

74TH WESTMINSTER SEMINAR ON EFFECTIVE PARLIAMENTS REPORT

MARCH 9 - 13, 2026



This Report Is submitted in accordance with Standing Order 26(4) which states:

“Within twenty-one days of the return to the Islands of an officially recognized parliamentary delegation composed in any part of Members, the head of the delegation, or a Member acting on the Member’s behalf, shall present a report to the House on the activities of the delegation.”

Cayman Islands Branch Delegation included:

- **Hon. Nickolas DaCosta, JP, MP - Delegate**
Minister of District Administration & Home Affairs
Elected Member for Cayman Brac West & Little Cayman
- **Mr. A. Royston Tatum, Jr., Cert. Hon., JP, MP - Delegate**
Elected Member for Red Bay
- **Mrs. Tishel McLean - Parliamentary Procedural Clerk**



L-R: Mr. A. Royston Tatum, Jr.; Mrs. Tishel McLean; and Hon. Nickolas DaCosta.

**The 74th Westminster Seminar on Effective Parliaments
Held in London at the Portcullis House - UK Parliament
March 9 - 13, 2026**

Overview

The seminar was delivered by CPA UK, an organization that represents the UK Parliament within the Commonwealth and is committed to strengthening parliamentary democracy. The programme emphasised CPA UK's role in bringing together parliaments and public officials to exchange best practices, enhance institutional knowledge, and foster professional networks across Commonwealth countries, Overseas Territories, and Crown Dependencies.

A key focus of the seminar was the promotion of meaningful engagement among stakeholders in parliamentary governance. Participants included parliaments, clerks, parliamentary staff, and audit officials at varying stages of their careers. The sessions were supported by contributions from subject matter experts, academics, and specialists, ensuring that discussions were evidence-based and practically relevant.

The seminar also highlighted CPA UK's approach to programme delivery, which includes bilateral country visits as well as multilateral platforms such as conferences, forums, and seminars. These initiatives are designed to address contemporary governance challenges while encouraging peer-to-peer learning alongside expert-led presentations.

Overall, the seminar provided valuable insights into effective parliamentary practices and reinforced the importance of collaboration and continuous professional development in strengthening democratic institutions.



A Richly Diverse Gathering

Delegates came from more than 20 legislatures spanning every region of the Commonwealth. This breadth of representation made every discussion richer, with colleagues at very different stages of institutional development sharing practical insights freely.

Delegation List:

- Anguilla House of Assembly
- Legislative Council of Ascension Islands
- Parliament of Western Australia
- National Assembly of Belize
- Parliament of Canada
- Legislative Assembly of Ontario, Canada
- Assemblée nationale du Québec, Canada
- Parliament of the Cayman Islands
- The Cypriot House of Representatives
- Parliament of Gibraltar
- States of Deliberation, Guernsey
- Tynwald (Parliament of the Isle of Man)
- Parliament of Kenya
- Montserrat Legislative Assembly
- Nigerian National Assembly
- Northern Ireland Assembly
- National Assembly of Pakistan
- Provincial Assembly of the Punjab, Pakistan
- Bougainville House of Representatives, Papua New Guinea
- The Scottish Parliament
- Parliament of Sierra Leone
- Parliament of Sri Lanka
- Legislative Council of St Helena
- Parliament of St Lucia
- Parliament of Trinidad and Tobago
- National Assembly of Zambia

Programme

Day 1: Monday 9 March 2026

Celebrating the Commonwealth

TIME	DESCRIPTION OF ACTIVITY
1100 - 1130	<p>Goal Setting</p> <p>Facilitator: Matthew Hamilton, Monitoring and Evaluation Manager, CPA UK</p> <p>Location: The Attlee Suite, Portcullis House</p>
1130 - 1210	<p>Opening Address: 'The Role of Parliaments in Unlocking Opportunities Together for a Prosperous Commonwealth.'</p> <p>Facilitator: Sarah Dickson OBE, Chief Executive, CPA UK</p> <p>Speaker: The Rt Hon. the Baroness Scotland of Asthal KC, House of Lords, UK Parliament</p> <p>Location: The Attlee Suite, Portcullis House</p>
1210 - 1325	<p>Lunch</p> <p>Location: The Attlee Suite, Portcullis House</p>
1325 - 1400	<p>Walk to Westminster Abbey</p> <p>Delegates will be escorted by foot to Westminster Abbey and will be asked to present their ticket at the entrance to enter the Abbey.</p> <p>Large bags should not be carried as they will not be allowed into the Abbey.</p>
1400 - 1600	<p>Commonwealth Day Service</p> <p>Commonwealth Day Service of Celebration attended by the Royal Family and dignitaries. All guests should be seated by 1415.</p> <p>Dress Code: National Dress, Lounge Suit or Day Dress (hats and gloves optional)</p> <p>Location: Westminster Abbey</p>
1600	<p>End of Day 1</p> <p>Delegates will make their way on their own to the hotel.</p>

