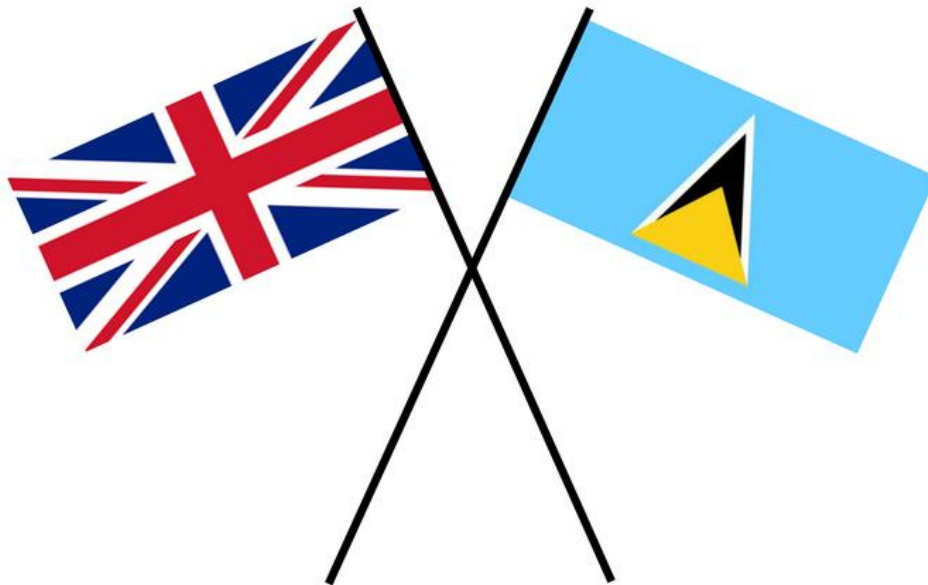


0426/REPORT/STL17

**Visit of the Speaker and Delegation from the House of Assembly of Saint Lucia**

**18-20 April 2017**

**Houses of Parliament, UK**



**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](http://www.uk-cpa.org)



## Summary

The project was a follow up activity to the St Lucia Parliamentary Forum delivered by CPA UK in February 2017. The Forum focussed on building the understanding and capacity of new St Lucian parliamentarians of parliamentary practice and procedure, and particularly the role of Parliament in holding the Executive to Account. This follow up project provided a platform for the Speaker and delegates from the House of Assembly of St Lucia to exchange experiences, advice and knowledge with UK parliamentarians and officials. Discussions covered areas including procedure and conduct in the Chamber, interpreting standing orders, the Westminster committee system and the Code of Conduct. The project also provided an opportunity for UK parliamentarians to build their understanding of the St Lucian political landscape, building sustainable relationships between St Lucian parliamentarians their counterparts in the UK.

## Project Overview

1.01. Following St Lucia's General Election on 6 June 2016, CPA UK delivered a Parliamentary Forum in partnership with the Parliament of St Lucia as an induction programme and training for new parliamentarians. The Forum took place from 14-16 February 2017 and was facilitated by Mary Robinson MP, Lord Faulkner of Worcester and Senator Wade Mark, Parliament of Trinidad and Tobago.

1.02. CPA UK is seeking to deepen the relationship between the Parliaments in the UK and St Lucia, providing ongoing support for new Members and staff. Following the Forum, CPA UK identified a number of priority areas for follow-up activities.

1.03. As the first of these activities, CPA UK hosted the Speaker of The House of Assembly of St Lucia, Hon. Leone Theodore-John MP, for a programme in the UK Parliament, from 18-20 April 2017. Madam Speaker was accompanied by Hon. Herod Stanislas MP, Minister in the Ministry of Economic Planning and Esmalene Cox, Deputy Clerk of the House of Assembly. The programme provided an overview of the parliamentary practices and procedures of the shared Westminster system, and built knowledge and relationships between the St Lucian delegation and their UK counterparts.

