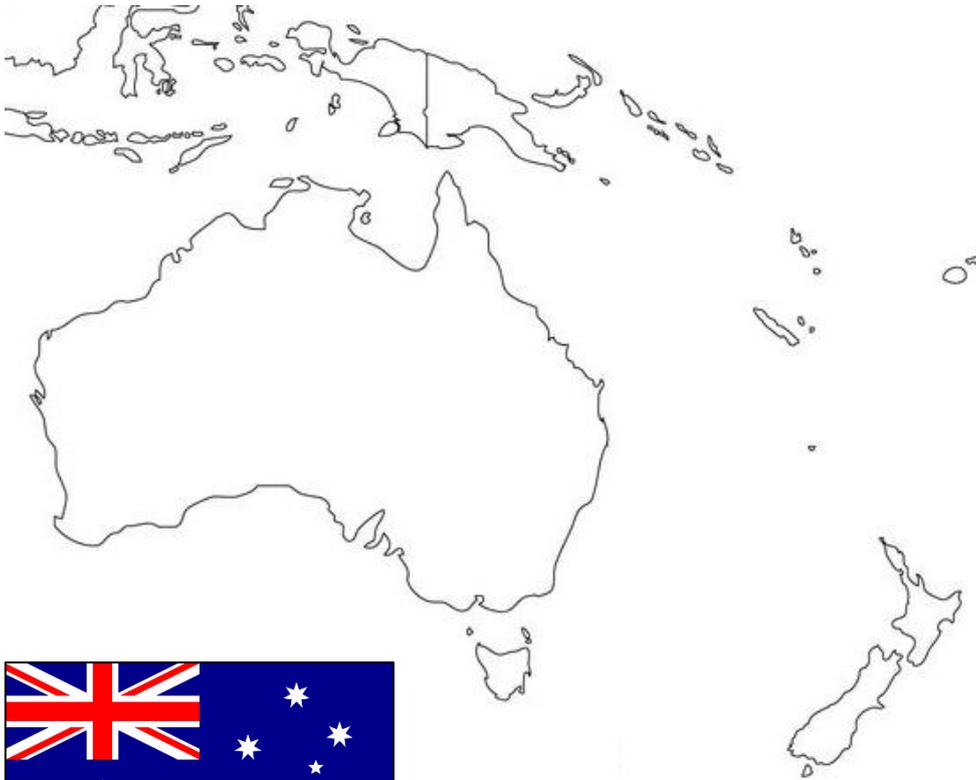




CPA UK Delegation to Australia

13 - 25 March 2017 (ex-UK)



Final Report





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Project Overview

1.01. **Bilateral Delegation to Australia** - CPA UK and the Parliament of Australia have a long history of facilitating successful thematic parliamentary delegations on behalf of their respective legislatures. The last CPA UK delegation to Australia took place in August 2012, visiting Canberra, Queensland and Tasmania. CPA UK hosted a delegation from the Federal Parliament of Australia in October 2015 for a programme in Westminster and Holyrood.

1.02. CPA UK's delegation provided an opportunity for UK parliamentarians to explore the political situation in Australia with parliamentary colleagues and discuss a range of issues of mutual interest. Full details of the programme aim and objectives are outlined in paragraph 2.01. The Australian Federal Election in July 2016 was a double dissolution election that saw the whole House of Representatives and Senate dissolved at the same time and face election. The Coalition Government of Malcolm Turnbull was reelected with a reduced majority of one seat.

1.03 **Pacific Islands Roundtable on Governance in Small Island States** - In November 2016 CPA UK delivered the 65th Westminster Seminar on Parliamentary Practice and Procedure in London for 45 MPs and 20 Clerks. The Pacific Islands were not represented at the Seminar because the cost of flights, length of time required to be away from their parliaments, and timing constraints made them unable to attend. CPA UK received expressions of interest for the seminar from Kiribati, Nauru, Niue, Solomon Islands, Tuvalu and Tonga.

1.04 CPA UK delivered a two-and-a-half day seminar in the Parliament of Queensland in Brisbane, drawn from the Westminster Seminar programme and tailored to the Pacific context, before undertaking the bilateral element of the programme. The seminar programme had a particular focus on small states governance issues including climate change and the SDGs. Delegates from eleven countries and regions across the South Pacific attended the Pacific Islands Westminster Seminar.

1.05 Full aim and objectives and the report of the **Pacific Islands Roundtable on Governance in Small Island States** is available separately.

Project Aim & Objectives

2.01. The programme in Canberra and Sydney will have the following set of aim and objectives:

2.02. **Aim.** To build knowledge and understanding of shared national and sub-national issues through exchanges with parliamentary colleagues, and further develop the good relationship between the UK Parliament and national and state legislatures of Australia.

2.03. **Objectives.** The core objectives of the programme are:





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Canberra

Objective 1. Foster a strong relationship between the UK Parliament and the Federal Parliament of Australia, share challenges and solutions in parliamentary management, practice and procedure.