Programme

Day 2: Tuesday 10 March 2026

Parliamentary Systems

TIME	DESCRIPTION OF ACTIVITY
0830	<p>Coach to depart the Wellington by Blue Orchid Hotel Coaches will leave promptly from the hotel at 0830. Delegates who are not on board will be responsible for organising their own travel to Portcullis House.</p>
0900	<p>Arrival at Portcullis House, UK Parliament Delegates will go through airport-style security to enter the Houses of Parliament.</p>
0920 - 0940	<p>Tea and Coffee Delegates are invited to use this opportunity to network with other participants. Location: The Attlee Suite, Portcullis House</p>
0940	<p>Walk to Westminster Hall Delegates will be escorted from the Attlee Suite to Westminster Hall.</p>
0950	<p>Group Photo A group photo will be taken on the stairs of Westminster Hall. Location: Westminster Hall, Palace of Westminster</p>
1000 - 1100	<p>Tour of the UK Parliament Delegates will be given a guided tour of the UK Parliament and will be introduced to some of its work, art and history.</p>
1100 - 1300	<p>Session 1: Parliamentary Systems Across the Commonwealth Delegates will compare and contrast the procedures and features of their respective legislatures including differences in unicameral and bicameral systems, the powers of each chamber and the different customs and traditions adopted within each model. Facilitator: Axell Kaubo, Programme Manager, CPA UK Location: The Attlee Suite, Portcullis House</p>
1300 - 1415	<p>Lunch Location: The Attlee Suite, Portcullis House</p>

Programme

Day 2: Tuesday 10 March 2026

Parliamentary Systems

TIME	DESCRIPTION OF ACTIVITY
1415 - 1515	<p>Session 2: The Role of the Speaker</p> <p>This session will explore the duties of the Presiding Officer and explore the differences and similarities in their responsibilities in different Commonwealth legislatures, as well as the importance of impartiality for the role.</p> <p>Facilitator: Sarah Dickson OBE, Chief Executive, CPA UK</p> <p>Speaker: Rt Hon. Sir Lindsay Hoyle MP, Speaker of the House of Commons, UK Parliament</p> <p>Location: The Attlee Suite, Portcullis House</p>
1515 - 1540	<p>Tea and Coffee</p> <p>Delegates are invited to use this opportunity to network with other participants.</p> <p>Location: The Attlee Suite, Portcullis House</p>
1540 - 1700	<p>Session 3: Privileges, Standards and Behaviour in Parliament This session will look at privilege and conduct in the parliamentary context, recognising that parliaments are entrusted with significant privileges and responsibilities and are expected to uphold high standards of integrity, transparency and accountability in their conduct. Chair: Adam Jogee MP, House of Commons, UK Parliament Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Daniel Greenberg CB, Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards, House of Commons, UK Parliament • Mr Gary Clueit MLC, Member of Tynwald, Isle of Man <p>Location: The Attlee Suite, Portcullis House</p>
1700 - 1730	<p>Reflections on Day 2</p> <p>An opportunity for delegates to share their views on what they have learnt from Day 2, and what they look forward to learning about on Day 3.</p> <p>Facilitator: Matthew Hamilton, Monitoring and Evaluation Manager, CPA UK</p> <p>Location: The Attlee Suite, Portcullis House</p>
1730	<p>End of Day 2</p> <p>Delegates will be escorted to the coach to return to the hotel.</p>