## Project Aim & Objectives

2.01. **Aim:** To provide a platform for further engagement between the UK Parliament and Parliament of St Lucia through knowledge sharing and understanding of parliamentary practice and procedure, with a specific focus on the role of the Speaker.

2.02. **Objectives:**

- a. Provide an opportunity for delegates to develop a deeper understanding of the practices and procedures of the Westminster parliamentary system through meetings with staff of both Houses and observation of the Chamber during debates.





- b. Facilitate opportunities to exchange good practice between the St Lucian delegation and their UK counterparts, with respect to behaviour in the Chamber, parliamentary administration and the committee system.
- c. Provide an opportunity for the delegates to network with UK parliamentarians and officials and strengthen bilateral ties.

## Participants & Key Stakeholders

3.01. Members of the St Lucia Parliament, including the Speaker of the House of Assembly, UK Parliamentarians and officials.

## Key Issues

### Maintaining the independence and impartiality of the Speaker

4.01. Maintaining the independence of the Speaker was a key issue throughout the programme; the Speaker of The House of Assembly noted that there had been differing interpretations of parliamentary procedure in Parliament and this had impacted on the perceived position and independence of the Speaker. The Speaker explained that there was a difficulty in understanding the importance of the neutrality of the Speaker by both Members of the Government and Members of the Opposition. In this sense, the programme proved to be very timely as it allowed various opportunities for the Speaker to discuss the challenges faced in St Lucia, how they compare to the House of Commons, how they were handled, and the way forward.

4.02. The Speaker had a working lunch with the Chairman of Ways and Means, Rt Hon. Lindsay Hoyle MP and the First Deputy Chairman of Ways and Means, Eleanor Laing MP, to discuss issues relating to the role of the Speaker, good practice and advice on overcoming challenges related to the role. A meeting with David Natzler, Clerk of the House of Commons, provided an opportunity for an exchange of experiences related to the impartiality of parliamentary staff. As a senior official, Mr Natzler advised that it was sometimes difficult to maintain a perception of neutrality. However, Mr Natzler advised of the importance of confidence in good decision making regardless of perceived partiality.

### Mechanism of support for the Speaker

4.03. The session with the Office of the Speakers Counsel allowed the Speaker to discuss Standing Orders and how they are interpreted. Saira Salimi, Speaker's Counsel, and Daniel Greenberg, Counsel for Domestic Legislation, interpreted certain areas of the St Lucia Standing Orders with the Speaker and Deputy Clerk of Parliament. Practical advice was provided to the Speaker on providing opportunities to the Opposition to discuss motions if Government were to do something unusual, such as withdrawing legislation. The delegation was advised how the Opposition can call for an Adjournment motion to discuss an Urgent Question. Mr Greenberg explained how Urgent Questions are a tool that the current Speaker of





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the House of Commons has used more widely to empower backbench and Opposition Members to hold Government Ministers to account.

## The Role of the Opposition

4.04. The delegation highlighted how in St Lucia, there is not a clear or systematic way to give Members of the Opposition the opportunity to make statements. Rt Hon. David Hanson MP led a session on the Role of the Opposition which provided the delegates with a perspective on the Westminster parliamentary system, the particularities of how the offices of Members of the Opposition are run and funded, and how a clever Opposition will find ways to get Government MPs to support particular votes. In contrast to the St Lucia parliamentary system, it was highlighted that there are a certain number of Opposition day debates and an automatic right of reply for shadow ministers/spokesperson.

## The role of MPs in scrutinising the Executive

4.05. The UK's committee system is a robust way for MPs to scrutinise the Executive. Madam Speaker noted that the committee system in St Lucia could function more effectively. No committee meetings have taken place since the elections due to problems in reaching quorums for committees. The session with Crispin Poyser, Principal Clerk of Committees, provided an overview of the committee system in Westminster. The delegates found the session particularly insightful, having discussed with Mr Poyser alternative ways to overcome the challenges faced within the committee system in the St Lucia Parliament. For instance, to address the issue of difficulty of establishing quorum, and given that St Lucia has a small Legislature, file a motion in full Parliament to discuss committee matters was suggested in order to establish a practical way forward in the current context.