Objective 2. Discuss issues of mutual interest, including:

- The current political situation in the UK and Australia
- The trade and investment relationship between the UK and Australia and the economic prospects of both countries
- The resource sector in the Australian economy and the performance of the non-resource sector
- The relationship between the national parliament and state legislatures
- Australia's foreign policy and regional relations, including the upcoming Foreign Policy White Paper
- Approaches to tackling serious and organised crime, including modern slavery, child sexual exploitation and corruption
- Defence and security cooperation between the UK and Australia, focusing on national security and terrorism prevention
- The integration of minorities in the UK and Australia, including governmental prevention and de-radicalisation efforts

New South Wales

Objective 1. To strengthen the relationship between the UK Parliament and the Parliament of New South Wales, discussing areas of interest including:

- The current political situation in New South Wales
- The relationship between New South Wales and Canberra
- The relationship between the Upper and Lower Houses in New South Wales

Objective 2. Discuss issues of mutual interest, including:

- The UK's trade and investment relationship with New South Wales
- Economic development in New South Wales, focusing on continued diversification and the finance and insurance industries
- Multicultural societies and integration, with a focus on the refugee crisis and de-radicalisation of Australian nationals involved with extremism
- Representation of women in parliament and public life, and parliamentarians' role in supporting and advocating for gender equality

Participants & Key Stakeholders

3.01. The UK delegation consisted of:

Ian Liddell-Grainger MP (Conservative) - *Delegation Leader*

Dr Roberta Blackman-Woods MP (Labour)

Yvonne Fovargue MP (Labour)

Rt Hon. Sir Alan Haselhurst MP (Conservative)

Lord Balfe of Dulwich (Conservative)

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Rt Hon. the Baroness Taylor of Bolton (Labour)

Andrew Tuggey CBE DL, Chief Executive, CPA UK

Robert Harper, Asia Pacific Programme Manager - *Delegation Secretary*

3.02. CPA UK worked closely with the Parliament of Australia, the Parliament of Queensland, and the Parliament of New South Wales to deliver different aspects of the programme. The British High Commission in Canberra, Consulate General in Sydney, and Consulate in Brisbane were all important stakeholders, helping to deliver key aspects of the programme.

Key Issues

4.01. **Impact of Britain's Exit from the European Union (Brexit)** - Brexit formed a key part of discussions throughout the programme and underpinned much of the debate on the trade and investment relationship between Australia and the UK. The delegation met with Remo Moretta, who is the Head of the Department for Foreign Affairs and Trade's (DFAT) Brexit Unit. Remo's introduction made clear that Australia was embracing Brexit as an opportunity and is keen to work closely with the UK to secure a Free Trade Agreement once the UK leaves the EU.

4.02. The delegation participated in a panel discussion with the students and faculty of the Australian National University (ANU) and Brexit was repeatedly raised in questions from the audience. Asked to sum up the referendum campaign, Yvonne Fovargue MP pointed out how divisive it was. In her constituency of Makerfield the electorate voted to leave despite local jobs in the defence industry relying on European cooperation. Rt Hon. Sir Alan Haselhurst MP mentioned that immigration was a particularly high profile issue in the campaign.

4.03. The students at ANU were also keen to understand what Brexit actually means as the media has covered the subject but there are few details on the process and its likely impact. A number of the delegation agreed that there were few details on the process available in public, and that this applies equally to UK MPs and Australian students. Dr Roberta Blackman-Woods MP referenced how difficult it has proven, as an Opposition MP, to extract information regarding Brexit from the Government.

4.04. A number of questions also focused on the role of Parliament in the Brexit process. Rt Hon. Baroness Taylor of Bolton pointed out the large legislative task facing the UK Parliament to move all existing EU law onto the UK statute book so Parliament must have a substantial role in the process. Baroness Taylor felt that there wouldn't be clarity on what Brexit actually means until this parliamentary process has begun.

4.05. **Trade and Investment** - The Brexit discussions with DFAT led to a details conversation on the trade and investment relationship between Australia and the UK. The delegation were interested to explore how Australia was responding to Brexit and how this will impact on the trading relationship between the two countries. Andrew Todd, Assistant Secretary, EU and Western Europe, outlined the





current situation. He highlighted wine as a key area of trade that Australia will want to protect and enhance. One-in-five bottles of wine produced in Australia sell in the UK so Australia will want to ensure this trade remains. To support these objectives, Australia was the first country to set up a trade working group with UK. Beyond that, Australia, New Zealand and the UK have already discussed a competition treaty but this required the inclusion of anti-trust issues but these are covered by the EU.

4.06. A key message that emerged from the conversation with DFAT is that Australia has substantial experience of negotiating trade deals. This will largely have a positive bearing on the UK, which has already been shown by the fact that Australian civil servants have conducted trade workshops for the UK civil service. However, Andrew Todd and Remo Moretta pointed out that this experience will ensure that Australia is hard-headed when it comes to any future negotiations with the UK.

