



The Scottish Parliament  
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

## CPA Scotland Branch Report 2024 to 2025



Photos: Scottish Parliament, CPA UK and Assemblée nationale du Québec

## Introduction

Below is an overview of the [Commonwealth Parliamentary Association](#) (CPA) activities of the Scottish Parliament (known as the Scotland Branch) along with a note of non CPA engagements which the Parliament had with other Commonwealth parliaments.

The report covers the period 25 September 2024 to 16 September 2025. During which 37 Members and one official took part in 18 CPA activities. In addition, 18 network meetings took place during this period.

## CPA

### September 2024

- In September 2024 the Presiding Officer chaired the Scotland Branch Annual General Meeting. During the AGM Jarvis Matiya, Deputy Secretary General of the CPA, spoke about the association's wider work, and Jeremy Balfour MSP, Sarah Boyack MSP and Stuart McMillan MSP spoke about the work of the Scotland Branch and their roles in the organisation. Jeremy Balfour MSP, Sarah Boyack MSP and Stuart McMillan MSP were re-elected as the BEC for 2024/25 and as a result, Sarah Boyack was elected as one of the Branch representatives for the [British Islands and Mediterranean Region](#) (BIMR) [Commonwealth Women Parliamentarian Network](#) (CWP) Steering Committee 2024 to 2025 and Jeremy Balfour MSP as the Branch representative for the BIMR [Parliamentarians with Disabilities Network](#) (CPwD) Steering Committee 2024 to 2025.



- 2024 marked the Scottish Parliament's 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary and 20 years since the opening of the Holyrood building. Throughout the year the Parliament celebrated the anniversary and in September 2024 Parliament held a 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary event, which was attended by Their Majesties The King and Queen. Furthermore, Presiding Officer Alison Johnstone MSP wrote an article for the Parliamentarian looking at the Parliament's initiatives and engagement over the years. [Read the](#)



[article titled "25 Years of the Scottish Parliament: Innovation and engagement".](#)



- Jeremy Balfour MSP took part in the first BIMR Digital transformation working group meeting.
- Jamie Greene MSP attended the first BIMR LGBT+ Network steering committee meeting.

### October 2024

- Roz McCall MSP was elected as the second Scotland Branch representative on the BIMR CWP Steering Committee for 2024 to 2025.
- Jamie Greene MSP took part in an Election Observation Mission to Monserrat. [Read the Montserrat General Election October 2024, CPA BIMR Election Observation Mission Final Report.](#)



Photo: CPA UK

## November 2024

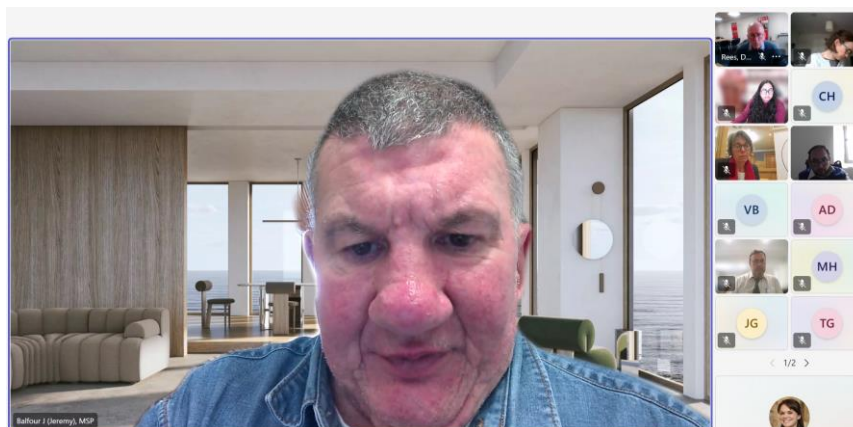
- Jeremy Balfour MSP, as BIMR Champion on the CPwD Network; Sarah Boyack MSP, as BIMR Representative on the CWD Network; and Stuart McMillan MSP, as one of the BIMR Representatives of the CPA International Executive Committee (ExCo) attended the 67th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference (CPC) in Sydney, Australia. As part of the conference Jeremy Balfour MSP was a panellist on the workshop “[Creating Inclusive Elections for Persons with Disabilities \(CPwD\)](#)” where he spoke about the challenges faced by parliaments in making election inclusive and accessible. [Read the report of the 67th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference.](#)



- On their return, the delegates who attended the 67<sup>th</sup> Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference in Sydney, Australia held a drop-in session to inform members and staff of the discussion points from the workshops and meetings they attended.
- Sarah Boyack MSP and Roz McCall MSP attended a virtual BIMR CWP Steering Committee meeting.
- Karen Adam MSP, Convener of the Equalities, Human Rights and Civil Justice Committee took part in a video for the CPA Parliamentary Academy's online course titled "[Human Rights: A Parliament's Role](#)".