4.06. During the session with Ed Beale, Clerk of the Backbench Business Committee, it was highlighted by the delegation that there are no Government backbench Members in St Lucia as all members of the governing party are Ministers. The delegation was intrigued by the dynamics in the House of Commons Chamber and appreciated the insight Mr Beale provided on the role of backbenchers and the success that the Committee has had in providing a voice to backbench MPs.

## Prime Ministers Questions

4.07. Rt Hon. David Hanson MP provided a briefing on Prime Ministers Questions (PMQs) and the delegation subsequently observed PMQs. The delegation was impressed with the practice of PMQs and expressed a wish to introduce a similar session in the House of Assembly. The briefing prior to observing PMQs had made understanding and following the procedures during the session much easier.

## Parliamentary Standards





4.08. Kathryn Hudson, Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards, provided a perspective on the role of the Office of the Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards and its relation to the Committee on Standards. The process of registering financial interests for MPs and the issue of conflict of interests were highlighted by Ms Hudson. The delegation was interested to hear that a new Code of Conduct is being developed is aimed to be more accessible and easy to read. The delegation indicated the significance of this session because they have plans to develop a Code of Conduct for the Parliament of St Lucia in the upcoming years.

## St Lucia - UK Relations

4.09. The programme provided a welcome opportunity for UK parliamentarians to engage with the delegation. The delegation met with representatives from the St Lucia All Party Parliamentary Group (APPG), Geoffrey Clifton-Brown MP (Chair), Rt Hon. Diane Abbott MP (President) and David Lammy MP (Vice Chair). A number of discussions took place including prospects for UK-Caribbean trade, Brexit and its implications, and the UK's role in St Lucia. Mr Clifton-Brown was particularly interested in the role of the UK Department for International Development (DfID) in St Lucia. The UK representatives raised the issue of scholarships and advocate for St Lucia students undertaking studies in the UK as opposed to the US or Canada; the meeting with FCO representatives highlighted the opportunities available for UK scholarships such as Chevening.

## Results of the Project

5.01. Continued engagement between the UK and St Lucia, in particular between those parliamentarians who took part in the St Lucia Parliamentary Forum, facilitated a refreshed bilateral relationship, with indications that exchange between delegates and UK speakers will continue beyond the programme with further meetings planned and other support and wider engagement was offered by UK counterparts.

5.02. Feedback from the delegation was that sessions were informative and enlightening, with the meetings with various UK parliamentarians and officials enhancing their understanding of the practices and procedures of the Westminster parliamentary system and, in particular, behaviour in the Chamber and the role of the Speaker and Clerks. The delegation noted that the programme had provided them with means to tackle the challenges that they face in their respective roles as well as a chance to consider ways to further enhance the effectiveness of the St Lucia Parliament.

5.03. Specifically, Madam Speaker indicated her will to improve/initiate three key aspects:

1. Enhance the effectiveness of the St Lucia committee system
2. Develop a Code of Conduct for the St Lucia Parliament
3. Introduce a session similar to Prime Minister's Question Time in the House of Assembly. Hon. Herod Stanislas MP affirmed his willingness to be champion within government for this initiative as he identified it to be a platform for government to promote its policies as well as being accounted for.





5.04. The visit also resulted in further follow up programming to be agreed, as detailed in section 7.

### **Total Budget**

6.01. The total budget of the programme was shared between the British High Commission Bridgetown and CPA UK.

### **Next Steps**

### **Committee System**

7.01. CPA UK proposes future engagement with the Parliament of St Lucia relating to committee systems and oversight and scrutiny. This reaffirms a key area that was identified as a priority to develop during the CPA UK and Parliament of St Lucia Parliamentary Forum delivered in Castries February 2017. Enhancing the effectiveness of the committee system in St Lucia was recognised as a key area where CPA UK can facilitate a targeted programme in partnership with the Parliament of St Lucia, utilising resources and knowledge from the UK's committee system as well as small legislatures similar to St Lucia's. To ensure that the programme will deliver the required objectives, CPA UK staff will liaise with the Parliament of St Lucia to scope the most suitable options going forward.