Programme

Day 3: Wednesday 11 March 2026

Scrutiny in Practice

TIME	DESCRIPTION OF ACTIVITY	
0900	<p>Coach to depart the Wellington by Blue Orchid Hotel Coaches will leave promptly from the hotel at 0900. Delegates who are not on board will be responsible for organising their own travel to Portcullis House.</p>	
0930	<p>Arrival at Portcullis House, UK Parliament Delegates will go through airport-style security to enter the Houses of Parliament. Tea and coffee will be served in the Attlee Suite on arrival.</p>	
0945 - 1000	<p>Recap of Day 2 Delegates will reflect on Day 2 and discuss the focus of Day 3. Location: The Attlee Suite, Portcullis House</p>	
1000 - 1130	<p>Session 4: Holding the Executive to Account This session will discuss good practices, challenges and innovative approaches in ensuring accountability, transparency and effective scrutiny of the Executive Branch of power. It will outline the importance of the separation of powers by sharing experiences and insights from different legislatures. Chair: The Rt Hon. the Baroness D'Souza CMG, House of Lords, UK Parliament Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alberto Costa MP, Chair of the Committee on Standards, Member of the Liaison Committee, House of Commons, UK Parliament • Christopher Kang'ombe, Member, National Assembly of Zambia <p>Location: The Attlee Suite, Portcullis House</p>	
1130 - 1200	<p>Walk to the House of Commons Delegates with tickets will be escorted to the Commonwealth Gallery to watch PMQs.</p>	<p>Introduction to Prime Minister's Questions and Live Broadcast Delegates will, with a running commentary provided by a Senior Clerk from the House of Commons, highlighting key moments and procedures in real time.</p> <p>Speaker: Lynn Gardner, Clerk of the Interparliamentary Relations Office, Chamber and Participation Team, UK House of Commons</p> <p>Location: The Attlee Suite, Portcullis House</p>
1200 - 1230	<p>Prime Minister's Questions Delegates with tickets will watch PMQs from the Commonwealth Gallery. After PMQs, delegates will be escorted back to the Attlee Suite.</p> <p>Location: Public Gallery, House of Commons</p>	
1230 - 1245	<p>Walk to Lunch Delegates will be escorted to two different locations for lunch. Members will eat in the Attlee Suite, while clerks and parliamentary officials will walk to the CPA Room for lunch.</p>	

Programme

Day 3: Wednesday 11 March 2026

Scrutiny in Practice

TIME	DESCRIPTION OF ACTIVITY	
1245 - 1400	<p>Members' Lunch</p> <p>Location: The Attlee Suite, Portcullis House</p>	<p>Clerks' and Officials' Lunch</p> <p>Location: CPA Room, Palace of Westminster</p>
1400 - 1530	<p>Session 5a: Members - Using Parliamentary Resources Effectively for Scrutiny This session will explore how parliaments can make the most of the resources available to them within their local contexts. The session will cover practical strategies for accessing managing parliamentary tools, such as research services, procedural advice, committee support and external expertise, to assist with the inquiry process.</p> <p>Chair: Dame Meg Hillier MP, House of Commons, UK Parliament</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Layla Moran MP, Chair of the Health and Social Care Committee, House of Commons Ms Sehar Kamran MNA, National Assembly of Pakistan The Baroness Hayter of Kentish Town, Chair of the Industry and Regulators Committee, House of Lords <p>Location: The Attlee Suite, Portcullis House</p>	<p>Session 5b: Clerks & Officials - Effective Management of Time and Resources This session will explore how Clerks and Officials can utilise the resources available to them to support legislative processes, member services, committee work and public engagement. Delegates are invited to explore practical strategies for managing resources within small teams and prioritising tasks under pressure.</p> <p>Facilitator: Selsabil Amine, Programme Officer, CPA UK</p> <p>Speakers: James Whittle, Chief of Staff, House of Lords, UK Parliament</p> <p>Location: CPA Room, Westminster Hall</p>
1530 - 1545	<p>Tea and Coffee</p> <p>Delegates are invited to use this time as an opportunity to network.</p>	<p>Tea and Coffee</p> <p>Delegates are invited to use this time as an opportunity to network.</p>
1545 - 1745	<p>Session 6a: Leadership and Communication Skills for parliaments A session led by a communication expert, tailored for parliaments to work on leadership and communication skills to achieve impact as public figures. Facilitator: Ginny Radmall, Director, The Ivy Way</p> <p>Location: The Attlee Suite, Portcullis House</p>	<p>Session 6b: Leadership and Communication Skills for Clerks and Parliamentary Officials A session led by a communications expert, tailored for parliamentary officials to work on leadership and diplomatic skills for enhanced effectiveness in their roles. Facilitator: Kate Faragher, Founder and CEO, BeSpoke Skills Location: CPA Room, Palace of Westminster</p>

