarily in Parliament and a number of Ministries, the programme comprised of bilateral sessions with key stakeholders from across the political and civil society spectrum. The programme also took in a number of other locales such as a visit to the University of the West Indies, St Augustine Campus and Scarborough General Hospital in Tobago.

1.4 The delegation arrived in Trinidad & Tobago at an opportune time; arriving in the midst of a Cabinet reshuffle. Engaging with those most closely affected gave the delegation an unexpected and invaluable insight into Trinidad & Tobago political processes and machinations. The causes and ramifications of the sudden removal of seven parliamentarians and ministers highlighted a political



culture, which to some extent is highly litigious and lacking in transparency. However, it also demonstrated Trinidad & Tobago's free press, which reported heavily and openly on events. The delegation's visit also coincided with the start of the election year in Trinidad & Tobago, which as in the UK, intensified partisan politics.

1.5 Although the resuffle resulted in some meetings being cancelled or moved. The delegation nevertheless met all key parliamentary and ministerial stakeholders, in particular the newly appointed Attorney General, Hon. Senator Gavin Nicholas, who was a former High Commissioner to the United Kingdom and the President of the Senate, Hon. Senator Rhazia Ahmed. The delegation participated in a number of unprogrammed meetings with civil society organisations related to Human Rights issues.

1.6 The delegation were also present for the build up to Carnival, the highlight of the Trinidadian cultural calendar. The deputation was privileged to witness the vibrant music, fashion and excitement that encapsulates Carnival season. It was clear to the delegation how proud the people across both Islands were in this world-famous event and its importance to culture, tourism and community spirit.

1.7 As outlined in the following report, the visit achieved its aim by enabling the UK parliamentary delegates to understand better the challenges faced by their colleagues in Trinidad & Tobago. Participants came away with a greater insight into the workings of the House of Representatives and the Senate; current processes and future developments as well as wider national and regional topicalities such as criminal justice, climate change, investment, energy and infrastructure and human rights. The programme has also resulted in a number of follow-up actions and outcomes for CPA UK to take forward.

## 2. DELEGATION

Delegates: Rt Hon. Mark Simmonds MP - *Leader of the Delegation*  
Mr Andrew Rosindell MP  
Ms Diane Abbott MP  
Baroness Scott of Needham Market  
Baroness Howells of St Davids OBE  
Baroness Stern CBE  
Mr Matthew Salik - *Delegation Secretary*

## 3. AIM & OBJECTIVES

3.1 The aim of this bilateral outward programme was to enable Westminster parliamentarians to understand better the parliamentary, political and developmental climate in Trinidad & Tobago. As well as to continue to strengthen parliamentary diplomacy between the UK and Trinidad & Tobago.

3.2 **To gain an insight into the parliamentary structure and practices of the Parliament of Trinidad & Tobago with specific regards to:**

3.21 Constitutional Amendment Bill 2014



- 3.22 Scrutiny processes of the Executive
  - 3.23 Role of the Backbencher
  - 3.24 Relationship between the upper and lower chambers
  - 3.25 The representation of women and minority groups in politics
- 3.3 To gain a greater understanding of the following thematic issues:**
- 3.31 Climate Change and environmental impact
  - 3.32 Energy and infrastructure with focus on the oil industry
  - 3.33 Crime and justice in Trinidad & Tobago, with specific focus on the drugs trade
  - 3.34 Post-recession economic development
  - 3.35 Human rights
  - 3.36 International and regional relations (USA, China, Caricom and the Commonwealth)
- 3.4 To strengthen and enhance the diplomatic and soft power relations between the Parliament of Trinidad & Tobago and the UK Parliament.**
- 3.5 To examine the work of the Foreign & Commonwealth Office and other agencies in Trinidad & Tobago.**

## 4. PROGRAMME DETAILS AND COMMENTS

### 4.0 Environmental Policy

4.01 As part of the visit, the delegation sought to further understand how Trinidad & Tobago continues to be affected by climate change. Like its Caribbean neighbours and small islands states across the globe, Trinidad & Tobago remains at risk to rising sea levels, coastal erosion, temperature increases and higher rainfall. As outlined by the Meteorological Office, with whom the delegation met, Trinidad & Tobago has been inflicted with a greater frequency of dryer days for longer periods of time and heavier precipitation.<sup>1</sup> Changing weather pattern projections also show an increasing likelihood that by 2020-2030 Trinidad & Tobago may move directly into the Hurricane corridor (whereas it currently sits on the periphery).<sup>2</sup> Combined, these changes will have a negative impact on the economy; undermining petroleum and gas industries, transport infrastructure, destruction of crops in the agricultural sector as well as increased health risks through the spread of Dengue Fever. It may also lead to the destruction of coral reefs which would have a knock-on effect on fisheries and potential development of green tourism.

4.02 Trinidad & Tobago coordinates its global environmental campaigning in line with the Alliance of Small Island States and the Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre based in Belize<sup>3</sup>. This CARICOM regional body has developed a pan-Caribbean strategy for the upcoming United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP21) which occurs later in 2015.<sup>4</sup> It is hoped there

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.metoffice.gov.tt/>

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.nhc.noaa.gov/climo/>

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.caribbeanclimate.bz/>

<sup>4</sup> <http://www.cop21.gouv.fr/en/cop21-cmp11>



will be a legally binding and universal agreement on carbon emissions targets as well as a 1.5° temperature increase cap for the Caribbean as opposed to a 2° increase.

4.03 Trinidad & Tobago is continuing to work hard domestically to combat the negative effects of climate change. The delegation met with the Environmental Management Authority. The Authority, which comes under the Ministry for Housing, Land and Marine Affairs began operations in June 1995 and facilitates cooperation across the Government, NGOs and community-based organisations. The EMA is mandated to write and enforce laws and regulations for environmental management, to educate the public about the nation's environmental issues, to control and prevent pollution, as well as conserve natural resources and develop environmental impact assessments.<sup>5</sup> The EMA informed the delegation of its work on developing legislation including the Solid Waste Management Rules. It also highlighted its projects such as the Nariva Swamp's National Restoration, Carbon Sequestration, Wildlife and Livelihoods Project (NRCSWL), Climate Change institutional strengthening and renewable energy projects such as the solar-powered police surveillance bays. A number of these projects have been successful in reducing the impacts of climate change whilst creating sustainable employment and public awareness. The EMA further highlighted challenges to climate change mitigation strategies.<sup>6</sup> The delegation were also told about the Green Fund which was set up for the purpose of remediation, reforestation, environmental education and public awareness of environmental issues and conservation of the environment.

4.04 However the public largely remains detached from the causes and consequences of climate change, in particular on the economy. For example, there is little recycling and virtually no energy efficiency ethos. Trinidad & Tobago has a continuing problem in management of waste tyres, various bodies have examined a number of possible solutions and case study but further progress is needed. The delegation highlighted the success of door to door recycling in the UK and waste to energy, both of which could be considered by the Trinidad & Tobago Government.

4.05 The Trinidad & Tobago Parliament is engaged in the sustainable development process. A joint committee looked into the EMA and was supportive in its reporting, agreeing with the problems associated with climate change. However it became clear in discussions with the EMA that more work is needed to support parliamentarians in ensuring legislation introduced is effectively implemented at a faster pace. Although intended to coordinate climate change policy across Government, the EMA is hampered by issues on implementation and policing of planning regulations, notable examples are building on hillsides susceptible to landslides. There also remains a need to manage longer-term planning. When the East Road was washed away after severe flooding there was an urgent need have it rebuilt, especially as it is a key transport access route (Trinidad & Tobago has no rail network). Yet there are no plans to redirect the road despite the likelihood of repeated flooding. It is hoped the creation of an Energy and Environment Committee will be in a position to deal with these issues.