### **Code of Conduct**

7.02. Madam Speaker highlighted that her team are looking to develop a Code of Conduct for the Parliament of St Lucia together with the CPA Caribbean Americas and Atlantic Region. CPA UK staff will liaise with Madam Speaker to identify how CPA UK may assist and support this process.

### **Prime Ministers Questions**

7.03. The delegation noted that it was their wish to move to introduce a Prime Minister's Question Time style session into their Parliament. If this is confirmed, CPA UK will be happy work to facilitate support by sharing knowledge and experiences of the UK system, particularly in relation to processes. For example, through the provision of technical advice and knowledge sharing between the Clerk of the House of Assembly and Clerks from the Table Office in the UK Parliament.

### **Acknowledgements**

8.01. CPA UK would first like to thank the House of Assembly of St Lucia and the St Lucia delegation for their part in the programme and all the UK contributors for their time and effort. CPA UK wishes to also extend its thanks and appreciation to the British High Commission Barbados and St Lucia for their part in funding the programme.







## Full Delegate List

The St Lucia delegation to Westminster included:

1. Hon. Leonne Theodore-John MP, Speaker of the House of Assembly, Saint Lucia
2. Hon. Herod Stanislas MP, Minister in the Ministry of Economic Planning, St Lucia
3. Esmalene Cox, Deputy Clerk of Parliament, Saint Lucia

## Full Programme

<b>Arrival Day: Monday 17 April</b>		
0855	<i>Arrive Gatwick Airport and meet airport transfer to travel to Park Plaza Westminster Bridge</i>	
<b>Day One: Tuesday 18 April</b>		
0945	Enter Houses of Parliament, Portcullis House entrance, Victoria Embankment  <i>Met by Rachael Atkins, Americas, Caribbean, Europe and UK Overseas Territories Programme Manager</i>	<i>Portcullis House, Houses of Parliament</i>
1000-1100	<b>Meeting with members of the Caribbean All Party Parliamentary Group, Geoffrey Clifton-Brown MP (Chair) and Rt Hon. Diane Abbott MP (President) and Rt Hon. David Lammy MP</b>  All Party Parliamentary Groups are cross-party groupings of MPs and Peers related to their interest in, or support in raising awareness of a particular country or issue. The session will provide the opportunity to discuss political and thematic issues and the relationship between the UK, St Lucia and other Caribbean legislatures.	<i>IPU Room</i>
1100-1120	<i>Coffee</i>	<i>IPU Room</i>
1120-1220	<b>The Role of the Opposition and the Shadow Cabinet with Rt Hon. David Hanson MP</b>  This session aims to introduce the concept of questions in the Chamber to scrutinize the government on policy and practices.  This session will explore the role of the UK Shadow Cabinet in scrutinizing government policy and practices. It will examine the role of the opposition as well as the role of members of the government's political party members in holding the government to account. It will also highlight how questions in the Chamber are used a way for concerns regarding the impact of policy on constituencies and constituents can be raised.	<i>IPU Room</i>