4.07. The Australian approach is highlighted by the issue of pension indexation. Approximately 150,000 British pensioners in Australia have their pensions topped up by the Australian Government because their pension is not increased in line with inflation by the UK Government. Given the large British expatriate population in Australia this is a particularly sensitive issue, especially as the UK Government indexes the pensions of UK citizens living in a number of other countries, including USA. DFAT admitted that it is unlikely this will impinge on a trade deal, it did lead to the termination in 2014, by Australia, of a Social Services Agreement between the two countries.

4.08. Beyond the example of wine exports, Dr Roberta Blackman-Woods MP was keen to explore what other economic sectors would be key to the future trading arrangement and the free trade agreement. DFAT admitted that Australia seeks the complete liberalisation of trade in goods and services with the UK. The main stumbling block to a free trade agreement is agriculture.

4.09. The Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade are currently conducting an inquiry into post-Brexit trade and Hon. Warren Snowdon MP highlighted agriculture as a key area of difficulty. Hon. Stephen Ciobo MP, Minister for Trade, also singled out agriculture, pointing out that the agriculture sector in Australia understand the importance of trade as two-thirds of Australian production is exported. Australia is not the largest producer but has strong comparative advantage in a large number of niche products. This message was supported by officials from DFAT, who conveyed the message that Australia are a reliable supplier to a global market and will not swamp the market.

4.10. Ian Liddell-Grainger MP explained the situation facing the agricultural sector in the UK. Agriculture will be one of the most difficult areas to transition away from the EU as UK farmers received a lot of support from the EU. The UK Government has guaranteed support until 2020 but, so far, not beyond that. DFAT pointed out that the agriculture industry in Australia used to have similar protections but has undergone a successful liberalisation in recent decades. Hon. Stephen Ciobo MP reiterated this point, saying liberalisation is always more difficult the longer you leave it.





4.11 Despite these agricultural challenges, the meeting with David McCredie, CEO of the Australian British Chamber of Commerce (ABCC), highlighted the deep relationship between the two countries. Mr McCredie revealed that the UK is the biggest foreign holder of agricultural land in Australia, owning nearly half. Dr Roberta Blackman-Woods MP asked who these owners were. Mr McCredie pointed out that it is unknown as it is largely a mix of private owners.

4.12. Mr McCredie also mentioned the Australian approach to trade, pointing out that the focus on trade does not always include discussion on services and investment, key areas for the UK economy. However, since the Brexit referendum it has proved much easier for the ABCC to meet with Australian Ministers. Mr McCredie pointed out that it was much more difficult before, showing that the relationship hasn't always been properly maintained and valued by both countries.

4.13. Sir Alan Haselhurst MP asked about the contribution of tourism to the economic relationship between Australia and the UK. The message received from a number of meetings, including Trade Minister Hon. Stephen Ciobo MP, Hon. Chris Crewther MP, and Hon. Nick Champion MP, both from the Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade, is that it would be a substantive gesture of goodwill if the UK smoothed the visa and immigration process for Australian visitors. Hon. Chris Crewther MP explained how Australia and New Zealand have largely free movement between the countries and citizens from each country can stay for a substantial amount of time. He pointed out that Australians would welcome the same freedom in the UK.

4.14. Discussions with the ABCC also touched on Australia's superannuation funds, which have over \$2 billion under management and are expected to increase dramatically in the next few years due to compulsory saving in Australia. Mr McCredie explained that these funds are substantial investors in the UK and this big flow of investment will not be affected by Brexit.

4.15. **Foreign Policy and Bilateral Relations** - In the meeting with DFAT, the delegation were briefed on the Australian Government's Foreign Policy White Paper by Jan Hutton, Director of the Foreign Policy Whitepaper Taskforce. The White Paper was an election commitment from Prime Minister Turnbull and the first to be conducted since 2003. The Paper aims to cover a ten year period and will be a whole government policy, so will involve intra-departmental cooperation. The public consultation, recently completed, received over 600 written submissions, compared to 50 in 2003.

4.16. The White Paper included the assumptions that the USA will remain the only superpower but its margin will decline, China will maintain a level of economic growth required for its aims, and global economic growth will stay low. The Paper also considered the importance of technology, including the fourth industrial revolution, and the opportunities and challenges this presents.

4.17. Baroness Taylor was interested in the Australian relationship with China as the White Paper acknowledges the importance of China and its economy. Officials from DFAT maintained that Australia





goes into the relationship with its eyes open and impresses on their Chinese counterparts the importance of the rules based order and a constructive relationship.

4.18. This vein of discussion continued at the roundtable at the Department of Defense, led by Martin Kennedy, Acting Assistant Secretary South East Asia. The importance, and difficulty, of maintaining a global rules based order was one of the principles of Australia's approach to regional security. The principles also include military modernisation, concern for state fragility, the development of cyber capabilities by state and non-state actors, terrorism, and major power relations. Throughout these discussions it became clear that while multilateral relationships were incredibly important, bilateral is still vital.