## December 2024

- During the week of International Day of Persons with Disabilities, Jeremy Balfour MSP, as BIMR Champion on the CPwD Network, chaired the BIMR webinar “What are the barriers for disabled people standing for elected office and how can they be overcome?” [Read a statement on the CPA BIMR Webinar on Barriers for Parliamentarians with Disabilities.](#)



- Stuart McMillan MSP and Sarah Boyack MSP attended the webinar “Feedback on LGBT+ inclusion discussions at CHOGM and CPC” hosted by CPA HQ. [Read the statement on the CPA BIMR Webinar on LGBT+ Inclusion and Network.](#)

## January 2025

- Sarah Boyack MSP chaired the CWP Webinar on “Gender Quota Mechanisms in Parliaments”. It was also attended by Beatrice Wishart MSP and Rhoda Grant MSP. [Read the article about the webinar titled ‘Our work is not finished. So let's get on with it!’.](#)

## February 2025

- Sarah Boyack MSP, as Acting Chair of the BIMR, attended the CWP International Steering Committee meeting.





## March 2025

- The Scottish Parliament hosted a three day Clerk development programme for the Assistant Clerk of the Cayman Islands.
- 16 to 18 March the Scottish Parliament hosted the 11<sup>th</sup> Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians (CWP) British Islands and Mediterranean Regional (BIMR) Conference. The conference was attended by 40 parliamentarians and officials from 12 branches of the BIMR.



- Liam McArthur MSP lodged a motion titled [Celebrating Commonwealth Day 2025](#).

## April 2025

- Evelyn Tweed MSP took part in an Election Observation Mission to the Cayman Islands. [Read the report from the CPA BIMR Election Observation Mission to the Cayman Islands April 2025](#).



## May 2025

- Stuart McMillan MSP took part in the mid year meeting of the CPA International Executive Committee in London.



Photo: Stuart McMillan MSP



Photo: CPA HQ

- Clare Haughey MSP, Douglas Ross MSP and Paul Sweeney MSP took part in Election Observation Mission training.

## June 2025

- Jeremy Balfour MSP, as BIMR Champion on the CPwD Network; Sarah Boyack MSP, Acting Chair of the BIMR CWD Network; Stuart McMillan MSP, as one of the BIMR Representatives of the CPA ExCo; and Jamie Greene MSP, member of the BIMR LGBTI+ Network attended the 54<sup>th</sup> BIMR Conference in Cardiff, Wales. As part of the conference Stuart McMillan MSP chaired the AGM; Jeremy Balfour MSP was a panellist on the workshop “How can Parliaments enable effective and full participations of persons with disabilities at all levels”; Jamie Greene MSP was a panellist on the workshop “The Importance of LGBT voices in Parliament”; and Sarah Boyack MSP was a panellist on the workshop “Changing the Rules of Engagement: How modern parliamentarians are engaging in an evolving digital landscape”. The report from the conference will be published on IRO’s [International Activity](#) webpage shortly.



Photo: Chris Hoskins Photography

- Rhoda Grant MSP took part in an Election Observation Mission to Guernsey.



Photo: CPA UK

- Douglas Ross MSP took part in a Post- Election Seminar in Turks and Caicos.



Photos: Turks and Caicos Parliament



## July 2025

- Pam Duncan-Glancy MSP and Roz McCall MSP attended the 61st Canadian Regional Conference of the CPA and the Canadian Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians Conference, in Québec, Canada. As part of the conference Roz McCall MSP gave an overview of recent work of the Scottish Parliament and Pam Duncan-Glancy MSP was a panellist on the session “Disabilities and parliamentary life: removing obstacles, strengthening inclusion”. The report from the conference will be published on IRO’s [International Activity](#) webpage shortly.