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1220-1250	<b>Observe Westminster Hall Debate</b>  The session will allow delegates an opportunity to view the debates that take place in Westminster Hall. The debate will be on 'The Child Maintenance Service'.	<i>House of Commons Chamber, Houses of Parliament</i>
1300-1430	<b>Working Lunch with Chairman of Ways and Means, Rt Hon. Lindsay Hoyle MP, and First Deputy Chairman of Ways and Means, Eleanor Laing MP</b>  This is an opportunity for an informal exchange of knowledge and experience between the St Lucian delegation and the Chairman of Ways and Means (Deputy Speaker), and the First Deputy Chair of Ways and Means (Deputy Speaker).	<i>The Adjournment</i>
1440-1455	<b>Meeting and welcome from CPA UK Deputy Chief Executive / Head of Strategy &amp; Business Development, Helen Haywood</b>	Chief Executive's Office
1500-1600	<b>Meeting with Mike Hennessy, Principal Clerk, the Table Office</b>  The Table Office assists Members in tabling Parliamentary Questions (PQs) and Early Day Motions (EDMs). The Office also co-ordinates clerk support in the Chamber and Westminster Hall, and produces the House's Order Paper and associated business papers for each day's sitting. The session will give delegates the opportunity to discuss conduct in the Chamber and develop an understanding of the rules of debate in Westminster.	<i>IPU Room</i>
1600-1615	<i>Tea</i>	<i>IPU Room</i>
<i>End of Day One</i>		
<b>Day Two: Wednesday 19 April</b>		
0910	Enter Houses of Parliament, Portcullis House entrance, Victoria Embankment  <i>Met by Zahra Soolagh, Programme Officer, CPA UK</i>	<i>Portcullis House, Houses of Parliament</i>
0925	<b>Tour of the Houses of Parliament</b>	<i>Westminster Hall</i>
1100-1130	<b>Briefing on Prime Minister's Questions with Rt Hon. David Hanson MP</b>  The session will give an overview of Prime Minister's Questions in the UK Parliament.	<i>CPA Room</i>
1145-1245	<b>View Prime Minister's Questions</b>  The session will allow delegates an opportunity to view weekly Prime Minister's Questions in the House of Commons Chamber, observing the practice, procedures, and customs of the Chamber.	<i>House of Commons Chamber, Houses of Parliament</i>





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1300-1400	<b>Lunch with Mary Robinson MP</b> An opportunity to have an informal lunch with Mary Robinson MP, who took part on behalf of the UK Parliament in the Parliamentary Forum in St Lucia, February 2017.	<i>The Adjournment</i>
1415-1515	<b>Meeting with Clerk of the House of Commons, David Natzler</b>  The Clerk of the House is the principal constitutional adviser to the House, and adviser on all its procedure and business, including Parliamentary privilege. This session will provide an insight to the role of the Clerk of the House of Commons and his relationship with the Speaker, MPs and House staff.	<i>CPA Room</i>
1515-1530	<i>Tea</i>	
1530-1630	<b>Meeting with Saira Salimi and Daniel Greenberg, the Office of the Speaker's Counsel</b>  The Office of Speaker's Counsel (OSC) gives legal advice to Mr Speaker, the Clerk and all the departments of the House. This session will give delegates an insight on the nature of the legal advice received, with a focus on particular areas of contention.	<i>CPA Room</i>
<i>End of Day Two</i>		
<b>Day Three: Thursday 20 April</b>		
0945	Enter Houses of Parliament, Portcullis House entrance, Victoria Embankment <i>Met by Zahra Soolagh, Programme Officer, CPA UK.</i>	<i>Portcullis House, Houses of Parliament</i>
1000-1100	<b>Meeting with Alan Gogbashian, Paul Carter and Zaira Mohammed, Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO)</b>  The meeting will provide the opportunity to discuss political and thematic issues and the relationship between the UK, St Lucia and other Caribbean legislatures with representatives from the FCO.	<i>CPA Room</i>
1100-1115	<i>Coffee</i>	<i>CPA Room</i>
1120-1220	<b>Meeting with Ed Beale, Clerk of the Backbench Business Committee</b>  The Backbench Business Committee was the first business committee of any kind to be established by the House of Commons. It gives an opportunity to backbench Members to bring forward debates of their choice. This meeting will provide an insight into the way the committee functions.	<i>CPA Room</i>