4.06 Overall the delegation were impressed with the work of the Trinidad & Tobago Government in sustainable development policy<sup>7</sup> and in particular the MO and EMA who displayed professionalism, dedication and expertise. There are a number of initiatives that should be commended, for example the Project for Ecosystem Services (ProEcoServ), which seeks to better integrate ecosystem assessment, scenario development and economic valuation of ecosystem services into sustainable national development planning.

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<sup>5</sup> <http://www.ema.co.tt>

<sup>6</sup> [http://www.ema.co.tt/new/images/media\\_releases/CPAUK\\_meeting.pdf](http://www.ema.co.tt/new/images/media_releases/CPAUK_meeting.pdf)

<sup>7</sup> <http://www.planning.gov.tt/sites/default/files/content/mediacentre/documents/Working%20for%20Sustainable%20Development%20in%20Trinidad%20and%20Tobago.pdf>



**4.07 ACTION:** As part of its meetings with the Minister, the MO and EMA the delegation will undertake the following actions:

- Place the EMA and Parliament in contact with the Environmental Audit Committee, House of Commons.
- Send the EMA details relating to the EU's Waste Electrical & Electronic Equipment (WEEE) Directive<sup>8</sup> and other waste to energy programmes (e.g. WRAP).
- Work closely with the Parliament of Trinidad & Tobago and UNDP Country Coordinator to support parliamentary capacity in post-legislative scrutiny on topics related to the environment.

#### 4.1 Economic Developments

4.10 UK and Trinidad & Tobago bilateral trade is worth in the region of over £300million, the largest in the Caribbean. British companies dominate the energy sector, accounting for 85 percent of local gas production and Trinidad & Tobago is an important element in the UK's energy security. The UK's exports in services to the amount of £135million.

4.11 Trinidad & Tobago is an economic powerhouse in the Caribbean, based predominantly on its Oil and Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) supplies. This is underlined by its GDP of \$23billion, greater than the combined GDP of Barbados (\$2.26billion), Guyana (\$3.4billion) and Jamaica (\$15billion).<sup>9</sup> Growth in Trinidad and Tobago has averaged 6 percent per year since 1994, among the highest levels in the Latin America and the Caribbean region. After a very weak performance in 2009-12, GDP growth reached a five-year high of 1.5 percent in 2013, thus demonstrating a modest recovery.<sup>10</sup>

4.12 The delegation met with the Minister of Finance, Hon. Sen. Larry Howai who like many interlocutors highlighted the impact of the oil price drop on the global and in particular the Trinidadian economy. Based on the current price of crude oil in Trinidad & Tobago, there would be an expected TTD 7million shortfall. As such, there will be a total deficit of TTD 4.48billion (which was based on First Quarter projections of \$45 a barrel). This would be met by currency holdings in the sovereign wealth fund, selling national assets and more importantly the postponement of planned infrastructural investment projects. These include a new port in Port of Spain, the Sullivan Island dry dock, the Endeavour Economic Industrial Park, and upgrades to a number of health facilities.<sup>11</sup>

4.13 Nevertheless it was emphasised by the Minister that the current Government is keen to press ahead with essential social programmes to assist the vulnerable in society as well as resolving the level of inequality. This is partly due to the pay gap, which although lower than its Caribbean neighbours like Jamaica, needs further improvement. Furthermore Trinidad & Tobago has very low unemployment (3.7 percent (2013))<sup>12</sup>. Nevertheless there is a large immigrant labour force, some of which are from China. These immigrants are a consequence of Chinese governmental investment projects. With limited employment slack, it was important to provide skills and training to improve domestic labour mobility. This was reinforced in the meeting with Invest TT, an agency under the Ministry of Trade and Investment, whose core function is to assist in promoting inward investment

<sup>8</sup> [http://ec.europa.eu/environment/waste/weee/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/waste/weee/index_en.htm)

<sup>9</sup> FCO country briefing on Trinidad & Tobago

<sup>10</sup> <http://www.worldbank.org/en/country/trinidadandtobago/overview>

<sup>11</sup> State investment in infrastructure in Trinidad and Tobago likely to fall owing to lower oil prices - BYLINE: Arthur Dhont

<sup>12</sup> <http://www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/scr/2014/cr14271.pdf>



into Trinidad & Tobago. They commented that the lack of sufficient skills within Trinidad & Tobago have become more evident. Hence there is a substantial need to liaise with learning and vocational bodies to improve skill-sets.

4.14 In discussions with the delegation, the Minister of Finance indicated that Trinidad & Tobago intended to set up a Centre for Arbitration to deal with contractual disputes. This is partially due to a recent ICC's Court of Arbitration decision to value a national asset (Point Lisas-based Methanol Holdings (Trinidad) Ltd (MHTL)) at a figure substantially less than the Government had predicted.<sup>13</sup> The Minister also hoped to work more closely with the City of London in the expansion of its financial sector into Bond trading as well as increasing the capacity of back office processing. Such a proposal was met with enthusiasm by the delegation who will assist in facilitating such work.

4.15 Invest TT and the Minister also highlighted the country's success in improving Trinidad & Tobago's Ease of Doing Business rating<sup>14</sup>. The 2015 Doing Business report shows Trinidad & Tobago moved up 12 places in the rankings from 91 out of 189 countries in 2014, to 79 out of 189 in the 2015.<sup>15</sup> The delegation were impressed to learn that the reason for such progress was down to a number of regulatory reforms making it easier to start businesses as well as improvement in raising sufficient credit. Although this has led to increases in inward investment, the Leader of the Opposition and the Minister of Finance both felt the private sector was still too timid, constantly requiring Government backing and reassurances through subsidies and other mechanisms. At a meeting with the Minister for Work and Infrastructure, representing the Foreign Minister, the issue of delays and confusion of awarding UK contracts was discussed. It was pointed out that it took 2-3 years for agreements to be approved by the Cabinet and then it was not necessarily clear whether approval was actually given. As the Acting High Commissioner pointed out, this remained a disincentive for inward infrastructural investment. Furthermore, Trinidad & Tobago has been slow to engage with the Global South (South America and Africa) and the wider Commonwealth for potential investment opportunities. To aid international investment, Invest TT highlighted a number of structural and policy areas they would like to see improved, namely access to land, a reduction in bureaucracy, a more competitive workplace environment, open immigration policy and a clear national investment policy which has remained in draft since 2008.

**4.16 ACTION:** As part of its meetings with the Finance Minister and other economic stakeholders, the delegation will undertake the following actions:

- Examine ways in which the UK can help in the development of a Centre for Arbitration - Send this report to the Law Society and the Commonwealth Lawyers Association
- Forward report to UKTI and the Remembrancer's Office with the aim of building closer links with the City for the development of Bond trading facilities. In addition, to assist with the development of necessary regulations as well as support with building capacity in financial back office processing
- Encourage the FCO to pursue greater prosperity programmes in Trinidad & Tobago and the wider Caribbean.