Photo: Assemblée  
nationale du Québec

## September 2025

- Jamie Greene MSP attended a BIMR LGBT+ Network steering committee meeting.

## Statistics

### CPA opportunities 25 September 2024 to 16 September 2025

Number of CPA opportunities offered to the Scotland Branch	25
Number of opportunities offered to members	18*
Number of members applied for opportunities offered	41
Number of members nominated to take part in CPA opportunities	24**
Number of members who took part in CPA opportunities	37
Number of opportunities offered to officials	1
Number of officials applied for opportunities offered	N/A
Number of officials nominated to take part in CPA opportunities	N/A
Number of officials who took part in CPA opportunities	1
* Several opportunities allowed for multiple members to attend	** Not all opportunities required nominations

## Number of CPA Network and ExCo meetings 25 September 2024 to 16 September 2025

CWP International Steering Committee meetings	Sarah Boyack MSP	3 (2 online and 1 in person)
CPwD International Steering Committee meetings	Jeremy Balfour MSP	2 (1 online and 1 in person)
CPA International ExCo meetings	Stuart McMillan MSP	3 (3 in person)
CPA International ExCo Finance Committee meetings	Stuart McMillan MSP	2 (2 in person)
BIMR CWP Steering Committee meetings	Sarah Boyack MSP Roz McCall MSP	4 (2 online and 2 in person)
CPA BIMR LGBT+ Network Steering Committee meetings	Jamie Greene MSP	4 (4 online)

## ‘Non’ CPA engagement

The Scottish Parliament also engaged with Commonwealth countries on the following occasions:

### September 2024

- Officials from the Provincial Assembly of the Punjab visited the Scottish Parliament.
- Siddharth Malik, Consul General of India visited the Scottish Parliament.

### October 2024

- Official from the Scottish Parliament attended Parliamentary Officers’ Study Programme in Ottawa, Canada.
- Officials from the Parliament of Malawi visited the Scottish Parliament.

### November 2024

- Kirsty Duncan MP, Parliament of Canada, visited the Scottish Parliament.
- Abby Tinica Taylor, Presiding Officer of the Tobago House of Assembly, visited the Scottish Parliament.

### December 2024

- The Northern Ireland Assembly Committee on Procedures visited the Scottish Parliament.

### January 2025

- The Hon Mr Om Birla, Speaker of Lok Sabha, Parliament of India visited the Scottish Parliament.

- Official from the Scottish Parliament attended an Australia and New Zealand Association of Clerks-at-the-Table seminar in Wellington, New Zealand.

### **March 2025**

- Twila Escalante, Deputy Clerk of the Parliament of the Cayman Islands visited the Scottish Parliament.

### **April 2025**

- Deputy Presiding officer Annabelle Ewing MSP, Alexander Stewart MSP and Michelle Thomson MSP took part in Scotland Week, which included a visit to the Legislative Assembly of Alberta.
- Hon Maree Edwards MP, Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, Parliament of Victoria, Australia visited the Scottish Parliament.

### **May 2025**

- Hon Pat Weir MP, Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, Parliament of Queensland, Australia visited the Scottish Parliament.
- Senator the Hon Sue Lines, President of the Senate, Parliament of Australia visited the Scottish Parliament.
- Delegation from the National Assembly of Zambia visited the Scottish Parliament.

### **June 2025**

- The Presiding Officer attended a Quadrilateral meeting of Speakers in Cardiff, Wales.
- The Hon Raj Chouhan MLA, Speaker of the Legislative Assembly of British Columbia, Canada, visited the Scottish Parliament.
- Mitch Knight, Deputy Chief Executive of the Parliament of New Zealand visited the Scottish Parliament.
- Dan Mazier MP, Parliament of Canada, visited the Scottish Parliament.

### **July 2025**

- Steve Streefkerk, Serjeant-at-Arms of the New Zealand Parliament visited the Scottish Parliament.
- The Hon. Aileen MacDonald MLC, Parliament of New South Wales, Australia visited the Scottish Parliament.
- Helen Dalton MP, Parliament of New South Wales, Australia visited the Scottish Parliament.
- The Hon. Ben Franklin MLC, President of the Legislative Council, Parliament of New South Wales, Australia visited the Scottish Parliament.

**International Relations Office  
September 2025**