Programme

Day 3: Wednesday 11 March 2026

Scrutiny in Practice

TIME	DESCRIPTION OF ACTIVITY	
1745 - 1750	Reflection on Day 3 Location: The Attlee Suite, Portcullis House	Reflection on Day 3 Location: CPA Room, Palace of Westminster
1750 - 1800	Walk to Speaker's House Delegates will be escorted to the Speaker's House for the evening reception.	
1800 - 2000	Evening Reception by Kind Permission of Mr Speaker Delegates and representatives of the diplomatic community will attend the launch of the new CPA UK strategy, at an evening reception in the State Rooms, Speaker's House, at the invitation of Rt Hon. Sir Lindsay Hoyle MP, Speaker of the House of Commons. Speakers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nusrat Ghani MP, Deputy Speaker and Chair of Ways and Means, House of Commons, UK Parliament • The Rt Hon. David Mundell MP, Treasurer of CPA UK, House of Commons, UK Parliament • The Rt Hon. the Baroness Chapman of Darlington, Minister of State (International Development and Africa), Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office • Location: Speaker's House, UK Parliament	
2000	End of Day 3 Delegates will be escorted to the coach to return to the hotel.	

Programme

Day 4: Thursday 12 March 2026

Parliaments in an Evolving World

TIME	DESCRIPTION OF ACTIVITY
0845	<p>Coach to depart the Wellington by Blue Orchid Hotel Coaches will leave promptly from the hotel at 0845. Delegates who are not on board will be responsible for organising their own travel to Portcullis House.</p>
0915	<p>Arrival at Portcullis House, UK Parliament Delegates will go through airport-style security to enter the Houses of Parliament. Tea and coffee will be served in the Attlee Suite on arrival.</p>
0930 - 1000	<p>Recap of Day 3 Delegates will reflect on Day 3 and discuss the focus of Day 4. Facilitator: Matthew Hamilton, Monitoring and Evaluation Manager, CPA UK Location: The Attlee Suite, Portcullis House</p>
1000 - 1120	<p>Session 7: Parliamentary Work Through a Diversity, Inclusivity and Gender-Sensitive Lens This session will explore how parliaments can embed a diversity, inclusivity and gender-sensitive lens into their operations and legislative work. The session will highlight how these approaches lead to more inclusive policies, equitable resource allocation, stronger accountability and broader participation within local contexts. Chair: Helen Haywood, Deputy Chief Executive, CPA UK Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jarvis Matiya, Deputy Secretary General, CPA HQ • Mr. Terence Kernaghan, Member, Legislative Assembly of Ontario • Ms Sibeso K. Sefulo MP, Member, National Assembly of Zambia <p>Location: The Attlee Suite, Portcullis House</p>
1120 - 1230	<p>Session 8: Safety of parliaments and Parliaments This session will cover the ways in which parliaments can keep their parliaments safe in carrying out their parliamentary and constituency duties. It will explore how the UK Parliament advises UK Members and Peers on staying safe, from securing physical working spaces to supporting the cybersecurity of everyday devices. Facilitator: Selsabil Amine, Programme Officer, CPA UK Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hon. Chamindranee Kiriella, Member, Parliament of Sri Lanka • Mr Hassaan Riaz MPA, Member, National Assembly of Pakistan • Oliver Davis, Deputy Director of Member Security, UK Parliament <p>Location: The Attlee Suite, Portcullis House</p>

Programme

Day 4: Thursday 12 March 2026

Parliaments in an Evolving World

TIME	DESCRIPTION OF ACTIVITY
1230 - 1245	<p>Walk to the Cholmondeley Room Delegates will be escorted to the Cholmondeley Room for a formal lunch.</p>
1245 - 1430	<p>Formal Lunch with Keynote Address: "The Vision for the Commonwealth and How Parliaments Can Play Their Role." Welcome: Kate Osamor MP, Chair of CPA UK, House of Commons, UK Parliament Speaker: Hon. Shirley Botchwey, 7th Secretary-General of the Commonwealth Location: The Cholmondeley Room, House of Lords, Palace of Westminster</p>
1500 - 1630	<p>Session 9: Artificial Intelligence Tools and Public Engagement in Parliament Participants will explore how parliaments, clerks, and parliamentary officials are using artificial intelligence tools to support a wide range of parliamentary functions and public engagement. The session will examine the benefits, costs and risks of integrating AI into parliamentary work, alongside key considerations related to privacy, security and the ethical use of emerging technologies. Chair: Sarah Dickson OBE, Chief Executive of CPA UK Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mark Egan, Media Consultant and AI Expert • Ben Woodhams, Head of Digital Procedural Services, House of Lords, UK Parliament • James Pinnell, Deputy Head of Programmes, CPA Headquarters <p>Location: The Attlee Suite, Portcullis House</p>
1630 - 1650	<p>Reflections on Day 4 and Plans for Day 5 Delegates will share their views on what they have learnt throughout the Seminar, and reflect on how their learning will influence their work when they return to their legislatures. Information about delegate itineraries for Day 5 will be shared by CPA UK staff.</p>
1650 - 1700	<p>Words of Thanks An informal closing to the Seminar, as delegates will be in various locations for Day 5.</p>
17:00	<p>End of Day 4 Delegates will be escorted to the coach to return to the hotel.</p>