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<sup>13</sup> <http://www.guardian.co.tt/news/2014-09-13/uk-arbitrators-value-mhtl-asset-74b-government-unhappy-ruling>

<sup>14</sup> <http://www.doingbusiness.org/~media/GIAWB/Doing%20Business/Documents/Annual-Reports/English/DB15-Chapters/DB15-Report-Overview.pdf>

<sup>15</sup> "Ease of doing business" The Free Library. 2014 Caribbean Update, Inc. 05 Mar. 2015  
<http://www.thefreelibrary.com/Ease+of+doing+business.-a0391854773>



- Forward this report to the Commonwealth Secretariat and the Commonwealth Enterprise and Investment Council to see how Trinidad & Tobago can exploit great investment opportunities across the Commonwealth

## 4.2 Energy Sector

4.20 Trinidad & Tobago is the 2<sup>nd</sup> highest emitter of CO<sup>2</sup> in metric tons per capita, however this is comparatively small on a global scale due to its geographical size<sup>16</sup>. This is predominantly due to Trinidad & Tobago's vast oil, gas and chemical industry (Trinidad & Tobago is the largest ammonia supplier in the world). The Oil and Gas industry accounts for 41 percent of the country's economy.<sup>17</sup> British Petroleum Trinidad & Tobago (BP TT) is the country's largest hydrocarbon producer, accounting for about 60 percent of the nation's oil and gas production. Of this about 65 percent of its natural gas is exported as LNG.<sup>18</sup> British Gas Trinidad & Tobago (BG TT) accumulated 11 percent of its entire oil and gas production from Trinidad & Tobago.<sup>19</sup>

4.21 Whilst in-country, the delegation met with the Minister for Energy and Energy Affairs and BG TT to learn more about the energy sector. However, their focus of interest was on the diversification of energy production on the Islands. The electricity sector is fuelled entirely by natural gas. This results in an overdependence on a single national resource. Two issues play the greatest concern, firstly it is expected that oil and gas reserves will be exhausted by 2025-2030 and Trinidad & Tobago is historically susceptible to commodity price fluctuations which can impact on the economy.<sup>20</sup> There is also the environmental impact of using fossil fuels. However, there remain disincentives to move to renewable alternatives or to become more eco-efficient, namely fuel subsidies. According to the Minister, fuel remains cheap, the state subsidy makes it ten times cheaper than it should be. A point which is reiterated in the IMF Press statement which preceded the delegation's arrival in Trinidad & Tobago [stating] "*We reiterate our advice to scale down fuel subsidies, and note that the fall in global energy prices provides a unique opportunity to do this*".<sup>21</sup> The Minister agreed that the situation needed to change. He expressed a desire to see a reduced domestic demand for fuel, so that more could be channelled to the export market. The subsidies need to be phased out in incremental stages ensuring a reduced shock to the market, perhaps including some form of compensation. Yet with an upcoming election, the delegation could not see such a policy being pursued in the short-term. A further incentive derives from the potential of the US exporting gas. With lower prices and reliable supply, the Caribbean would surely move from oil powered electricity to gas powered supply in the next 5-10 years. The delegation felt this would be an opportunity for Trinidad & Tobago to increase its exports within the region.

4.22 After a number of meetings, there was no clarity given on which energy alternatives should be pursued, or a combination thereof. Some interlocutors suggested tidal, others solar, some suggested wind. Although progress had been made to install solar panels on municipal buildings, no further advancement has been forthcoming. In meetings with InvestTT, they felt there was huge opportunity to be the leading Caribbean producer of solar panels, achievable though access to cheaper and readily available materials. The Minister was enthusiastic about a number of initiatives which the delegation put to him, such as the need for energy efficiency and in particular waste to energy

<sup>16</sup> Carbon Dioxide Information Analysis Center (2010 statistics)

<sup>17</sup> InvestTT Fast Facts. [www.investt.co.tt](http://www.investt.co.tt)

<sup>18</sup> [http://www.bp.com/en\\_tt/trinidad-and-tobago/about-bp-in-trinidad-and-tobago/BPTTFactsandfigures.html](http://www.bp.com/en_tt/trinidad-and-tobago/about-bp-in-trinidad-and-tobago/BPTTFactsandfigures.html)

<sup>19</sup> <http://www.bg-group.com/225/where-we-work/trinidad-&-tobago/>

<sup>20</sup> <http://siteresources.worldbank.org/EXTPREMNET/Resources/EP142.pdf>

<sup>21</sup> <http://www.imf.org/external/np/sec/pr/2015/pr1518.htm>



### 4.3 Criminal Justice

4.30 The delegation met with a number of key stakeholders who offered an insight into areas of criminal justice in Trinidad & Tobago from policy development, enforcement and implementation. It was clear from a number of conversations that Trinidad & Tobago, despite its economic success, is plagued by organised gangs, drug trafficking and associated high murder and gun crime. A problem that permeates throughout the country and the region. Prior to the delegation's arrival in Trinidad in February, there had already been 12 murders in 2015. Such high murder rates impact on tourism, inward investment and public safety.

4.31 A number of attributing factors were presented in the meeting with the Attorney General Hon. Sen. Garvin Nicholas and the Minister for Justice, Hon. Prakash Ramadhar MP. They stated that due to the loss of an agricultural sector there was a progressive rise in unemployed and unskilled workers who moved into criminality. This combined with Trinidad & Tobago's geographical drug route and connected transportation of small arms from South to North America drove criminal gang numbers. But according to the Attorney General one of the most significant factors for the number of gangs was down to the UK and US's extradition policy. They felt that deportees, who have no connection with Trinidad & Tobago are sent back to their country and have no resources or employment. Once they are deposited in Trinidad & Tobago they are then recruited into gangs. Airport officials in Trinidad & Tobago have no prior knowledge as to why they have been extradited. Both the Attorney General and Minister suggested that people should not be extradited simply because they were born in Trinidad & Tobago. The delegation agreed that if these extraditions remain, then official's in-country should be given greater information and support in managing, monitoring and integrating these individuals so that they have alternative prospects to entering into criminal gangs.

4.32 One further reform that was suggested by the Attorney General was to decriminalise the growing and personal consumption of marijuana. As Jamaica and the US have altered their positions it would seem the right time to have a national debate on the subject.<sup>22</sup> It is hoped that such a policy will free up law enforcement to focus on other drug related criminality as well as remove some of the drug trade perpetuating gang crime.

4.33 It is also hoped that such a policy will also free up prison numbers. As it currently stands, Trinidad & Tobago has an extremely high prison population with overcrowding, violence and rioting. There is also a substantial backlog of criminal court casework, with many prisoners waiting several years for their case to get to trial. Most of the judicial system is a carryover from the British colonial period, to the extent that the highest court in Trinidad & Tobago is the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council based in the UK. This is despite the Caribbean Court of Justice (a regional alternative) being established in Port of Spain.<sup>23</sup> As indicated by the Leader of the Opposition, their new Government would join the CCJ, leading to quicker hearings and accessible appeals for all citizens and not just those that could afford it.

4.34 In a meeting with the Ministry of Gender, Youth and Child Development, Ministers were keen to point out their work on tackling gangs and violence prevention.<sup>24</sup> They have a number of outreach programmes whereby youth officers go into homes and schools, campaigning on issues like anti-bullying. As with their older counterparts, they work in a number of ways to deal with the performance discrepancy between boys and girls as well as their 'Youth on the Block' scheme to

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<sup>22</sup> <http://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/americas/marijuana-in-jamaica-possession-of-up-to-two-ounces-decriminalised-on-bob-marleys-birthday-10034299.html>

<sup>23</sup> <http://www.caribbeancourtofjustice.org/>

<sup>24</sup> <http://mgycd.gov.tt/>



target youths who congregate on street corners. This is achieved through intervention, psycho-social support and maximising opportunities for economic independence.