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1230-1330	<b>Lunch with Lord Faulkner of Worcester</b>  An opportunity to have an informal lunch with Lord Faulkner of Worcester, who took part on behalf of the UK Parliament in the Parliamentary Forum in St Lucia, February 2017.	<i>CPA Room</i>
1330-1430	<b>Meeting with Crispin Poyser, Clerk of Committees</b>  Much of the work of the House of Commons and the House of Lords takes place in committees. This meeting will give an oversight to the Westminster Committees system and their management.	<i>CPA Room</i>
1430-1530	<b>Meeting with Kathryn Hudson, Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards</b>  The Office of the Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards deals with the application of the Code of Conduct and related Rules that apply to Members of Parliament. This meeting will provide an insight to the code of conduct that Members of the UK Parliament adhere to and the role of the Office of the Parliamentary Commissioner and Committee on Standards in the process.	<i>CPA Room</i>
1530-1545	<i>Tea</i>	<i>CPA Room</i>
1645-1705	<b>Programme debrief with CPA UK Staff</b>  This session will provide an opportunity to evaluate the programme and to discuss further support that can be provided by CPA UK.	<i>CPA Room</i>
<b><i>End of day 3</i></b>		





Speaker Biographies



**Geoffrey Clifton-Brown F.R.I.C.S. MP**  
*(Conservative)*

Since becoming an MP in 1992 Geoffrey Clifton-Brown MP has served as the Parliamentary Private Secretary to the Rt. Hon Douglas Hogg QC MP, the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Food; a Member of the Environment Select Committee and a Member of the Public Accounts House of Commons Select Committee. In October 2001, he was appointed a Shadow Frontbench Spokesman for Transport, Local Government & the Regions. In June 2002, he became a Shadow Minister for Local & Devolved Government Affairs. In March 2004, he was appointed as an Opposition Whip and in May 2005, he became Assistant Chief Whip. He is an active member of the Finance and Services Committee of the House since 2005.

When David Cameron was elected as Leader of the Conservative Party, Geoffrey was appointed the Shadow Minister for Trade & Foreign Affairs. Geoffrey was later appointed in 2007 the Shadow Minister for International Development and Trade with responsibility for encouraging inward investment, promoting British business overseas and the World Trade Organisation, a role in which he served until the 2010 General Election.

Between 2010 and 2015, Geoffrey was Chairman of the Conservative Party International Office, which saw him oversee all activity of the international wing of the party. This included the Westminster Foundation for Democracy, Conservative Friends of Groups, Conservatives Abroad, the Conservative Party’s Sister parties around the world and the AECR in Europe. He is the Vice-President of the ACRE.

He is currently Co-Chairman of the All Party Parliamentary Group for International Trade and Investment and Chairman of the All Party Parliamentary Group on Shooting and Conservation, a Board Member of the Conservative Party and an Executive Member of the 1922 Committee as well as Party Chairman of the Conservative Friends of The Chinese.



**Rt Hon. Diane Abbott MP**  
*(Labour)*

Diane Abbott was elected as Member for Hackney North and Stoke Newington in 1987 and was Britain's first black female MP. She contested the Labour leadership in 2010. MS Abbott served as Shadow Minister for Public Health (2010-13) and Shadow Secretary of State for International Development (2015-16). She was Shadow Secretary of State for Health from June 2016-October 2016, and is currently the Shadow Home Secretary.







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**Rt Hon. David Hanson MP**  
*(Labour)*

MP for Delyn since 1992, David Hanson has served as Minister of State for Northern Ireland (2005-07), Justice (2007-09) and the Home Office (2009-10). He has been Shadow Exchequer Secretary (2010-11), Shadow Minister for Policing (2011-13) and Shadow Minister for Immigration (2013-15). David previously served as the Parliamentary Private Secretary to Prime Minister Rt Hon. Tony Blair MP. He is also the Honorary Treasurer of the CPA UK Executive Committee.