4.19. **Commonwealth** - The role of the Commonwealth formed part of discussions with DFAT. The delegation were keen to understand the Australian view of the Commonwealth ahead of the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting that the UK is hosting in 2018. Lachlan Strahan from DFAT outlined that the Commonwealth will always form part of Australia's policy but there is a feeling that the organisation could perform better in certain areas. For instance, Australia would prefer the Commonwealth to focus on areas where it has a comparative advantage, such as elections, judiciary and countering violent extremism. This would enhance its effectiveness considering that it has a relatively small budget.

4.20. An example of this was cited in the Commonwealth Pacific Climate Hub. In Australia's relationship with Pacific Island States they have not heard mention of the Climate Hub and they found it worrying that the initiative had been functioning for a year and had little profile in the Pacific.

4.21. **Commonwealth Parliamentary Association** - The Commonwealth Parliamentary Association featured in discussions with both presiding officers, particularly Senator the Hon. Stephen Parry, who is responsible for Australia's relationship with CPA. Australia is not currently a member of CPA after having withdrawn from the Association. The UK delegation were pleased to see Senator Parry explore the possibility of re-joining CPA if certain reforms took place.

4.22. Senator Parry revealed that he had spoken to the CPA Secretary General to discuss changes in the organisation and viewed the conversations positively. Senator Parry planned to travel to London in April to conduct follow-up meetings and the outcomes of these would lead to a decision of whether Australia should re-join CPA. Senator Parry subsequently met with Members of the CPA UK Executive Committee when visited London. The UK delegation outlined their experience of CPA, and the changes to the organisation, since Australia left CPA.

4.23. **Defence and Security Cooperation, including Countering Violent Extremism** - The delegation visited the Department of Defence for a roundtable meeting with a range of representatives from Australia's defence establishment, including British officers currently embedded in the Australian armed forces. Indeed, the British officers were representative of the incredibly close defence links between the





UK and Australia. Both countries have staff embedded at all the relevant agencies and departments. Discussions during the roundtable revealed that the cooperation between the two countries was closer than almost all others, to the extent that both countries automatically share diplomatic cables with each other.

4.24. Cybersecurity formed a key part of discussions, particularly given recent high-profile cyber-attacks, the close cooperation between the UK and Australia, and Australia's Cybersecurity Strategy that was released in April 2016. Underpinning Australia's strategy is a national cyber partnership, which aims to bring together all relevant actors - not just in the military - to ensure Australia's cybersecurity. As a former Chair of the Intelligence and Security Committee, the Rt Hon. Baroness Taylor of Bolton questioned how this partnership engaged with the private sector, as in the UK it is still difficult to persuade private companies to contribute the necessary resources to cybersecurity. It was acknowledged that Australia faces similar challenges, although the banking community is particularly alive to the threat. The military have also developed unclassified cybersecurity approaches that can be shared freely with the private sector.

4.25. This strategy also focuses on creating a 'cyber-smart' nation by both recruiting expertise and also educating the wider population to potential threats. Baroness Taylor questioned how Australia plans to attract the required human talent to contribute to this expertise. While Australia is investing heavily in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) subjects they understood that this is a long term process and that there have been challenges in retaining the expertise. In addition to cyber defences Australia acknowledge that they require an attacking capability but this requires ministerial approval each time it is utilised.

4.26. The importance of Australia's intelligence partnerships was also clear. The Five Eyes partnership - consisting of Australia, Canada, New Zealand, UK and US - is the foundation of the intelligence infrastructure but the cooperation between the UK and Australia is particularly close and valuable. This closeness was best exemplified recently by the foiling of an ANZAC Day terror plot. The UK arrested a 14-year-old terror suspect in the Midlands and within hours his computer had been evaluated and he was found to be directing an ANZAC Day terror attack in Melbourne. This information was shared immediately and the threat was promptly neutralised. Australia has also developed intelligence partnerships with its neighbours and is supporting the development of Indonesia's intelligence capability.

4.27. Counter-terrorism and countering violent extremism (CVE) was discussed with a number of departments, highlighting the cross-government approach that Australia has adopted. Australia looks to the UK over the US for its CVE approach and has a very similar structure and approach. The main difference is that the Ministry of Defence is not responsible for domestic counter-terrorism in the UK.

4.28. Yvonne Fovargue MP recounted how the UK has adopted the Prevent programme to counter home-grown extremism, which is a threat to the UK. Australian efforts to tackle extremism are largely the remit of the States with a focus in Sydney and Melbourne. In a further meeting with Hon. David Elliott MP,





Minister for Counter-Terrorism in New South Wales, it became clear that the Commonwealth and State governments have delineated responsibilities that is not the case in the UK's unitary system of government.