4.35 Trinidad & Tobago has the death penalty. Baroness Stern met with Mr Gregory Delzin, an Attorney and Anti-Death Penalty campaigner. He highlighted that although nobody has been executed since 1999, there was difficulty in amending legislation relating to the death penalty. Under the current constitution, all laws preceding the constitution cannot be considered unconstitutional. However once that legislation is amended it can be reviewed by the courts and potentially deemed unconstitutional. This creates an impasse. Any attempt to improve the law to make it fairer or tougher would instantly make it unconstitutional. Therefore the status quo will remain until steps are taken to repeal it or amend the constitution. At the meeting, it was noted that the Privy Council was reviewing a case of a man on death row in Trinidad & Tobago. However, this was viewed by many as exceeding their remit. He felt many saw the Privy Council as a body that should be examining constitutional rather than criminal cases. As the President's legal advisor, Mr Delzin pointed out that there were many silent supporters of abolition, but were reluctant to speak out. This was reiterated by the President of Trinidad & Tobago, H.E. Anthony Carmona and the Chief Justice, Hon. Justice Ivor Archie who both emphasised passionately the importance of restorative justice when dealing with crime and marginalized groups. Mr Delzin went on to state there needs to be a public consultation on the issue. It will give the country an overdue opportunity to air grievances and debate. The European Union, who work extensively on this issue could facilitate such a consultation by providing funding support.

**4.36 ACTION:** As part of its meetings with the various criminal justice stakeholders the delegation will communicate with relevant organisations to undertake the following actions:

- Forward this report to the Home Office and the Crown Prosecution Service to look at the possibility of providing support to Trinidad & Tobago on the reintegration of extradited persons.
- Send report to the EU Delegation in Trinidad & Tobago to explore ways of developing a possible public consultation on the death penalty in collaboration with civil society organisations.

#### 4.4 Domestic Violence & Victim Support

4.40 The delegation met with Ms Diana Mahabir-Wyatt, a former Senator and long-time campaigner on domestic violence, child protection and help for the vulnerable in Trinidad & Tobago. In conversation with the delegation she highlighted that Trinidad & Tobago is the capital of domestic violence in the Caribbean. The most prolific problem being violence towards women and girls as well as child battery. She emphasised that the problem has not increased to any great extent, however it has become more transparent through social media and public condemnation. An example she gave was regarding a YouTube video of a real-life mother beating her child into a near state of unconsciousness.

4.41 The delegation expressed concern over the issue of violence towards children. Some raised the point that child battery was a cultural by-product of slavery, hence is prevalence across the Caribbean. Overtime, it became the accepted form of punishment/discipline and although corporal punishment is now illegal, it was agreed that more work was needed to change perceptions.

4.42 Domestic violence permeates all levels of society, rich and poor and all faiths. Trinidad & Tobago has worked hard to deal with the problem over a number of years at a governmental and



civil society level. The Prime Minister has tried to tackle the problem, setting up a Child Protection Taskforce<sup>25</sup> across a number of Ministries. There is also an established family court and most recently the formation of the Children's Authority<sup>26</sup>, including assessment centres and child protection unit. This has led to greater numbers of recording and reporting of occurrences, but more work is needed. Ms Mahabir-Wyatt discussed the need for role-models to break the cycle and increase awareness. However this proves difficult when famous Caribbean musicians promote violence through their song lyrics.

4.43 Also working to reduce domestic violence and other family related crimes, the delegation met with the Witness and Victim Protection Unit. Created in 2008, it has worked to tackle sexual assaults domestic violence, child abuse and harassment. There has been a steady increase in the number of people coming into the VWSU, with reports of domestic violence peaking in 2012. As a unit it is proactive in going into remote rural areas, places like Matelot and Tobago where incest is a prevalent problem, but where reporting and engagement remains low. The delegation were impressed by their efforts and felt the UK had a great deal to learn from their example.

**4.44 ACTION:** As part of its meetings with the above groups, the delegation will communicate with relevant organisation to undertake the following actions:

- Information sharing with Ms Diana Mahabir-Wyatt on UK methods in tackling violence on sex workers
- The FCO, which has experience working in this field in other countries, should pursue programmes which would lead to a reduction in violence towards children.

#### 4.5 LGBTI Rights

4.50 A number of the delegation met with Luke Sinnette, a youth campaigner who spoke about the current status of LGBTI rights in Trinidad & Tobago. Like much of the former British West Indies, Trinidad & Tobago has statutes against sexual acts for homosexuals carrying a twenty-five year sentence, however there are seldom convictions. Mr Sinnette expressed that there was very little chance in the short term of repealing these laws, but there was a greater chance of creating equal opportunity legislation. He highlighted cases of violent attacks especially towards transsexuals, who have difficulty finding work. There also attacks in schools. But discrimination is noticeably class related, as middleclass homosexuals and lesbians are less discriminated against.

4.51 Nevertheless there is a lot of work done to raise awareness and provide support. LGBTI civil society organisations are legally registered by the state and assistance is given especially in tackling health issues like HIV and AIDS. There have been many vocal campaigners, many of which have originated from independent benches in the Senate, but that support has diminished over time. Work is primarily focused at grassroots level with some success, but the impact of some religious groups, such as US evangelists have a negative influence on public perception. Mr Sinnette emphasised that LGBTI groups don't wish to have international pressure placed on Trinidad & Tobago to repeal the buggery laws, but civil society groups do need more technical support in advocacy and public awareness.

**4.52 ACTION:** As part of its meetings with Mr Sinnette, the delegation will communicate with relevant organisation to undertake the following actions:

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<sup>25</sup> <http://www.trinidadexpress.com/news/Child-Protection-Task-Froce-sets-to-work-234116971.html>

<sup>26</sup> <http://ttchildren.org/>



- Forward this report to the Royal Commonwealth Society and the Kaleidoscope Trust to explore what more can be done to provide greater technical assistance on advocacy and public awareness campaigns.

#### 4.6 Education

4.60 The delegation met with the Minister for Education.<sup>27</sup> At the meeting, the Minister gave an overview of the entire education sector. The Ministry of Education is one of the largest Ministry's, with over 20,000 employees. There are currently around 250 primary schools, 150 secondary schools along with 3 school supervisors for each district. These Supervisors make visits every day to schools within their district to manage and assess their work and progress. There are a number of church-run schools which are funded by the state, but governed independently. Free education is provided until 16 years, with pupils receiving free school meals, transport, books and laptops. Although highly recognized for their educational standards, Trinidad & Tobago are considered leaders in ICT provision from across the entire Caribbean as well as their work with children with special educational needs.

4.61 The Minister highlighted that Indo-Trinidadian students have been successively improving year-on-year. In part because more schools have been expanding into rural areas. These children have continued to move in to professions from their agrarian background. He also indicated that Indo-Trinidadian parents have a greater tendency to remain together thus providing a more stable upbringing which is considered a key factor in children performing better at school. Unfortunately a number of their Afro-Trinidadian counterparts are from single families and struggle to keep up, resulting in additional pressure on teachers to take up the slack. In all, 25 percent need parental support. Schools undertake psychometric testing to identify issues early on, when identified and tackled quickly, there is a 90 percent success rate.

4.62 The delegation spent half a day at the University of the West Indies (UWI), St Augustine Campus. There the delegation met with senior academic staff, administrators and students. The delegation were told that collaboration with UK Universities has reduced over the last few years, although they do undertake DFID joint funded projects. In addition, students struggle to get the opportunity to study in the UK due to the high cost of living. On the other hand there is an abundance of students going to the US and Canada. These students will then move abroad resulting in a significant skills gap for the country. This is despite it being prohibited to leave unless you have worked for a minimum of 3 years within a specific field. However such a policy is impossible to monitor and enforce.

4.63 At a meeting with the President of Trinidad & Tobago, he pointed out that something had been lost to Caribbean students because of the University of the West Indies movement towards a greater generalisation of courses. In the past, if you wanted to study Medicine you had to leave Jamaica to study in Trinidad, and if you wanted to study law you had to go to Jamaica. This loss of specialisation has weakened a Caribbean cross-cultural fertilisation, reinforcing nationalisation over possible Caribbean integration. As Chancellor of the University of Trinidad & Tobago, he highlighted what was once a beacon of federalism, UWI had lost its way.