**Rt Hon. Lindsay Hoyle MP**  
*(Labour)*

Lindsay Harvey Hoyle (born 10 June 1957) is a British Labour Party politician who has been the Member of Parliament for Chorley since 1997. He was a member of the House of Commons Trade and Industry Select Committee, later Business Innovation and Skills; along with the European Scrutiny Select Committee.

He was first elected Chairman of Ways and Means and Deputy Speaker on 8 June 2010, and was re-elected to the post following the 2015 General Election. As Chairman of Ways and Means, Deputy Speaker, he is the senior Deputy to the Speaker of the House of Commons. He is ultimately responsible for overseeing the Budget and any other Committee of the whole House. He also serves on the House of Commons Finance and Services Committee. He was appointed as a Member of her Majesty's Most Honourable Privy Council in March 2013.



**Eleanor Laing MP**  
*(Conservative)*

*Eleanor Laing is First Deputy Chairman of Ways and Means and Deputy Speaker of the House of Commons, a post she held since 2013. She has been a Conservative Member of Parliament for Epping Forest since 1997. In Opposition she served as Opposition Whip 1999-2000 and Opposition Spokesperson for: Constitutional Affairs and Scotland 2000-01, Education and Skills 2001-03, Shadow Minister for Children 2003, Women 2004-07, Shadow Secretary of State for Scotland 2005, Shadow*

*Minister for: Women and Equality 2005-07, Justice 2007-10. Under the Conservative Government she served as Special Representative to Gibraltar 2010-2013. Eleanor was a member of the Speakers' Working Group on All-Party Groups 2011-12, Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission. She has served on a number of *Select Committees including* Education and Employment 1997-98, Education and Employment (Employment Sub-Committee) 1997-98, Environment, Transport and Regional Affairs 1998-99, Environment, Transport and Regional Affairs (Transport Sub-Committee) 1998-99, Office of the Deputy*





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Prime Minister 2004-05, Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (Urban Affairs Sub-Committee) 2004-05, Political and Constitutional Reform 2010-2013, Joint Committee on Human Rights 2010, Joint Committee on the Draft House of Lords Reform Bill 2011-12, Joint Committee on Parliamentary Privilege 2013 and Scottish Affairs 2013. Her political interests include education, transport, economic policy, constitution and devolution.



**David Natzler**  
*Clerk of the House of Commons*

Mr David Natzler was appointed Under Clerk of the Parliaments (Clerk of the House of Commons) in March 2015.

David first entered the House Service in 1975. He has held a number of senior appointments within the Department of Chamber and Committee Services, incorporating the former Clerks' department.

During his career in the House Service David has been the Clerk to a number of Select Committees, including the Race Relations and Immigration Sub-Committee, the Social Services Committee, the Defense Committee, the Health Committee and the Trade and Industry Committee.

David has also worked in a number of roles in the House, including in the Table Office and Journal Office, as Secretary to the House of Commons Commission, the Clerk of the Committees, Clerk of Legislation and Clerk Assistant. David has been a Clerk at the Table since 2004.



**Saira Salimi**  
*Speaker's Counsel*

Saira Salimi has been Speaker's Counsel in the House of Commons since October 2016. She qualified as a solicitor in 2001 and worked till 2003 in private practice, specialising in personal tax and trusts. In 2003 she joined the Office of the Parliamentary Counsel, where she spent eight years working on a wide range of primary legislation, including several Finance Bills, legislation relating to gambling, fox hunting and energy regulation, and the Bill making provision for the London Olympic and Paralympic Games. In 2011 she moved to become Deputy Official Solicitor to the Church Commissioners, providing advice to the Commissioners on a range of issues, including charity and ecclesiastical law and governance matters, employment issues and other litigation. She was appointed Speaker's Counsel in the summer of 2016. She has contributed to a number of publications on statute law and is the Deputy Editor of the Statute Law Review.