Programme

Day 5: Friday 13 March 2026

Members' Outreach in

Practice

parliaments will visit one of the constituencies below and meet the relevant UK Member of Parliament and other local stakeholders. A bespoke itinerary will be provided for each constituency. Some will be departing on Thursday night and others on Friday morning. **City 1: Liverpool (with overnight stay)** Kim Johnson MP, Liverpool Riverside Borough Constituency **City 2: Portsmouth** Stephen Morgan MP, Portsmouth South Constituency **City 3: Leeds (with overnight stay)** Alex Sobel MP, Leeds Central and Headingley Constituency **City 4: London** Bambos Charalambous MP, Southgate and Wood Green Constituency

Programme

Day 5: Friday 13 March 2026

Clerks & Officials: Procedure in Practice

TIME	DESCRIPTION OF ACTIVITY
0845	Coach to depart the Wellington by Blue Orchid Hotel Coaches will leave promptly from the hotel at 0845. Delegates who are not on board will be responsible for organising their own travel to Portcullis House.
0910	Arrival at Portcullis House, UK Parliament Delegates will go through airport-style security to enter the Houses of Parliament.
0930 - 1010	Visit to the Parliamentary Education Centre
1010 - 1020	Walk to the Library
1020 - 1120	Visit to the House of Commons Library
1120 - 1130	Walk to the CPA Room Tea and Coffee available on arrival.
1130 - 1230	Session 10: Building Respectful Working Relationships Between Parliamentary Officials and Members This session will explore strategies and methods so Clerks and Officials can develop good working relationships with Members through strong communication skills, management of workload and by honouring professional boundaries. Delegates are invited to share their own experiences of how they build and maintain good working relationships with Members, particularly in contexts marked by high demand and competing priorities. Facilitator: Selsabil Amine, Programme Officer, CPA UK Speakers: Jen Mills, Clerk of the Table Office, Journal Office, House of Lords, UK Parliament
1230	Walk to the Supreme Court
1240 - 1320	Visit to the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council, Supreme Court of the United Kingdom
1320	Walk to the UK Parliament
1330 - 1500	Lunch Location: CPA Room, Palace of Westminster

Programme

Day 5: Friday 13 March 2026

Clerks & Officials: Procedure in Practice

TIME	DESCRIPTION OF ACTIVITY
1500 - 1530	Feedback Session Facilitator: Matthew Hamilton, Monitoring and Evaluation Manager, CPA UK Location: CPA Room, Westminster Hall
1530	End of Clerk and Officials' Programme Delegates will be escorted to take taxis back to the hotel.

**The 74th Westminster Seminar on Effective Parliaments
Held in London at the Portcullis House - UK Parliament
March 9 - 13, 2026**



Programme Highlights

Day 1

The week opened with delegates gathered at Portcullis House for a Commonwealth Day Reception hosted by the Speaker of the House of Commons, before taking part in the Flag-Raising Ceremony.

Following the morning event, delegates were welcomed by Sarah Dickson OBE, CPA UK's Chief Executive, who explained how the seminar would be conducted.

The afternoon focused on the Commonwealth Day Service of Celebration at Westminster Abbey, attended by the Royal Family and dignitaries — a memorable experience that set the tone for a week full of shared purpose.



Day 2

Baroness Scotland, former Commonwealth Secretary-General, delivered the day's opening remarks. She reflected on the diversity of Commonwealth nations and how these differences give parliaments a unique perspective when addressing shared challenges. She noted that the wide range of economic structures across the Commonwealth adds a level of complexity that enriches discussions at the Westminster Seminar.