4.64 92 percent of students receive free tuition as well as free post-graduate degrees for those that attain first class degrees. The academic staff noted that there is a considerably higher number of female graduates to male graduates. This Caribbean-wide issue is a notable problem especially

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<sup>27</sup> <http://moe.edu.tt/>



as there are fewer employment opportunities for female students. Trinidad & Tobago has a significant engineering sector, but needs to grow in a perceived female-friendly service sector.

4.65 The delegation met the Director of the Institute of International Relations, Professor. W. Andy Knight who spoke on the development of a new Diplomatic Academy of the Caribbean.<sup>28</sup> This new academy will, it is hoped, turn Trinidad & Tobago into a diplomatic hub in the region. It was noted by the Leader of the Delegation that the Foreign and Commonwealth Office in the UK has created its own Diplomatic Academy which could work with its Trinidad & Tobago equivalent in developing courses and programmes<sup>29</sup>. Such courses led to the discussion of promoting more online courses. UWI saw this as an avenue to explore further. It already provided such courses, but it would help in broadening its regional and global reach both in terms of students and academic partnerships.

**4.66 ACTION:** As part of its meeting with UWI, the delegation will communicate with relevant organisations to undertake the following actions:

- Communicate with the FCO Diplomatic Academy on its University of the West Indies equivalent and ways of developing further links.

#### 4.7 Corruption

4.70 Trinidad & Tobago is placed 85<sup>th</sup> in the global ranking of Transparency International's Corruption Perception Index. This is mid table position, both globally and within the Americas region.<sup>30</sup> Corruption is a big problem across the Caribbean. In the case of Trinidad & Tobago it is focused most prominently in the public sector and in particular in the awarding of contracts and procurement.<sup>31</sup> The most well-known case relates to contracts for the development of Piarco Airport. As outlined by the new Attorney General and Leader of the Opposition, public sector corruption remains a tough issue to tackle on small islands. It is difficult, especially for politicians to disassociate themselves from interested parties. However substantial progress has been made with legislation on procurement and tendering as well as campaign finance. In addition, the Integrity Commission<sup>32</sup> continues to fight corruption although it is perceived by the electorate as ineffective. The Minister of Works and Infrastructure felt that there should be a public tribunal which would look at various integrity cases. Trinidad & Tobago also recently launched a Caribbean chapter of the Global Organisation of Parliamentarians against Corruption<sup>33</sup>.

4.71 Whilst in Trinidad & Tobago, the delegation witnessed the continuing scandal related to accusations against the former Attorney General for witness tampering as well as a number of other scandals related to 'emailgate' and 'section 34'. There was a general feeling expressed by the Leader of the Opposition that such scandals detracted attention away from more important and pressing problems like gang and drug related crime.

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<sup>28</sup> <http://sta.uwi.edu/iir/academy.asp>

<sup>29</sup> [https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/402469/Diplomatic\\_Academy\\_launch\\_brochure\\_Jan\\_2015\\_FINAL.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/402469/Diplomatic_Academy_launch_brochure_Jan_2015_FINAL.pdf)

<sup>30</sup> <http://www.transparency.org/cpi2014>

<sup>31</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/overseas-business-risk-trinidad-tobago/overseas-business-risk-trinidad-tobago#bribery-and-corruption>

<sup>32</sup> <http://www.integritycommission.org.tt/>

<sup>33</sup> <http://www.ieynews.com/wordpress/parliamentarians-from-caribbean-launch-regional-network-to-fight-corruption/>



## 4.8 Relations with the UK

4.80 In all the meetings held, it was clear that relations between Trinidad & Tobago and the United Kingdom are positive and productive, however this relationship should not be taken for granted. The President expressed his gratitude to the UK Government's ongoing support to Trinidad & Tobago on the international stage, especially in respect to sponsoring judicial appointments. The President was eager for the UK to support Trinidad & Tobago in its willingness to host the Secretariat of the United Nations Arms Trade Treaty. He felt passionately that having the Secretariat in Trinidad & Tobago would go a long way to tackling a major issue in a country heavily effected by small arms use.

4.81 The British High Commission is active in supporting Trinidad & Tobago on a number of areas such as criminal justice via the joint Canada-UK Criminal Justice Adviser (CJA). The CJA works with key stakeholders in the criminal justice sector including the Ministry of Justice, Attorney General, Chief Justice, Director of Public Prosecutions, Commissioner of Police and the Director of the Financial Investigation Unit. The continued work of the CJA is providing a solid platform for much-needed reform across the criminal justice spectrum. The British Government is also active in tackling the drug trade by supporting the police and coastguard.

4.82 Although the reduction in the Air Passenger Duty has gone a long way in improving the public's perception of the UK, it was felt by the delegation that introducing any visa restrictions for visitors to the UK from Trinidad and Tobago will have a negative impact on relations. They felt that further work was needed on both sides to ensure a mutually beneficial outcome.

## 4.9 Relations with the Commonwealth

4.90 At the meeting with the President of Trinidad & Tobago there was a sense of disappointment with the Commonwealth Secretariat and the Commonwealth Heads of Government (CHOGM) on its lack of comment and condemnation on international crises. He highlighted the failure of the Secretary-General to issue statements on the downing of Malaysia Airlines flight MH17 or statements on countries that clearly flout the Commonwealth Charter.

4.92 Although there were some discussions on the Caribbean's candidate for the next Secretary-General, no clear indication was given despite the possibility of Rt Hon. Baroness Scotland QC and Sir Ronald Saunders standing. Since the delegation returned to the UK, CARICOM has failed to determine a single candidate to nominate.

## 4.10 Tobago

4.100 On the final day of the programme the delegation went to Tobago. Whilst there they met with Members of the House of Assembly. The House is not a law-making body but does have a budgetary and policy role centred on economic development, land management, tourism, agriculture and fisheries. It was clear that the Assembly does not wish to be viewed as a local government, as such they are neither members of the CPA or the CLGA. Currently all Assemblymen are comprised of the same party, the People's National Movement. In discussions, it was raised that Tobago seeks further autonomy from Trinidad and negotiations are ongoing, but there was no evidence from any Trinidadian interlocutors that this would be successful. The delegation felt that in the interim, Tobago should explore greater business rates which could augment their budget and economic autonomy, perhaps modelling it on the UK local authority system.



4.101 The delegation went to Scarborough General Hospital in Tobago. Recently opened, the hospital had been built with funding from China. The delegation were impressed by the high standards of care available on the Island. The hospital is vital for continued tourist investment, especially in providing emergency care for passing cruise liners. However there remained some concerns in managing tourist healthcare. Medical staff indicated that additional administrative support was needed in the repatriation of British tourists who travelled without appropriate insurance.

**4.102 ACTION:** As part of its meetings with the House of Assembly Presiding Officer, Mr Kelvin Charles the delegation will undertake the following actions:

- Review the possibility of a group of young Tobaggian politics students coming to Westminster in 2015 for a programme looking at the parliamentary origins of the Westminster System.
- Inform the High Commission of the issue related to repatriation for UK visitors.
- Explore what support UK local authorities could provide Tobago in further developing a rates system.