4.29. New South Wales and Victoria face the major counter-terrorism issues in Australia. New South Wales has a programme that incorporates 36 community organisations to counter violent extremism. The Minister was well aware of the UK's Prevent strategy and the New South Wales approach has been more collaborative than Prevent. The Minister also emphasised that there was only so much the States can do before the responsibility falls to the Commonwealth government.

4.30. Department of Defence officials acknowledged that Australia's threat was lower than in Europe but they still face the threat of lone actor attacks. Their focus has traditionally been on capacity building with partners in Southeast Asia and multilaterally with organisations such as ASEAN. These areas of focus were further explored with representatives from the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

4.31. Bill Elischer outlined the differing challenges and responses faced by the UK and Australia. The UK had substantial counter-terror (CT) experience with Northern Ireland and incidents like Lockerbie; experiences that Australia doesn't have so naturally the UK has a much more developed approach to CT. The UK is also particularly effective at translating intelligence into evidence to secure criminal convictions. Since 9/11 the UK continued this focus on domestic CT while Australia developed their approach to protecting their citizens overseas - most clearly experienced in the 2002 Bali bombings.

4.32. Since 2014, both countries have had a diverging threat, where the UK has had to worry about overseas threats - like the Sousse attack - and Australia had had to confront domestic terrorism. Australia disrupted three attacks in the decade to 2014; since then they have disrupted 12. Both countries are now reliant on each other's experiences. Australia is particularly reliant on UK expertise, including in the private sector and the NGO sphere.

4.33. **Modern Slavery** - The subject of Modern Slavery and how to tackle it was the key part of discussions with the Joint Parliamentary Committee on Human Rights. The Committee recently begun an inquiry to explore modern slavery legislation and make recommendations to the government. It became clear that modern slavery was not a high profile issue in Australia but the Committee and a number of politicians, such as Hon. Senator Linda Reynolds CSC, are attempting to raise its profile.

4.34. The approach to tackling modern slavery in Australia has cross party support and isn't particularly controversial. The business supply chain is one of the most important parts of the Act and it is here that the Australian government is hesitating as it worries it will burden companies with extra red tape. However, a number of Australia's biggest companies are already compliant with the UK legislation so the bureaucratic requirements would be minimal. The argument being made by proponents of the Act is that, in the long-term, it is beneficial in both a supply chain and moral level.





4.35. The inquiry aims to bring together information from around the world and the UK will be particularly important given the recent passage of the Modern Slavery Act (2015). Australia sent a number of representatives to CPA UK's Asia Regional Workshop on Modern Slavery and modern slavery is likely to form part of the agenda when the UK hosts the Commonwealth Summit in 2018.

Results of the Project

5.01. This visit successfully cemented relations between the UK Parliament and the Australian Parliament. The relationship between the two legislatures is very strong and this delegation further contributed to the open and warm relationship between parliamentarians in Australia and the UK. Both presiding officers jointly hosted the delegation before meeting separately to discuss parliamentary practice in the UK and Australia. Parliamentarians on both sides commented on how important the relationship is and that this programme was useful in improving their knowledge of each countries' respective parliament.

5.02. The strength and openness of the relationship between Australia and the UK was reflected in the meetings the delegation had with parliamentary counterparts, government departments, and the business community. The visit aimed to introduce the delegation to the cooperation that takes place between the two countries in the fields of foreign affairs, defence, and trade and investment.

5.03. The programme highlighted to all delegates the extent of the cooperation in the field of defence, particularly in regard to intelligence sharing, which sees the UK and Australia having a particularly close relationship. Similarly, the programme was useful in comparing and contrasting the differing approach to countering violent extremism, especially as Australia had considered the UK's Prevent strategy when developing their own approach.

5.04. The visit also enhanced the relationship with the Parliament of New South Wales and the new President of the Legislative Council, Hon. John Ajaka MLC. Hon. Ajaka recently joined the CPA Executive Committee as Regional Representative for Australia and it was useful for the delegation to engage with him before taking up his post with CPA.

Next Steps

6.01. CPA UK hosted the President of the Senate, Senator the Hon. Stephen Parry, for a meeting What will happen next/ideas for follow up initiatives.

Further resources

7.01. Any further resources/tools/media resources on the topic that you would like to share with the delegates, readers of the report.

Acknowledgements





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8.01. Who has been involved in the design/implementation of this project, support with delivery, etc;
CPA UK thanks

Full Delegate List**Ian Liddell-Grainger MP (Conservative)***Delegation Leader*

Ian has been a Member of Parliament for Bridgwater and West Somerset since the June 2001 General Election. He was re-elected again in May 2015.

Since his election to Parliament Ian has served on a number of Select Committees, including the Public Administration Select Committee; the Scottish Select Committee; the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs Select Committee; and the Environmental Audit Select Committee. He also served on the Crossrail Bill.