Next was a guided tour of the Westminster Palace, including the House of Commons, followed by a stimulating comparison of unicameral and bicameral parliamentary systems around the Commonwealth. The highlight was a session with Rt Hon. Sir Lindsay Hoyle MP, Speaker of the House of Commons, who spoke with candour about the duties and responsibilities of the Presiding Officer — and the importance of impartiality. A lively follow-on session on parliamentary privileges, standards and behaviour, chaired by Adam Jogee MP and featuring the Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards Daniel Greenberg CB, rounded out a thought-provoking day.



Day 3

Wednesday brought one of the week's most memorable experiences: watching Prime Minister's Questions live, either from the 'Commons Gallery', or on TV with a running commentary from a senior House of Commons Clerk. Hon. DaCosta had the opportunity to watch Prime Minister's Questions live from the Commons Gallery, gaining first-hand insight into the dynamics of the session. Meanwhile, Mr. Tatum and Mrs. McLean viewed the proceedings on television, benefiting from a live commentary delivered by a senior House of Commons Clerk, which provided valuable context and enhanced their understanding of the broadcast.

Delegates then split into separate streams of elected members and clerks & officials. Elected Members explored how to make the most of parliamentary resources for scrutiny, and with Clerks/officials focusing on effective management of time and resources. The final session focused on communication skills – a session that was enjoyed by all. The evening ended with a reception at the Speaker's House, marking the launch of CPA UK's new strategy, attended by ministers and members of the diplomatic community.



Day 4

Thursday's topics tackled some of the most pressing contemporary challenges. A session on diversity, inclusivity and gender-sensitive approaches to parliamentary work was followed by a timely discussion on the safety and security of parliaments — increasingly important in an era of online abuse and physical threats.

A formal lunch in the Cholmondeley Room, House of Lords, featured a keynote address by the Commonwealth's new Secretary-General, Hon. Shirley Botchwey.

The afternoon session on artificial intelligence in parliament, examining both the opportunities and the ethical risks of AI tools in the chamber, was one of the most widely discussed of the week, with speakers from the House of Lords Digital Procedural Services team and a former BBC journalist now working as an AI consultant.



Day 5

Outreach in Practice

The final day offered delegates a window into parliamentary work at a UK constituency level. MPs Hon. DaCosta & Mr. Tatum joined Bambos Charalambous MP in his Southgate and Wood Green constituency for a full and varied day.

They visited Alexandra Palace — an iconic north London landmark steeped in history — and St Michael's School, where the delegates had the opportunity to tour the school and speak with the students. It was interesting to see how effectively the school made use of the space available.

The Members also spent time with the 360 Collective charity, hearing how grassroots organisations support residents in ways that complement the work of elected members. It was an excellent illustration of the MP's outreach role in practice, and sparked conversations between delegates.



Day 5 Cont'd.

Procedure in Practice

The Clerk, Tishel McLean, participated in a series of engagements that provided practical insight into parliamentary procedure within the UK Parliament. The day began at Portcullis House, followed by visits to the Parliamentary Education Centre and the House of Commons Library, highlighting the essential support functions underpinning parliamentary work.

Of particular interest was the Parliamentary Education Centre, which demonstrated an engaging and structured approach to educating young people about the role and function of Parliament. This initiative was especially impressive and presents a valuable model that could be adapted by the Parliament of the Cayman Islands to further promote civic awareness and youth engagement.

A key session focused on building effective working relationships between officials and Members, with emphasis on communication, professionalism, and managing competing priorities. The programme concluded with a visit to the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council at the Supreme Court of the United Kingdom, providing broader institutional context. Overall, the experience reinforced the critical role of clerks in supporting efficient and well-functioning parliamentary systems.



Special Events

Beyond the formal programme, the week included a dinner for delegates from the UK's Overseas Territories — a welcome opportunity to compare notes in a more relaxed setting — and a reception at the Speaker's residence. Both events underlined the importance of informal networking: relationships built over dinner can matter as much as any of the seminar sessions.



Reflections

Five days were a short time, but the 74th Westminster Seminar managed to be genuinely substantive as well as genuinely educational and enjoyable. The themes that ran through the week — accountability, standards, safety, inclusion and the disruptive potential of new technology — were live issues in every legislature represented. Delegates left with practical insights, new contacts and, in many cases, a renewed sense of what an effective parliament can look like. Particular credit is due to the CPA UK team whose organisation was seamless throughout.