**Daniel Greenberg**

*Counsel for Domestic Legislation*

Daniel Greenberg is a lawyer specialising in legislation and the legislative process. He served in the Lord Chancellor's Department from 1988 to 1991 and in the Office of the Parliamentary Counsel (UK) from 1991 to 2010. From 2010 to 2016 he was an adviser in the Office of Speaker's Counsel, House of Commons and a consultant Parliamentary Counsel at Berwin Leighton Paisner LLP. In August 2016 he was appointed Counsel for Domestic Legislation in the House of

Commons. He also serves as the General Editor of Westlaw UK Annotated Statutes and Insight Encyclopaedia. He drafts primary and subordinate legislation the UK, and has provided drafting and training services in Albania, Belfast, Cardiff, Edinburgh, Falkland Islands, Gibraltar, Isle of Man, Malaysia, Myanmar, South Georgia, Sri Lanka, the Solomon Islands and elsewhere. He is also the Editor of Craies on Legislation, Stroud's Judicial Dictionary and Jowitt's Dictionary of English Law, the Editor in Chief of the Statute Law Review, the Editor of in Halsbury's Laws on Statutes, and a contributing editor to the Oxford English Dictionary. He is an Associate Fellow of the Institute of Advanced Legal Studies, University of London, a teaching faculty member of the legislative drafting course of Athabasca University, a Visiting Professor at the University of Derby, a Director of the Constitution Reform Group and a Fellow of the Bingham Institute for the Rule of Law.



**Mike Hennessey**

*Principal Clerk, Table Office*

Mike Hennessey has been a Clerk in the House of Commons since October 1992. He currently works in the Table Office acting as Clerk to the Backbench Business Committee. 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).

**Paul Carter**

*Head of Caribbean Team*

Paul Carter is Head of the Caribbean Team at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office in London. A career diplomat, he has previously worked as Consul for Trade and Investment at the British Consulate in Shanghai, Head of the Economic Team at the British Embassy in Mexico City, and held numerous analytical and policy roles in London. He studied Economics at Lancaster University and the University of Toronto, and holds Individual Professional Qualifications in Macroeconomic Policy and Financial Markets, and International Finance.





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## Zaira Mohammed

*Desk Officer for Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean*

Zaira Mohammed is Desk Officer for Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office in London. She has previously worked as the Chancery Support Officer at the British High Commission in Georgetown, Desk Officer for Bahamas, Guyana and Suriname in the Caribbean Team, and has held a number of other policy and consular roles in London. She studied Egyptian Archaeology at University College London with a module on Caribbean Archaeology, and has a great interest in UK-Caribbean relations owing to her Caribbean parentage.



## Kathryn Hudson

*Commissioner for Standards*

Kathryn Hudson was appointed as the Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards on 1 January 2013 for a fixed term of five years. Her background is in local government and social care. From 2008 until taking up her post as Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards she was the Deputy Parliamentary and Health Service Ombudsman.

The Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards is responsible for the impartial and independent investigation of alleged breaches of the House of Commons Code of Conduct. This includes oversight of the Register of Members' Financial interests and investigation of breaches of the Code of Conduct and Rules.



## Lord Faulkner of Worcester

*(Labour)*

Richard Oliver Faulkner, Lord Faulkner of Worcester is a Labour Party politician. Educated at the Merchant Taylors' School, Northwood, and at Worcester College, Oxford where he read Philosophy, Politics and Economics, he worked as a researcher and journalist for the Labour Party since when he has been active in politics. He was an unpaid communications advisor to the Leader of the Labour Party in the 1987, 1992 and 1997 general elections.

He contested Devizes for the Labour Party in the 1970 election and then again in February 1974 election. He contested Monmouth for the Labour Party in the October 1974 election and Huddersfield West for the Labour Party in the 1979 election.

He was raised to the peerage in 1999, as Baron Faulkner of Worcester, of Wimbledon in the London Borough of Merton. He has served on a number of parliamentary committees, and lists his political interests as transport, sport, human rights, smoking and health, and sex equality.