In July 2010 he was appointed to the Select Committee on Statutory Instruments by the House of Commons and in December 2010, he was appointed to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe by the Prime Minister. Following the General Election in 2015, he was reappointed to both positions. In January 2016 he was elected by the Conservative aligned groups from member countries on the Council of Europe to serve as President of the Conservative Aligned Group from Member States on the Council of Europe. He was re-elected to this position in January 2017.

Ian is Chairman of the All Party Groups on Taxation, Cider, and the Parliamentary Group for Energy Studies. He has also taken on the joint Chairmanships of the All Party Parliamentary Groups on Nuclear Energy, on Gardening and Horticulture, and a new Group on Rural Broadband and Mobile Communications.

Following the 2015 General Election, he was elected by his colleagues as Chairman of the UK Branch of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association. He is Vice Chairman of the British Group of the Inter Parliamentary Union (IPU) and is Vice President of the International Steering Group for IPU.

Ian's interests in Parliament include the economy, taxation, constitutional affairs, international affairs defence, law and order, rural matters, energy issues (Hinkley Point A Nuclear Power Station, Hinkley Point B Nuclear Power Station and the under construction Hinkley Point C Nuclear Power Station all lie within his constituency) and, with the Somerset Levels in his constituency, matters relating to flooding.





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Dr Roberta Blackman-Woods MP (Labour)

Roberta Blackman-Woods has been Member of Parliament for the City of Durham for over ten years, having first been elected in 2005.

Since 2011, Roberta has been part of the Shadow Communities and Local Government team with responsibility for housing and planning policy. Currently she is serving as Shadow Local Government and Housing Minister. Roberta’s Shadow Ministerial work includes working with Local Government and devolution and she’s keen to learn more about how different levels of Government interact in different settings.

Roberta also has a strong interest in the role of women in all aspects public life and how we might best support increasing women’s participation.

Through her work on the Executive Committees of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association - and particularly on the Steering Committee of the Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians - Roberta has taken part in many events with Parliamentarians from across the world to discuss how gender equality can be promoted through equality of educational and economic opportunity and, more recently, how the SDGs can be used as a tool to support that.

Outside of politics, Roberta is married to Tim and they have one daughter. She is a fan of cricket, gardening and enjoys running, having previously completed the Great North Run.



Yvonne Fovargue MP (Labour)

Cutting her teeth as a Housing Officer on the Moss Side estate, Manchester in the early 1980s and later in her role as Chief Executive of St Helens Citizens Advice Bureau, Yvonne Fovargue has worked all her life to fight injustice and to speak up for those without a voice in society.

Born in Sale, Greater Manchester, Yvonne was educated locally before gaining a BA in English at Leeds University. She was an elected member of Warrington Council (2004-2010) and has served as a school governor and charity trustee.

Yvonne has served as an Opposition Whip and Shadow Minister in the Transport and Defence Teams. She also served prior to the last general election as Shadow Minister for Young People. Following the 2015 general election, Yvonne served as Shadow Minister for Consumer Affairs & Science until 2016.

She is the current Chair of the All Party Parliamentary Group on Debt & Personal Finance. She is also an active campaigner and advocate for Credit Unions. Yvonne’s political interests include welfare, debt & personal finance (including Payday loans), Credit Unions, and the advice sector and voluntary sector.





Yvonne received the Citizens Advice Parliamentarian of the Year Award for 2011. Yvonne is married with one adult daughter and lives in Wigan with her husband. She is a member of MENSA, an avid reader of crime fiction and a fan of the music of David Bowie.



Rt. Hon. Sir Alan Haselhurst MP (Conservative)

Rt Hon. Sir Alan Haselhurst MP has been the Conservative Member for Saffron Walden since his election in 1977, prior to which he held the Middleton and Prestwich seat 1970-1974.

Sir Alan has served on various Committees in the House of Commons, including the Chairman’s Panel (1992-1997), the Court of Referees (1997-2010), Standing Orders (1997-2010), Unopposed Bills Panel (1997-2010). Sir Alan served as Chair of the Administration Committee during the 2010 Parliament. He served as Deputy Speaker from 1997 to 2010. He currently serves on the Finance Committee of which he has been a member of since 1997.

Sir Alan has been an active CPA Member since he was first elected to Parliament in 1970. His term as Chairperson of the CPA International Executive Committee came to an end in October of 2014, a position he had held since he was elected in July 2011. Sir Alan became the British Islands and Mediterranean Region representative on the CPA Executive Committee in October 2015. He was Chair of the Commonwealth Youth Exchange Council (1978-81) and has visited many Commonwealth Branches.

During his term as Deputy Speaker and as Chair of CPA UK he has welcomed many Commonwealth colleagues to the Houses of Parliament. In addition to his interest in the Commonwealth, he is interested in education, aerospace, aviation, youth affairs, agriculture and community development.



The Rt Hon. the Baroness Taylor of Bolton (Labour)

Ann Taylor served as MP for Bolton West from October 1974 to 1983 and Dewsbury from 1987 to 2005. During her time in the House of Commons she served in a number of frontbench roles. Ann Taylor served as a Government Whip from 1977-79 before becoming Opposition Frontbench Spokesperson for Education (1979-81) and then Housing (1981-83).