#### 4.11 Parliamentary & Constitutional Reform

4.110 The core aim and objectives of the programme was to examine the political structure, practices and reforms of the Parliament of Trinidad & Tobago. During the course of the week, the delegation met a number of parliamentarians who expressed a positive view of Parliament's current transition, many of which are mirrored in the UK. The most obvious is the refurbishment of the Red House, which as in the case of the UK Parliament, is in need of substantial structural preservation. Nevertheless it is the fundamental changes that relate to Parliament's procedural and structural reforms that are the most comprehensive. As part of a five year strategic plan designed with support of UNDP, the Parliament of Trinidad & Tobago will become far more autonomous institution than currently stands. There are plans underway to expand its scrutiny and administrative capacity to ensure greater separation from Government influence.<sup>34</sup> Some of the reforms mentioned by the Speaker and President of the Senate were:

- Parliamentarians are to become full-time salaried Members
- A movement towards a 'paperless' parliament
- Development of a Parliamentary Service Authority
- Coordination of a full parliamentary calendar with predetermined times for business
- Update of Standing Orders
- Greater pre and post legislative scrutiny supported by a new Legal Department
- Prime Minister's Question Time
- Creation of a Human Rights & Diversity Committee and Energy & Environment Committee as well as other newer Committees like the Foreign Affairs Committee
- Structured and uniform constituency relations offices
- Constituency development funds/programme

4.111 In addition to these parliamentary reforms, there are also constitutional changes afoot. The Constitutional Amendment Bill introduced in August 2014 will bring in three notable changes to the political landscape. Namely, a term limit for the Prime Minister, the right to recall MPs and a

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<sup>34</sup> Strategic plan of the Parliament of the Republic of Trinidad & Tobago 2013-18



required 50 percent majority vote for a chosen candidate at elections.<sup>35</sup> These proposed amendments have now been passed by both Chambers.

4.112 In discussions with some parliamentarians, the delegation noted the pressure that Members of Committees were now under due to recent reforms. Additional workload due to the increase in the number of Committee coupled with the part-time employment of Members made it difficult to prioritise work. Although there was a desire by Parliament to make parliamentarians fulltime, this was met with indifference by some who did not want to cease their other professional activities.

## 5. OUTCOMES & FOLLOW-UP ACTIVITIES

5.0 To continue the ongoing positive relationship with the Parliament of Trinidad & Tobago, CPA UK will offer a reciprocal inward visit to the UK Houses of Parliament following the General Election in May 2015. When planning the topical issues to cover in the reciprocal visit, CPA UK will liaise with UNDP to ensure issues covered are relevant to their ongoing work. CPA UK will also continue to invite participants to its Westminster Workshop in Malta in June, Westminster Seminar in November and thematic conferences later in the year.

5.1 At the meeting with the UNDP Programme Officers in Port of Spain, CPA UK offered ongoing assistance to UNDP to support the Parliament in its ongoing strategic development. To that end Ms Jessica Mulley, Head of the Scrutiny Unit participated in a roundtable with Trinidadian Parliamentarians on post-legislative scrutiny in March 2015.

5.2 Following its meeting with Gregory Delzin in Port of Spain, CPA UK will organise a Lunchtime Lecture on the Death Penalty in the Caribbean in July 2015. Its purpose will be to engage newly elected UK parliamentarians on the complex issues within the region.

5.3 CPA UK will ensure the listed actions stated throughout the report will be carried out in a timely manner and will monitor further follow-up activities that occur as a result. Where applicable liaising with a nominated Member of the delegation after the May 2015 election.

5.4 Following the visit to Tobago, CPA UK will continue its engagement with the House of Assembly and the Ministry of Tobago Development in engaging young people in the political and parliamentary process. CPA UK will assist Baroness Benjamin OBE in her proposed visit to Tobago in mid-2015.

5.5 Provide possible support to the FCO on a forthcoming Wilton Park Conference on “Caribbean 2030: new thinking for a new generation” which takes place in June. CPA UK will assist in sourcing a parliamentary speaker.

## 6. FUNDING BREAKDOWN

6.0 CPA UK allocated £30,000 to cover the costs of the programme. Spending totalled £21,750.00 resulting in an under-spend of £8,250.00.

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<sup>35</sup> <http://www.ttparliament.org/legislations/b2014h18g.pdf>



## 7. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

7.0 CPA UK on behalf of the delegation would like to thank and acknowledge the Parliament of Trinidad & Tobago for putting together a highly informative, enjoyable and packed programme. In addition, they must be thanked for keeping the programme together through a politically challenging period.

7.1 CPA UK would also like to express its thanks to the Acting British High Commissioner Charles Moore, Fiona Grant and the High Commission team as well as the FCO team in London for their support throughout the visit.

7.2 Finally, CPA UK are grateful to the Tobago House of Assembly for their time and hospitality.

## 8. ABOUT CPA UK

8.0 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 further information on the programme please contact: Matthew Salik, Americas, Caribbean & Europe Programme Manager, CPA UK. Email address: [matthew.salik@parliament.uk](mailto:matthew.salik@parliament.uk)



## ANNEX A

### FINAL PROGRAMME

FRIDAY 30 JANUARY		
17:30	Arrival of Baroness Scott - met by Parliamentary Official and escorted to Hyatt Hotel	
SUNDAY 1 FEBRUARY - ARRIVAL DAY		
17:30	Arrival of Delegation (not including Baroness Scott & Baroness Stern) - Collected by the Parliament Protocol Team	Piarco Airport
18:00	<i>Driven to meeting with the Acting High Commissioner</i>	
18:00	<i>Baroness Scott to be collected at the Hyatt and taken to Residence</i>	
18:15	<b>Briefing with the Mr Charles Moore, Acting High Commissioner</b>	HC Residence
19:30	<i>Depart for Hyatt Hotel</i>	
23:20	Arrival of Baroness Stern at Piarco Airport - Taken to Hyatt Hotel	
MONDAY 2 FEBRUARY - DAY 1		
07:30	Breakfast at the Hotel - Briefing for Delegation	
08:30	<i>Depart Hotel for Parliament</i>	
08:45	<b>Courtesy Call on Sen. the Hon. Timothy Hamel-Smith, President of the Senate and Hon. Wade Mark, MP, Speaker of the House</b>	Diplomatic Reception Lounge - Level 2, Office of the Parliament
09:20	<i>Depart Parliament for the Environmental Management Authority</i>	
09:30	<b>Meeting with the Environmental Management Authority on the issue of Climate Change: Its impact on Trinidad and Tobago</b>	8 <sup>th</sup> St Elizabeth Street, St Clair, PoS
11:45	<i>Depart Environmental Management Authority</i>	
12:00	<b>Welcome Lunch at Chaud Restaurant hosted by Hon. Wade Mark, MP, Speaker of the House</b>  <i>Sen. Hon. Raziah Ahmed, Minister for Gender, Youth and Child Development (Currently President of the Senate)</i> <i>Hon. Chandresh Sharma MP</i> <i>Hon. Senator Anthony Vieira</i>	6 Nook Avenue, St Ann's
13:15	<i>Depart for Meeting with the Trinidad and Tobago Meteorological Services</i>	
14:00	<b>Meeting with the Trinidad and Tobago Meteorological Services Climate Change: Steps being taken in Trinidad and Tobago and the United Kingdom to curb its effects</b>	Meteorological Office, Piarco
17:00	<i>Return to the Hotel</i>	
	<i>Free evening</i>	
TUESDAY 3 FEBRUARY - DAY 2		
08:00	<i>Breakfast in the Hotel</i>	
08:45	<i>Depart Hotel for Parliament</i>	
09:00	<b>Meeting with the Coalition of Against Domestic Violence</b>  <i>Ms Diana Mahabir-Wyatt</i>	Level 2, Committee Room
10:40	<i>Return to Hotel</i>	
12:00	<b>Lunch with the Speaker of the House at the Members' Dining Room</b>	Parliament
13:00	<i>Depart for British Gas, Trinidad &amp; Tobago</i>	
13:45	<b>Meeting with Officials at British Gas Trinidad and Tobago</b>	BG House, 5 St Clair Ave, PoS
15:15	<i>Depart venue</i>	
15:30	<b>Meeting with Sen. Hon. Larry Howai, Minister of Finance and the Economy</b>	Eric Williams Finance Building, Indep Square



16:30	<i>Return to the Hotel</i>	
18:45	<i>Depart Hotel for Dinner</i>	Hyatt Hotel
19:00	<b>Dinner hosted by the Mr Charles Moore, Acting High Commissioner to Trinidad &amp; Tobago</b>  Hon. Justice Ivor Archie, <i>Chief Justice</i> Sen. Helen Drayton Colm Imbert MP Hon. Sen. Garvin Nicholas, <i>Attorney General</i> Ms. Frances Seignoret, <i>Acting Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs</i>	HC Residence
21:00	<i>Depart for Hotel</i>	
<b>WEDNESDAY 4 FEBRUARY - DAY 3</b>		
07:00	<i>Breakfast at Hotel</i>	Hyatt Hotel
07:50	<i>Depart Hotel</i>	
08:00	<b>Meeting with the Minister of Gender, Youth and Child Development</b>  <i>Hon. Clifton De Coteau MP, Minister of Gender, Youth and Child Development</i> <i>Hon. Stacy Roopnarine MP, Minister of State</i>	Tower D, Waterfront Complex
09:00	<i>Depart Office</i>	
09:05	<b>Interview with the Parliament Channel</b>	
09:45	<b>Meeting with LGBT Civil Society Organisations</b>  Luke Sinnette, <i>Executive Member of Friends for Life (FFL)</i>	Hyatt Lobby
11:00	<i>Depart for the Office of the Leader of the Opposition</i>	
11:15	<b>Courtesy call on the Hon. Dr Keith Rowley MP, Leader of the Opposition</b>	Opposition Caucus Room, Level 6, Parliament
12:15	<i>Depart Office of the Leader of the Opposition</i>	
12:30	<b>Lunch at the Hotel</b>	
12:30	<b>Meeting with Hon. Winston Dookeran MP, Minister of Foreign Affairs &amp; Mr Mark Simmonds MP, Leader of the Delegation</b>	
13:30	<b>Joint Meeting with the Attorney-General and the Minister of Justice on the matters of:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Crime, Justice in the Trinidad and Tobago context</li> <li>• Drug Trafficking</li> <li>• Caribbean Court of Justice</li> </ul> Hon.Sen Garvin Nicholas, <i>Attorney General</i> Hon. Prakash Ramadhar MP, <i>Minister of Justice</i>	J. Maurice Hamilton Room, Mezzanine Floor, Parliament
14:45	<i>Return to the Hotel</i>	
19:00	<i>Free evening</i>	
<b>THURSDAY 5 FEBRUARY - DAY 4</b>		
07:00	<i>Breakfast at the Hotel</i>	
07:45	<i>Depart Hotel</i>	
08:00	<b>Meeting with the Witness &amp; Victim Support Unit, Trinidad &amp; Tobago Police Service</b>  Ms Margaret Sampson-Browne, <i>Manager</i>	Arnold Thomasos East, Level 6
08:45	<i>Depart Parliament for the University of the West Indies</i>	
09:15	<b>Meeting with officials of the University of the West Indies including CARIRI and tour of the University and question and answer session with a cross-section of undergraduate students</b>	University of West Indies
12:00	<i>Lunch hosted by the University of West Indies</i>	
13:10	<i>Depart University</i>	
13:30	<b>Meetings with officials of the Invest Trinidad &amp; Tobago on</b>	The Atrium, Don



	investment opportunities in T&T	Miguel Road, El Socorro
14:45	<i>Depart Invest Trinidad &amp; Tobago</i>	
15:00	Courtesy Call on HE Anthony Carmona, President of the Republic of Trinidad & Tobago	Office of the President, St Ann's
16:40	<i>Depart for Hotel</i>	
18:45	<i>Depart for Cultural Dinner</i>	
19:00	<i>Cultural Dinner hosted by the Presiding Officers</i>	The Anchorage Beach Club, Harts Cut, Chaguaramas
21:00	<i>Depart for Hotel</i>	
<b>FRIDAY 6 FEBRUARY - DAY 5</b>		
08:00	<b>Breakfast meeting with Mr Gregory Delzin, Greater Caribbean for Life - on the Death Penalty in Trinidad &amp; Tobago</b>	Hyatt
08:45	<i>Depart Hotel</i>	
09:00	<b>Meeting with the Sen. Hon. Kevin C. Ramnarine, Minister of Energy</b>	T C, Waterfront Complex
10:45	<i>Depart Ministry</i>	
11:00	<b>Meeting with the Hon. Dr Tim Gopeesingh, Minister of Education</b>	St Clair Ave
11:45	<i>Depart the Ministry</i>	
12:00	<i>Lunch at Mangoes</i>	Ariapata Ave
13:15	<i>Depart for the Chamber</i>	Parliament
13:30	<i>Baroness Stern depart to catch 15:35 Flight</i>	
13:30	<b>View sitting of the House of Representatives - Questions to Ministers</b>	Parliament
14:00	<i>Depart Chamber</i>	Parliament
14:50	<b>Meeting with the Hon. Dr Surujrattan Rambachnan, Minister of Works and Infrastructure, Hon. Dr H. Lincoln Douglas MP, Minister of the Arts and Multiculturalism and Ms Nela Khan, Deputy Speaker of the House</b>	Diplomatic Room, Level 2
15:40	<b>Interview with Imagine Media on Parliamentary Scrutiny with Baroness Scott &amp; Mr Andrew Rosindell MP</b>	Parliament
16:30	<i>Depart Parliament for Hotel</i>	
18:45	<i>Depart Hotel for BPTT Renagades Panyards</i>	
19:00	<i>Informal reception hosted by BPTT at BPTT Renagades Panyard</i>	Charlotte Street, POS
20:30	<i>Return to Hotel</i>	
<b>SATURDAY 7 FEBRUARY - DAY 6 - DEPARTURE DAY</b>		
08:30	<i>Depart Piarco airport for Tobago</i>	Piarco Airport
08:50	<i>Arrive Tobago</i>	ANR Robinson
09:25	<b>Breakfast meeting hosted by Chief Secretary, Hon. Orville London and the Presiding Officer, Mr Kelvin Charles and the Leader of House Business, Mrs Claudia Groome-Duke</b>	Magdalena Hotel
10:20	<b>Visit to St Patrick's Anglican Church</b>	Mount Pleasant
10:45	<b>Tour of Scarborough General Hospital</b>	Scarborough
11:00	<b>Brief visit to Fort James</b>	Plymouth
11:30	<b>Visit to the Tobago House of Assembly</b>	Scarborough
13:00	<i>Lunch</i>	
15:15	<i>Depart for the Airport</i>	ANR Robinson
16:25	<i>Depart Tobago</i>	
17:00	<i>Transit at Piarco Airport</i>	Piarco Airport
19:45	<i>Depart for London</i>	
<b>SUNDAY 8 FEBRUARY</b>		
09:00	Arrive Gatwick Airport	Gatwick



ANNEX B

Map of Trinidad & Tobago



## ANNEX C

### Trinidad & Tobago - Delegation Biographies

#### Mr Mark Simmonds MP - *Leader of the Delegation*

##### *Member of Parliament for Boston and Skegness (Conservative)*



Mark was elected to Parliament in 2001. He was appointed Parliamentary Private Secretary to the Shadow Foreign Secretary Rt. Hon. Michael Ancram MP QC. Mark has been a member of a number of committees including Education and Environmental Audit. Between 2001 and 2010 he held the posts of Shadow Minister for Education, Foreign Affairs, International Development and Health.