Ann Taylor lost the newly formed seat of Bolton North East at the 1983 election but returned to the House of Commons as MP for Dewsbury in 1987. When Labour returned to Government after the 1997 election, Ann Taylor became Leader of the House of Commons, responsible for scheduling Government business in the Commons. From 1998-2001, she served as Government Chief Whip. Ann Taylor left Government in 2001 and served as Chair of the Intelligence and Security Committee from 2001-2005.





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She was elevated to the House of Lords in 2005 as Baroness Taylor of Bolton and again served in the Government as Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State at the Ministry of Defence (2007-10) and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (2009-10).

Since 2010, Baroness Taylor has served on the Joint Committee on National Security Strategy (2010-14) and currently sits on the House of Lords Constitution Committee.



The Lord Balfe of Dulwich (Conservative)

Richard Balfe was raised to the peerage as Baron Balfe of Dulwich in the London Borough of Southwark in 2013. Lord Balfe has been a Member of the European Union Sub-Committee A (Economic and Financial Affairs) since 2014 and is Vice-chair of the All Party Parliamentary Groups on Turkey and Australia and New Zealand.

Prior to entering the House of Lords, Lord Balfe was a Member (1973-77) of the Greater London Council (GLC) and Chair of the Housing Committee (1975-77) for the GLC before becoming Member of the European Parliament for London South Inner 1979-99, and for London 1999-2004.

During his time in the European Parliament he served for a period as Vice Chair of the European Parliament Defence and Security Sub-Committee and was leader of the delegation to the NATO Parliamentary Assembly. For ten years from 1994 to 2004 he served on the five-strong House Administration Committee and for a period was its chairman.

Lord Balfe currently serves as Chair of the European Parliament members pension fund and Vice President of its former members association where he has responsibility for relations with the Australian Former Members of Parliament Association. He has visited Australia on several occasions since 1974 and like many British people has relatives in Australia.



Full Programme

Monday 13 March	
20.25	<i>Depart London Gatwick North Terminal on Emirates EK10 to Dubai</i>
Tuesday 14 March	
07.20	<i>Arrive Dubai</i>
10.25	<i>Depart Dubai on Emirates EK434 to Brisbane</i>
Wednesday 15 March	
06.40	<i>Arrive Brisbane</i>
08.00	Check-in to Four Points by Sheraton Hotel Four Points by Sheraton 99 Mary Street, Brisbane, Queensland 4000, Australia Phone: (61)(7) 3164 4000
	<i>Free time at hotel</i>
12.40	<i>Transfer to Parliament of Queensland</i>
13.00	Lunch hosted by Neil Laurie, Clerk of the Parliament of Queensland
14.15	Tour of the Parliament of Queensland
15.00	Meeting with the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly Hon. Peter Wellington MP, Speaker of the Legislative Assembly
16.00	Meeting with Organising Committee of the 2018 Commonwealth Games Hon. Kate Jones MP, Minister for Education and Minister for Tourism, Major Events and the Commonwealth Games Location: Committee Rm 2, Level 6
17.00	<i>Transfer to Hotel</i>
17.45	<i>Transfer to Parliament of Queensland</i>
18.00	Welcome Reception of Pacific Islands Westminster Seminar
19.00	<i>End of day</i>
Thursday 16 March	
	<i>Breakfast available at hotel</i>
08.30	<i>Transfer to Parliament of Queensland</i>
All day	<i>Day One of Pacific Islands Westminster Seminar. Please see separate booklet for full programme details.</i>
17.00	<i>End of day</i>





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Friday 17 March	
	<i>Breakfast available at hotel</i>
08.30	<i>Transfer to Parliament of Queensland</i>
All day	<i>Day Two of Pacific Islands Westminster Seminar. Please see separate booklet for full programme details.</i>
17.00	End of day
Saturday 18 March	
	<i>Breakfast available at hotel</i>
08.30	<i>Transfer to Parliament of Queensland</i>
	<i>Day Three of Pacific Islands Westminster Seminar. Please see separate booklet for full programme details.</i>
14.00	End of day
Sunday 19 March	
	<i>Breakfast available at hotel</i>
11.15	<i>Check out from hotel and transfer to Brisbane Airport</i>
14.00	<i>Depart Brisbane on Virgin Australia VA1218 to Canberra</i>
16.50	<i>Arrive Canberra</i>
	Met on arrival by: Jerome Brown, Director, International and Parliamentary Relations Office Onu Palm, Visits Officer, International and Parliamentary Relations Office
18.00	Check-in to Peppers Gallery Hotel 15 Edinburgh Avenue Canberra, ACT 2601 Australia +61 (0)2 6175 2222
Monday 20 March	
07.30	<i>Transfer to British High Commission</i>
08.00	Breakfast briefing with British High Commissioner to Australia HE Menna Rawlings, British High Commissioner to Australia
09.30	Visit Australian War Memorial
10.30	<i>Transfer to Parliament House</i>
11.00	Meet with Senator the Hon Stephen Parry, President of the Senate Location: President's Suite
11.45	Lunch Location: Sir Frederick Holder Room
12.15	<i>Transfer to Australian National University</i>