After the 2010 General Election, he was appointed Parliamentary Private Secretary to the Rt Hon Caroline Spelman MP, Secretary of State at DEFRA and in 2012 he was made a Minister in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office. His portfolio included Africa, the Caribbean, Overseas Territories, protocol, consular services, conflict, international energy and climate change. He held this post until 2014.

Before entering Parliament, Mark Simmonds was elected onto Wandsworth Borough Council for the Southfield Ward in Putney in 1990 where he remained until 1994.

#### Ms Diane Abbott MP

##### *Member of Parliament for Hackney North and Stoke Newington (Labour)*



In 1987 Diane Abbott made history by becoming the first black woman ever elected to the British Parliament. She has since built a distinguished career as a parliamentarian, broadcaster and commentator.

When she left Cambridge University Diane joined Government as a Home Office Civil Servant. She went on to work for the lobby group the National Council for Civil Liberties, then she became a journalist. She worked extensively as a freelancer and she went on to work as a reporter for the breakfast television company TV-AM and Thames Television. And she also worked as a public relations consultant for various public sector clients.

In May 2010 Diane was re-elected in her constituency of Hackney North and Stoke Newington, and doubled her majority on an increased turn-out. In June 2010, she made the ballot for the Labour leadership contest and took part in the summer long campaign to elect the next Labour leader. Although her campaign did not yield the leadership position, she was nonetheless propelled to the front benches as shadow Public Health Minister.

Diane has served on a number of parliamentary committees on social and international issues. She was also elected on to the National Executive of the Labour Party. For most of the 1990's she also served on the Treasury Select Committee of the House of Commons. She went on to serve on the Foreign Affairs Select Committee. Most recently she has set up a special parliamentary committee investigating gun crime. She currently Chair's the All-Party Parliamentary Group on the British Caribbean and the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Jamaica



## Mr Andrew Rosindell MP

### *Member of Parliament for Romford (Conservative)*



Andrew is the Member of Parliament for the constituency of Romford in Essex, having first been elected to Parliament in 2001. Having served as both an Opposition Whip and Shadow Home Affairs Minister, in June 2010 Andrew was selected to serve as a member of the Foreign Affairs Select Committee. He also chairs the British-Canadian, Australia & New Zealand (ANZAC) and British Overseas Territories All Party Parliamentary Groups. Further, he was appointed as a Governor of the Westminster Foundation for Democracy in July 2010 by Foreign Secretary, The Rt Hon. William Hague MP.

Known as one of Westminster's more patriotic MPs, He is a strong campaigner, successfully for the Union Flag to be flown constantly from the Houses of Parliament above Victoria Tower. He also takes a special interest in St. George's Day and has campaigned for it to be a national holiday much like Ireland and Australia, who proactively celebrate their national days with bank holidays and festivities.

Before entering Parliament, Andrew's interest in politics started at a very young age and he joined the Conservative Party at the age of 14. By the age of 16, he was elected Chairman of the Romford Young Conservatives. He became a councillor in the Chase Cross Ward, in the London Borough of Havering in 1990 and by 1998, he achieved the highest Conservative vote share in London - 88 per cent.

## Baroness Scott of Needham Market

### *Member of the House of Lords (Liberal Democrat)*



On 11 May 2000, Rosalind Scott was created a life peer as Baroness Scott of Needham Market, of Needham Market in the County of Suffolk. In the House of Lords she has been Spokesperson for Communities and Local Government and President of the Liberal Democrat Party. Since 2000 she has been a Member of many Committees ranging from Liaison, Communications and the European Union. She is currently Chair of the EU Sub Committee D - Agriculture, Fisheries, Environment and Energy.

Outside of Parliament, Rosalind Scott has been a Councillor in Suffolk (1991 - 2005) and sat on the Board of the Audit Commission, Lloyds Register, ITV and Entrust. She is currently Chair of the England Volunteering Development Council and a Trustee of the Industry and Parliament Trust.

## Baroness Howells of St Davids OBE

### *Member of the House of Lords (Labour)*

Rosalind Howells OBE was raised to Baroness Howells of St Davids, of Charlton in the London Borough of Greenwich on 21 July 1999. The name St Davids refers to the parish in Grenada where she was brought up. Prior to entering the House of Lords, Baroness Howells has been an active community campaigner. She has been Director of the Greenwich Racial Equality Council as well as a





Community and Equal Opportunities Worker. Currently she is a trustee of the Stephen Lawrence Charitable Trust, St George’s University’s UK Trust and on the board of the Windward Islands Research and Education Foundation (WINDREF), the research institute situated on St George’s University’s True Blue campus. In March 2009 she was inaugurated as the Chancellor of the University of Bedfordshire.

Baroness Howells was the first black woman to sit on the GLC’s Training Board; the first female member of the Court of Governors of the University of Greenwich and was the Vice Chair at the London Voluntary Services Council. She has worked with the Carnival Liaison Committee, and the Greater London Action in Race Equality and has been an active campaigner for justice in the field of race relations. She is a Trustee of the Jason Roberts Foundation, which aims to provide a range of sporting opportunities for children and young people in the UK and Grenada.

### **Baroness Stern CBE**

*Member of the House of Lords (Crossbencher)*



Baroness Vivien Stern has been a Crossbench (independent) Peer since 1999 and was a member of the Parliamentary Joint Committee on Human Rights from 2004 to 2008. From 1999 to 2003 she was a member of the House of Lords European Select Committee. In 2010 she became a member of the Joint Committee on Statutory Instruments. In September 2009 she was appointed by the UK Government to lead a review of how rape complaints are handled from when a rape is first disclosed until the court reaches a verdict and the Review was published in March 2010.

She Chairs the All Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) on the Abolition of the Death Penalty and is a Vice-Chair of several APPGs including Domestic and Sexual Violence and Drug Policy Reform and is Treasurer of the APPG on Women in the Penal System. She is a member of Parliamentarians for Global Action.

Outside Parliament Baroness Stern is a Visiting Professor at the Human Rights Centre, University of Essex. She is a patron of several charities including the Venture Trust, the Prisoners’ Education Trust, and Clean Break. She lists her political interests as criminal justice, foreign affairs, human rights, international development, penal reform, and prisons, and has written several books, including *Creating Criminals: prisons and people in a market society*; *Bricks of Shame: Britain’s prisons*; *Failures in Penal Policy*; *Imprisoned by Our Prisons: a programme for reform* (Fabian Series); *The Prisons We Deserve* and *A Sin Against the Future: imprisonment in the world*.

### **Mr Matthew Salik - Delegation Secretary**

*Americas, Caribbean and Europe Programme Manager, CPA UK*



Matthew has worked in the UK Parliament for 10 years. After working in the Department of Chamber and Committee Services he moved to the Office of the Chief Executive as a Communications Administrator working on the 2010 General Election. Matthew was seconded to the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association UK in 2010 where he was later appointed as the Private Secretary to the CPA International Chairperson, Rt Hon. Sir Alan Haselhurst MP. In 2013, he



moved permanently to CPA UK as a Senior International Relations Officer engaging with over twenty countries and territories across the Commonwealth, in particular British Overseas Territories. Since 2010, Matthew has worked on over forty international conferences, seminars and parliamentary visits and responsible for developing parliamentary bilateral and multilateral capacity programmes.

Matthew coordinated and developed the CPA BIMR Cayman Islands (2012) and Montserrat Election Observer Missions (2014).