12.30	Panel discussion with staff and students from the Australian National University (ANU) Q&A on Political Situation in the UK today Location: Common Room, University House
14.00	<i>Transfer to Department of Defence</i>
14.30	Roundtable meeting with Australian Defence Military and Civilian Representatives Discussion on: National security and terrorism prevention Location: Russell Offices
15.45	<i>Transfer to Parliament House</i>
16.00	Meet with the Hon Tony Smith MP, Speaker of the House of Representatives Location: Speaker's Suite
18.00	Reception Hosted by HE Menna Rawlings, British High Commissioner to Australia
19.30	End of day
Tuesday 21 March	
	<i>Breakfast available at hotel</i>
09.45	<i>Transfer to Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade</i>
10.00	Roundtable meeting with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade Discussion on: Australia's foreign policy and regional relations/Foreign Policy White Paper Location: R.G. Casey Building, John McEwen Cres, Canberra
11.45	<i>Transfer to Parliament House</i>
12.00	Meet with the Hon Stephen Ciobo MP, Minister for Trade, Tourism and Investment Location: Committee Room 1S5
12.30	Lunch with Chair and Members of the Australia/UK Parliamentary Group Chair: Sarah Henderson MP <i>Location: House of Representatives Alcove</i>
14.00	Observe Question Time in the Senate Chamber
14.30	Observe Question Time in the House of Representatives Chamber
16.00	Meet with the Chair and Members of the Human Rights Committee Discussion on: Approaches to tackling serious and organised crime, including modern slavery, child sexual exploitation and corruption Chair: Ian Goodenough MP Location: Committee Room (tbc)
17.00	<i>Transfer to hotel</i>
18.10	<i>Assemble in Hotel Lobby and transfer to Parliament House</i>
18.30	Dinner hosted by the Presiding Officers, Senator the Hon Stephen Parry, President of the Senate and the Hon Tony Smith MP, Speaker of the House of Representatives Location: Members and Guests Terrace
21.00	End of day





HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT

Wednesday 22 March	
	<i>Breakfast available at hotel</i>
07.45	<i>Transfer to Parliament House</i>
08.00	Meet with Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Chair: Senator David Fawcett Location: Committee Room 1R1
10.00	Tour of Parliament House
11.00	Meet with Senator the Hon George Brandis, Attorney General Office Discussion on: The integration of minorities in the UK and Australia, including government prevention and de-radicalisation efforts
11.45	<i>Transfer to Australian Capital Territory Legislative Assembly</i>
12.00	Welcome by Tom Duncan, Clerk of the Legislative Assembly & Tour of the Legislative Assembly
12.40	Lunch hosted by Hon Joy Burch MLA, Speaker of the Legislative Assembly ACT
14.30	Observe Question Time Location: Legislative Assembly Chamber
15.30	<i>Transfer to Canberra Airport</i>
17.00	<i>Depart Canberra on Virgin Australia VA661 to Sydney</i>
17.55	<i>Arrive Sydney</i>
19.00	Check-in to Pullman Hotel by Hyde Park 36 College Street 2010 Sydney
Thursday 23 March	
	<i>Transfer to Office of Consul General</i>
08.00	Breakfast Briefing with British Consul-General Michael Ward, <i>Consul General and Director General, Department for International Trade, Australia and New Zealand</i> David McCredie, <i>Chief Executive, Australian British Chamber of Commerce</i>
09.30	<i>Transfer to Parliament of New South Wales</i>
10.00	Call on Hon. John Ajaka MLC, President of New South Wales Legislative Council
10.30	Tour of Parliament of New South Wales
11.15	Australasian Study at Parliament Group Seminar
13.00	Lunch
14.30	
15.00	
16.30	End of day





HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT

Friday 24 March	
	<i>Breakfast available at hotel</i>
10.00	Meeting on Consumer Rights and Advocacy with CHOICE
11.30	Check-out from Hotel
12.30	Lunch
14.00	Meeting on Countering Violent Extremism in Australia Hon. David Elliott MP, <i>Minister for Counter Terrorism, Minister for Corrections and Minister for Veterans Affairs</i>
18.30	<i>Transfer to Sydney Kingsford Smith Airport</i>
21.45	<i>Depart Sydney on Emirates EK413 to Dubai</i>
Saturday 25 March	
05.15	<i>Arrive Dubai</i>
08.30	<i>Depart Dubai to London Heathrow on Emirates EK5109</i>
12.40	<i>Arrive London Heathrow</i>





Speaker Biographies

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